

February 1, 2024

## Executive Director's Message

By popular demand and to save a lot of work given our growing membership, SIMSA's 2024 AGM will see us change to online voting! There will be nominations through an email system in March (as before), but the actual voting process will occur via an online system this year, powered by a system provided by Saskatoon based Insigtrix.

The draft SIMSA AGM timelines are as follows:

- March 18, 8:00 am - Call for nominations commence via email system
- March 28, 9:00 am - Nominations cease
- April 10, 8:00 am - Notice of AGM with ballot sent (with nominees' bios) by Insigtrix
- May 10, 9:00 am - Completed ballot submission ends
- Wednesday, May 15, at noon – AGM in Saskatoon

SIMSA recently announced three events for February and March; (1) intended to help you understand why ESG is important to you with Candace Laing, (2) a series of workshops intended to help you fulfill your ESG reporting needs with Karri Howlett, and (3) another to provide critical nuclear supply chain information with Tom Kishchuk.

All are listed on our events page [HERE](#).

**1)** On February 29th, we will present an event to explain how in the evolving landscape of mining and industrial sectors, the importance of Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) is becoming increasingly evident. Buyers are beginning to seek comprehensive ESG information from suppliers during the procurement process. Join experts Candace Laing and Karri Howlett as they shed light on the essential ESG information that is pivotal for suppliers. This session is designed to help you understand why it's important to the mining companies and thus you, as well as what is crucial in ESG reporting and how to get started on or refine your ESG strategy. Candace is currently the Board Chair for the Canadian Chamber of Commerce, but many of you know her from her work at Nutrien, where he spent nearly 10 years managing Nutrien's talent development efforts and launching Nutrien's ESG efforts. She also led the development of Nutrien's sustainability strategy and Feeding the Future plan, an ambitious roadmap to meet Nutrien's 2030 sustainability commitments.

**2)** Then on March 26, 27, and 28 we will offer a series of three ESG strategy workshops to our members (which are posted separately). These sessions, led by Karri Howlett, are tailored to empower members in crafting and sharing sustainability information that resonates with buyers. They are structured to

provide a comprehensive overview of the ESG process, offer essential tools, and guide members in implementing a robust ESG strategy and reporting mechanism within their businesses. SIMSA is committed to supporting members throughout their ESG journey, offering resources and guidance at every step.

Understanding the diverse needs of our members, we have organized the workshops to cater specifically to distinct industry groups based on common ESG topics and industry categories. Members should only attend the one workshop that is applicable to them:

- Group 1 (March 26): Construction, Engineering, and Professional Services
- Group 2 (March 27): Manufacturing, Fabrication, and Distribution
- Group 3 (March 28): Site Services and Drilling

**3)** On March 19th SIMSA's Nuclear Specialist – Tom Kishchuk – will present his findings on; (1) what are the major components required to build a reactor in Saskatchewan, (2) our existing supply chain's ability to fulfill these, (3) what else is needed, (4) what has greater economic viability, (5) the scale of the local and global opportunity, and (6) policy options related to quality standards, localization targets and global sourcing strategies.

As SIMSA's Nuclear Specialist, Tom is working to maximize the amount of Saskatchewan content for new nuclear development in Canada and globally, especially in Saskatchewan, including but not limited to: Small Modular Reactor component manufacturing, construction services, and nuclear fuel supply chain.

SIMSA will once again be participating and/or co-hosting some key Business Development events at PDAC in Toronto (March 3 – 5).

This year's focus will be uranium, with the participation of Tim Gitzel (CEO, Cameco) and Meirzhan Yussupov (CEO, Kazatomprom) and senior Government officials. There will also be opportunities in potash and agriculture, education, as well as mining and innovation in general.

Yes, the focus is on trade with Kazakhstan – they are a mirror of Saskatchewan with strong IP regulations.

They are looking for Canadian companies interested in Kazakh market, especially the most recent Canadian mining technologies, automation and AI (as well as in agriculture). They are also looking make meaningful connections for further cooperation and vocational training. A full list is below the events outline.

