

December 1, 2024

## Executive Director's Message

SIMSA is proud to announce that during our November 27<sup>th</sup> Board meeting, Bobbylynn Stewart was elected Vice Chair of our Board commencing in May 2025. At that time, Ritu Malhotra will have completed her term as Chair, Scott Bahr (the current Vice Chair) will become Chair, and Bobbylynn will assume the Vice Chair position. [Bobbylynn](#) is the CEO of [Breck Construction](#).

SIMSA will be adding an AI feature to its database in 2025. Launching from the Procurement login of our existing database - the [Saskatchewan Supplier Database](#) - the feature would search members' websites for additional information for procurement searches, but be limited to SIMSA member companies' websites, and allow for free-form searches, not just by specific predefined categories. The key to all of this is, that it would scrape and index every word on members' websites – on the actual pages and all of the downloads on them – to create a massive index. The tool would enable companies to better source goods and services from member companies.

The need becomes apparent when scenarios such as the following occur. As an example, Fission Uranium called SIMSA looking for a specific item that they could not find on our database. We knew certain members supplied the item and discussed how Fission was conducting their search with them. We found out that they were searching one possible broad category but not another. Members had selected the "other" category and thus were not found. Had an AI tool been in place, the item would have been located. It will also be a powerful procurement tool for long established companies and for new sectors of work such as nuclear.

SIMSA's events with Westinghouse at the beginning of November were very beneficial. There were about 20 senior leadership and procurement persons participating from Westinghouse, in a series of events including; 2-days of shop tours, an evening reception with the participation of Cameco's CEO Tim Gitzel, plus Government and other mining company persons; and a full day supplier event with nearly 200 people in attendance. The 180 SIMSA member persons attending, was the largest amount of any of the global supplier symposiums held by Westinghouse.

The event was even covered by the Financial Post [HERE](#) and the story is included later in this newsletter.



The Nuclear segment of this newsletter contains further details, but some broad things to note from the events were:

- 1) Their idea of modular being things that fit on a semi, not a barge, which enables local manufacturing for Saskatchewan reactors
- 2) They stated that things made in Saskatchewan could also become global inventory/supply
- 3) Their various reactors from a 300 MW SMR up to a 1200 MW large reactor (the AP1000) have a lot of interchangeable components, thus allowing for more manufacturing opportunities stemming from existing designs
- 4) They sent the right people to investigate local suppliers and conducted detailed shop tours
- 5) They shared far more detail than any other nuclear vendor
- 6) Westinghouse is a Canadian owned company, given Brookfield's 51% ownership and Cameco's 49%
- 7) It was clear that Cameco is definitely expecting Westinghouse to establish a Saskatchewan supply chain

The tradeshow for the 17th Annual Saskatchewan Mining Supply Chain Forum is now sold-out. Booth sales open to the general public on Wednesday November 20<sup>th</sup> – after being open to SIMSA members only for a week – and then were sold-out by Friday November 22<sup>nd</sup> at noon.

We will be hosting a free virtual event on our member health benefits program – [Protecture](#) – on December 5. Register [HERE](#).

We will be hosting a free virtual “How to use your SIMSA membership event” on December 12. Register [HERE](#).

# Member's News

[Team Power Solutions Hosts Westinghouse Electric Corporation](#)

[SECON/KDM, Nutrien Working Together to “Change People’s Lives”](#)

[KDM Constructors L.P. | Empowering Indigenous People by Providing Meaningful & Sustainable Employment, Training & Supporting Cultural Awareness](#)

[KDM Constructors: Constructing a Community Focus](#)

[Saskatchewan Research Council Holds Successful Inaugural "Tech Expo" in Saskatoon](#)

[Peter Lucas Undergoes Reconciliation Action Planning](#)

[DSG power systems - The Benefits of Oversizing AC Alternators for Multi-Motor Applications in Generator Sets](#)

# Advocacy

SIMSA will be launching a significant initiative to have a dialogue with our Federal Government in 2025. More soon on this.