**The key item will be a KCBC Plenary Session and Networking Reception in Toronto (in-person) on March 3, 2024 at 5:00 – 9:30pm, as well as B2B meetings.**

The Kazakhstan-Canada Business Council (KCBC) 2024 event in Toronto, on the margins of PDAC 2024. This is the event with the participation of Tim Gitzel (CEO Cameco) (Co-Chair of KCBC) and Meirzhan Yussupov (CEO Kazatomprom) (Co-Chair of KCBC), senior Government officials, as well as others.

More information about KCBC Plenary Session can be accessed on their website  
<https://canadaeurasia.com/event-5464162>

To register please contact (and cc [eric.anderson@simsa.ca](mailto:eric.anderson@simsa.ca)):

Vera Dedyulya, Canada Eurasia Chamber of Commerce (CECC) at [vera@canadaeurasia.com](mailto:vera@canadaeurasia.com)

### **Kazakhstan B2B meetings for SIMSA members upon request**

B2B meetings initiated by SIMSA, Toronto in person

- There will persons from the sectors and interest listed above and below. If you would like to meet with them, please email [eric.anderson@simsa.ca](mailto:eric.anderson@simsa.ca) with your name, website address, email address, and the topic(s) you are interested in
- Eric will compile a list and submit it to the appropriate person

For the B2B meetings, they have expressed interests in:

- **Education:**
  1. to discuss issues of academic mobility (students and teachers),
  2. cooperation in the development of the cognitive sciences program (computational linguistics and IT) and accreditation of programs (especially psychology)
  3. implementing a double degree with Canadian universities in accordance with relevant educational programs
  4. development of mutually beneficial cooperation in the field of education and researches with Canadian Universities
- **Mining:**
  1. mine safety
  2. Establishing technical visits to mines (both open-pit and underground) to acquaint themselves with applied methodologies, such as:
    - a. Ore control
    - b. Geological and block modeling
    - c. Operational exploration activities
    - d. Monitoring and analysis of pit slope stability and underground mine workings stability
    - e. Hydrogeological monitoring
  3. Establishing technical visits to production facilities for insights into:
    - a. State-of-the-art techniques for developing small-section mine workings
    - b. Dynamic support systems and cutting-edge technologies for their application, installation, and grouting in small-section mine workings
    - c. Pneumatic wheel and/or electric locomotive transportation of rock mass
    - d. Automation and dispatching solutions
    - e. Remote control capabilities for machines and mechanisms
- **AI:**

1. Digitalization and the latest AI innovations in Agriculture (e.g. smart farming and face recognition)
  2. Robotics and AI
  3. latest AI innovations in Mining: identifying valuable minerals below the Earth's surface; autonomous vehicle solutions and driver assistance systems, working with geospatial and geophysical data
  4. optimize the costs, availability and reliability of various energy sources
- **AG**
    1. Smart farming
    2. Smart vision
    3. Digitalization

Tradeshaw booth demand for the 16th Annual Saskatchewan Mining Supply Chain Forum was huge; the tradeshow sold-out on November 21<sup>st</sup> at 2:00 pm and we had over 50 companies on the waiting list for more booths by early December. As such, we re-structured the tradeshow layout and added 46 more booths, which brings the total to 380. There will be 25% more time for the tradeshow this year!

The event will take place on April 17 and 18, 2024 at Prairieland Park in Saskatoon, SK. The mining companies expect to use 11 booths this year, which 50% more than last year – which is great! They have all spoken-up early this year that they want in.

The high-level 2024 MSCF Draft Agenda is:

- Tuesday, April 16  
Tradeshaw set up (no set up permitted on April 17)
- Wednesday, April 17  
Speakers will be 8:00 - 12:00 (subject to change)  
Tradeshaw open 10:00 – 6:00
- Thursday, April 18  
Speakers will be 8:00 - 12:00 (subject to change)  
Tradeshaw open 10:00 - 4:00

# Member's News

[Sutton Benefits & Pension is now in Saskatoon's north end overlooking Silverwood Golf Course](#)

[Bearing Failure Analysis services now available at IPS in Saskatchewan](#)

[Applications open for IMII's DEMOday 2024](#)

[Team Power Solutions and Finning Canada Collaboration — Team Power Solutions](#)

[RAYHAWK Develops Autonomous Seal Cutting Tool](#)

[RAYHAWK Presents at GEAPS Canadian Prairie Chapter](#)

## Advocacy

SIMSA's Executive Director Eric Anderson and Nuclear Specialist Tom Kishchuk recently met with Jeremy Harrison - Minister of Trade and Export Development and Minister of Immigration and Career Training. We had a productive conversation on labour force development as well as the policy items need to enable international sales of any nuclear supply chain items created in Saskatchewan.

Eric and Tom also met with SaskPower's with Rhea Brown, Troy King, Doug Opseth, Ian Harry, and Dan Irvine from SaskPower. In addition to a discussion around the policy items need to enable international sales of any nuclear supply chain items created in Saskatchewan, the topic of "localisation" was raised. The specific question was, "What is the local-purchasing target for nuclear?"

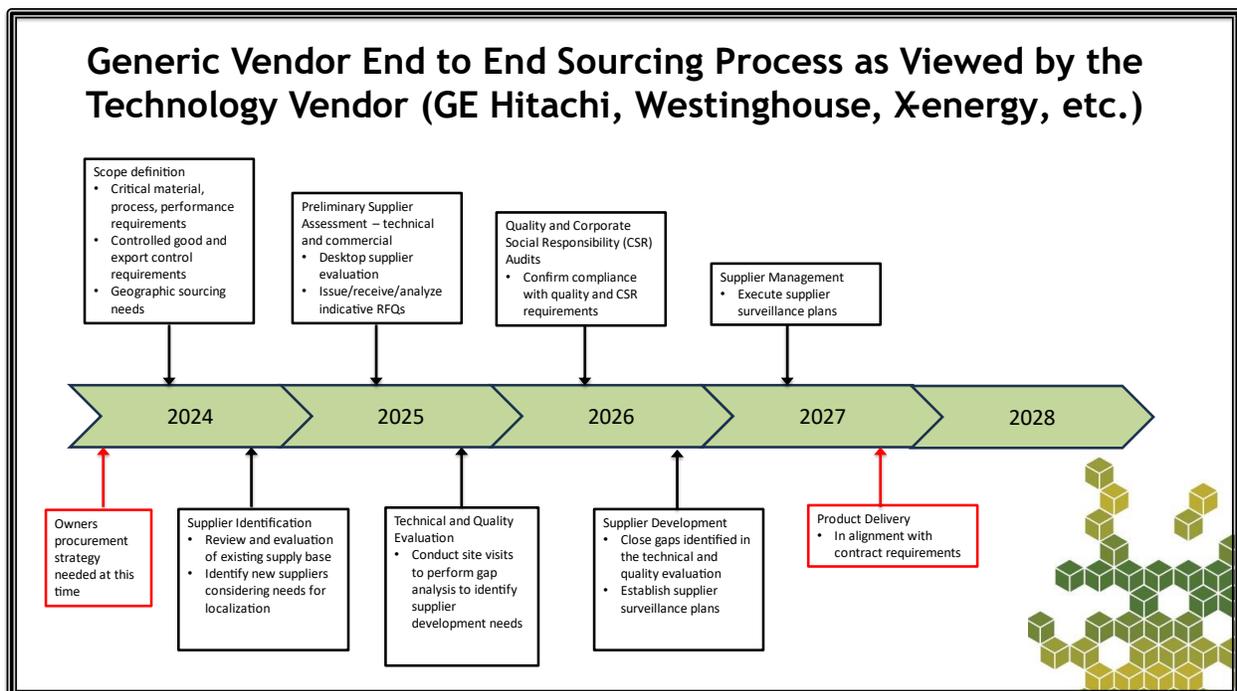
Both of the above conversations will require some time to conclude, but they are well underway.

SIMSA’s work towards adding “Leading indicators” so safety reporting is ongoing, with the strong support of WCB Saskatchewan. The conversations have included other Associations, as well as BHP and Nutrien.

# Nuclear

## Nuclear Power Plant Supply Chain – Generic Vendor End to End Sourcing Process as Viewed by the Technology Vendor (GE Hitachi, Westinghouse, X-energy, etc.)