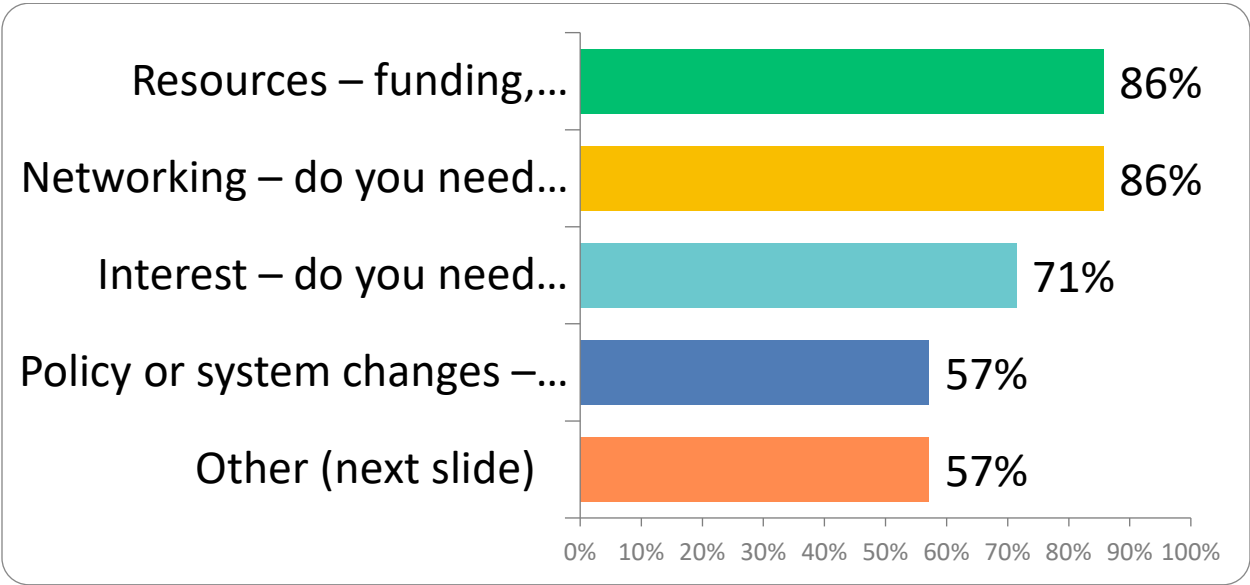
SIMSA has begun a sweeping initiative to reinvigorate Science Technology Engineering and Math (STEM) education in Saskatchewan’s school systems – Education Ecosystem Enhancement or E3. The initiative began with a survey of educators, primarily working in K-12 - the results revealed that the largest barriers to their growth and mandate, a larger group then met to discuss solutions and next steps.



The full day event featured a very brief review of the survey, then spent the remainder of the time discussing solutions and next steps. SIMSA invited a cross section of people, but not too large of a group, so a conversation could occur. The group included representatives from:

- Educators
- Industrialists – mining companies, Crowns, etc.
- Non-profits
- Government
- Funding agencies
- Other

The pre-event survey revealed that the biggest barriers to K-12 educators were:



Other issues raised in the survey were:

**Lack of Curriculum Integration**

- Hard to embed resources in formal curriculum; most activities are informal and lack sustained impact.

**Limited Career Awareness & Mentorship**

- Students focus on university prep, overlooking trades and high-demand industries.
- Educators prioritize academic pathways, often missing in-demand career opportunities (e.g., trades, SMRs).

**Insufficient Industry Collaboration**

- Limited co-creation with industry to align programs with future workforce needs.

**Funding Instability**

- STEM initiatives are often the first cut in budgets, needing stronger support and mandates for consistency.

The pre-event survey also revealed that possible solutions in the area of partnerships and resources were:

**Partnerships:**

- Partner with resource developers in the formal education settings that appeal across a wide range of ages, grades and learning levels.
- Co-create resources with a particular sector, based on needs in the industry. We can facilitate additional touch points for youth to experience opportunities in the province.
- Support from industry in grant applications through lobby efforts with the government of Saskatchewan and Canada.
- Expand Industry and Educational Partnerships: Offer university courses on how to teach STEM subjects (e.g., robotics teaching), build industry connections, and secure dedicated funding.
- Reduce Duplication & Enhance Collaboration: Establish a provincial organization to streamline efforts, avoid redundancy, and connect students to career pathways.

**Resources:**

- Funding and sponsorship are incredibly hard to find for non-profits and teachers
- Materials: More funding to purchase more learning resources, such as robotic hardware and 3D printers (and accessories like filament).
- Financial Sustainability: A sustained, clear budget to operate from.
- Formalize and Integrate Resources: Collaborate with educational organizations to bring STEM resources into formal curricula and identify impactful informal opportunities; independently create resources in-line with curriculum.
- Fund school division STEM coordinators and a provincial director to align K-12, post-secondary, and industry needs.

Detailed potential solutions and next steps were developed at the event. These will be further developed over the next two months and the group will meet again in February.

# Nuclear

## Highlights from the Westinghouse Nuclear Global Supply Chain Team Visit to Saskatoon – November 6 to 8, 2024

### Background

With the assistance of SIMSA, the Westinghouse Electric Company LLC planned and executed a Nuclear Supply Chain Symposium on November 8, 2024 at Prairieland Park in Saskatoon SK. There were about 116 Saskatchewan supply chain companies in attendance with a total attendance of about 180 persons. The delivery of this supplier symposium was modelled after symposiums previously held in Poland and Ontario. Attendance at the symposium in Saskatoon was the highest of all supplier symposiums held to date. About 20 persons from the Westinghouse Global Supply Chain organization travelled to Saskatoon to participate in the symposium.

In conjunction with the supplier symposium, and at the request of Westinghouse, visits to six Saskatchewan suppliers were arranged by SIMSA on November 6 and 7. These suppliers were selected based on their interest in becoming part of the global nuclear supply chain and their ability to supply the products that Westinghouse needs to fulfill their global orders for nuclear power plants. The Westinghouse Global Supply Chain team was impressed with all of the companies that were visited. The six member companies that were visited (in order of visit) were:

- Venables Machine Works
- Team Power Solutions (STCI Power Solutions)
- Northern Strands Group of Companies
- JNE Welding
- Industrial Machine and Manufacturing
- Keys Welding Service (Division of the STCI Group)

Sean Jones, Westinghouse Senior Director, Energy Systems Account Management and Procurement Execution, when he was on stage at the supplier symposium, stated that Saskatchewan suppliers have what it takes to participate in the global nuclear supply chain.

In the evening of November 7 an executive reception was also held to provide an opportunity for executives and senior leaders from Westinghouse, Cameco (49% owner of Westinghouse) and Saskatchewan industry, government and academia to meet and exchange information. There were about 100 persons in attendance.

### Key Takeaways

- Pressurized Water Reactor (PWR) designs have an intermediate heat exchanger located inside the containment vessel which means that a large proportion of the power plant equipment is non-nuclear safety related relative to Boiling Water Reactor (BWR) designs. Therefore, more of the nuclear power plant can be built by the Saskatchewan supply chain with a reduced need for nuclear certifications
- Westinghouse has hired and developed a large internal workforce over the last 17 years to support the execution of the projects in the USA, China and the UAE. This competent workforce is constantly seeking ways to reduce costs and project durations using the experience that they have been gathering during the last 17 years using design for manufacturability and design for constructability processes
- Westinghouse is well advanced in the development and execution of their global supply chain strategy
- The Westinghouse AP1000 and AP300 power plants are already modular by design and a significant portion of the power plant is transportable using standard flat deck trucks which means that Saskatchewan suppliers can access global markets cost effectively
- Because of the cost consequences associated with down time in potash and uranium mining and milling operations, Saskatchewan suppliers already understand the need for the level of safety, quality and delivery required by nuclear power plants, and by extension the need for planning, communication, traceability and appropriate project execution
- Based on Saskatchewan suppliers existing capability it is not a question of if they can supply products to Westinghouse, it is a question of what they can supply to Westinghouse
- The timing for the advancement of Westinghouse's development of the Saskatchewan nuclear supply chain is contingent on Westinghouse's receipt of global orders for their AP1000 and AP 300 power plant designs
- Today N=6 for the Westinghouse AP1000 operating fleet (2 units operating in USA, 4 units operating in China)
- By 2030 it is expected that N=18 for the Westinghouse AP1000 operating fleet (2 units operating in USA, 16 units operating in China)

## Member Services

Our work on revisions to ISN and Ariba has led to the development of Preliminary Member Feedback reports for these revisions. These reports will be reviewed and revised over the next week by respondents, after which a dialogue will begin with the buyers to discuss implementation.

The revisions to the safety reporting systems are progressing. The participating parties, including mines, volunteering suppliers, SaskPower, safety associations, SMA, and others, will meet before Christmas to reach an agreement on enacting the five injury severity categories and beginning reporting. The outcome will be that "the data is now available," but it will be up to the major buyers to decide whether they want to use it. The goal is to have this system ready for use within the next few months. A similar approach will be followed for leading indicators.

We have just completed another objective of our sustainability work, as outlined in the “Advocacy” section of our SIMSA-member-directed strategic plan. Below is a summary of some of the upcoming work in the new year:

- **DEMOfday** – January 16
- **Mining Hackathon** – January 25
- **Education Ecosystem Enhancement Event** – February 11
  - This is part of our ongoing efforts to promote STEM and trades in the K–12 sphere.
  - Key outcomes include:
    - Creating a resource hub for educators to access industry resources and promote STEM and trades.
    - Presenting our findings to the government.
    - Developing actionable items to address common challenges faced by all stakeholders.
- **Sustainability Workshop** – Date TBD
  - This workshop will suppliers address buyer questions on sustainability topics such as ESG, EDI, and more.

## Sector News

SIMSA’s November 8<sup>th</sup> event with Westinghouse was covered by the Financial Post [HERE](#). The full article is below.

# Nuclear power industry sees ‘huge potential’ for growth in Saskatchewan

*Province is starting to look to nuclear power to fill the void left by the departure of coal*

[Michael Joel-Hansen](#)

Published Nov 28, 2024

Saskatchewan is one of a number of jurisdictions starting to look to nuclear power to fill the void left by the departure of coal and other carbon-emitting fuels as the push to decarbonize electricity production ramps up.



The expansion of nuclear power generation means serious growth potential for a number of players in the industry, including Westinghouse Electric Co. LLC, a Pennsylvania-based specialist in building nuclear reactors bought by Saskatoon-based Cameco Corp. and Brookfield Asset Management Ltd. in 2023.

It recently hosted an event in Saskatoon to help connect suppliers with those interested in developing the industry. Fabricia Piñeiro, Westinghouse’s vice-president of operating plant services in Canada, said the event was the largest one ever put on by the company and played into its optimism about nuclear power in the province.

“Certainly, we do see Saskatchewan has huge potential for nuclear deployment in the near future,” she said.

Piñeiro said these types of events are important in helping to bring together organizations that could play a role in the nuclear supply chain. Education is also an important component in places such as Saskatchewan, where there currently aren’t any nuclear power plants operating.

“We talk a lot about the qualification process and really what it takes for a supplier to become nuclear-qualified,” she said.

Westinghouse said over 180 people were in attendance from 116 companies representing a range of industries, from construction and engineering to environmental services.

Len Clewett, executive vice-president of nuclear development at Saskatchewan Power Corp., said the Crown-owned corporation believes nuclear can help the province’s grid replace carbon-emitting sources.

“Our plan is to replace the coal with nuclear power,” he said.

Clewett said SaskPower is currently planning to deploy two reactors around Estevan in the province’s southeast, where the corporation already has a significant presence along with transmission lines and other vital infrastructure.

Saskpower is looking to deploy the GE BWRX 300 reactor, a small modular reactor (SMR). The technology is still being developed, with the first unit set to come online in Ontario in 2029 and Saskatchewan to follow in 2034.

“We wanted to be a follower, so we’re closely engaged with Ontario Power Generation and are watching and learning from their projects,” Clewett said.

SMRs are an attractive option for Saskatchewan because the provincial grid usually has a load of around 3,000 megawatts to 3,500 megawatts. Clewett said large nuclear reactors generally have a capacity of around 1,000 megawatts, which makes them impractical for the province’s grid.

“If you had 1,000 megawatts from a single load and then you lost that load for any reason, you would have a lot of challenges with stability on the grid,” he said.

Westinghouse is also working with partners to develop similar SMR technologies. Piñeiro said the company has been working with the Saskatchewan Research Council (SRC) to develop the eVinci Microreactor, which is much smaller than a conventional nuclear reactor and generates much less power.

“It’s equivalent to maybe 5,000 homes’ worth of electricity depending on where you are exactly and what the demand would be like,” she said.

Piñeiro said the hope is that once this technology is ready to be rolled out, it can be deployed in more isolated areas to replace gas-powered generation.

“It could be used for remote communities that are a lot of times actually using diesel power generators; it could also be used for remote mining applications,” she said.

While Westinghouse is working to develop technologies that could be deployed domestically in places such as Saskatchewan, its business is also growing outside Canada. Piñeiro said the company has been deploying its AP 1000 reactor internationally. This reactor is capable of generating 1,200 megawatts, which is enough to power around one million homes.

Currently, two of these reactors are in service in the United States while four are operating in China. Piñeiro said the company has agreements in place to construct more of these reactors in China as well as Bulgaria and Poland.

“We are currently exploring opportunities in many different countries,” she said.

The optimistic outlook for Westinghouse is one that is shared by Cameco, which owns 49 per cent of the company.

On a call with investors to discuss Cameco’s third-quarter results, chief financial officer Grant Isaac said Westinghouse’s business is expected to grow by six per cent to 10 per cent over the next five years, mainly due to new builds.

“We think that remains a very conservative outlook,” he said.

# New Members

New members to SIMSA from the month of November were:

- [Good Spirit Air Service](#)
- [Servco Scaffolding Ltd.](#)
- [Upfront Consulting](#)
- [Frisch Engineered Products Inc.](#)
- [Colliers Project Leaders](#)
- [1st Choice Graphics Inc.](#)

# Upcoming Events

Register for Upcoming Events [HERE](#)

- **SaskEnergy Procurement Presentation – December 3, 2024**  
SaskEnergy will be providing a virtual presentation for an upcoming procurement competition, Fabrication Services – Request for Proposals.
- **Lunch & Learn: Protecture – December 5, 2024**  
At this virtual event, learn about new information about Protecture including rate stability, competitiveness and transition.
- **How to Use Your SIMSA Membership – December 12, 2024**  
Learn how to navigate your membership benefits and all that SIMSA has to offer! This event will be virtual.
- **Saskatchewan Mining Supply Chain Forum (MSCF) – April 9 & 10, 2025**  
The 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Saskatchewan Mining Supply Chain Forum will take place on April 9 and 10, 2025 at Prairieland Park in Saskatoon. Tradeshow now sold out!
- **SIMSA AGM – May 14, 2025**  
Save the date! Our 2025 AGM will be on May 14, 2025 at Prairieland Park in Saskatoon.

- **Saskatchewan Supplier Energy Forum (SSEF) – October 8, 2025**  
Save the date! The 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Saskatchewan Suppliers Energy Forum (SSEF) will be on October 8, 2025 at Delta Hotel in downtown Regina.

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