Major vendors such as GE Hitachi and Westinghouse have global supply chains and sourcing processes that have existed for decades. These same sourcing process will also be used for sourcing of equipment for SMRs. Vendors will establish policy for local content and local investment at the very beginning of this process based on the demands of the jurisdictions in which the power plants will be located. Vendors have or will soon have firm orders in hand which means that this policy is being reviewed and established by the vendors in 2024. A generic view of these end to end sourcing processes is shown below.



The major steps in the sourcing process are:

1. Scope Definition
2. Supplier Identification
3. Preliminary Technical and Commercial Supplier Assessment
4. Technical and Quality Evaluation
5. Quality and CSR Audits
6. Supplier Development
7. Supplier Management
8. Product Delivery

Of note is the requirement for suppliers to submit pricing that is deemed to be competitive by the vendors at the start of the sourcing process. In general, when supply of nuclear products and services exceeds demand, vendors will be looking for capability and capacity that is already existing. Based on market projections for deployment of SMRs globally, it appears that demand for nuclear products and services will exceed supply and in this case vendors will also be looking for new capability and capacity and/or existing capability and capacity that can be expanded.

## Industrial Concierge Update

### **SIMSA, IMII, and Partners Further Culture of Innovation in Saskatchewan Mining**

#### **Event Video [Link](#)**

The International Minerals Innovation Institute (IMII) and SIMSA were pleased to co-host a DEMOday 2024 Launch event on January 18, 2024, the first of three days centred on innovation in mining.

A mining hackathon followed on January 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> for the students of the University of Saskatchewan in collaboration with the Tech Innovation and SIGMA program at College of Engineering at the University of Saskatchewan.

The IMII released a list of [42 innovation needs](#) on behalf of its minerals member companies – BHP, Cameco, Fission Uranium, Mosaic and Nutrien, and a total of 70 persons from innovative suppliers and mining companies were in attendance for the DEMOday launch. The launch event facilitated many great discussions between suppliers and industry and was seen as a big success this year by mineral company attendees.

In an affiliated event, a total of 50 people persons from Nutrien, SIMSA members, University of Saskatchewan Students and faculty attended the Hackathon the day after DEMOday.



*Students and Industry attend Hackathon opening.*

The Hackathon is an event where students brainstorm solutions to the same 42 industry's needs and present their solutions to a panel of judges.



*Students presenting their Hackathon solutions.*

For over 24 hours students worked in 9-groups of 3-5 students, to “hack” or propose solutions to the list of the 42 Innovation Industry needs that the IMII released as a part of DEMOday. Students ranged from Grade 10, all the way to doctoral candidates.

“I and my industry colleagues were impressed with the ideas and concepts the students developed in a very short time,” said IMII’s Executive Director Al Shpyth. “Both innovation and hackathons build on problem-solving, and Saskatchewan’s minerals industry is open to potential new solutions from bright and talented young people.”

### Hackathon Speakers:

- Al Shpyth, Executive Director at International Minerals Innovation Institute (IMII)
- David Yee, Executive in Residence for USask Technological Innovation and SIGMA
- Jonathan Lipoth, Executive Director at Co. Labs
- Tom Kishchuk, Nuclear Specialist for SIMSA, Executive in Residence for USask Technological Innovation and SIGMA
- Tate Cao, Assistant Professor, La Borde Chair in Engineering Entrepreneurship

## Sector News

The biggest news in January was that “Orano Canada and Denison Announce JV Approval to Restart McClean Lake Mining Operations.”

On January 24<sup>th</sup>, Orano Canada Inc. ("Orano Canada"), and Denison Mines Corp. ("Denison"), as joint-venture partners in the McClean Lake Joint Venture ("MLJV"), released [HERE](#) that they:

. . . are pleased to announce that the MLJV has approved a restart of uranium mining operations using the joint venture's patented Surface Access Borehole Resource Extraction ("SABRE") mining method. Orano Canada owns a 77.5% interest and is the operator of the MLJV and Denison owns a 22.5% interest.

Mining is planned to commence at the McClean North deposit in 2025, with 2024 activities expected to focus on preparations necessary to ready the existing SABRE mining site and equipment for continuous commercial operations, as well as the installation of eight pilot holes for the first mining cavities planned for excavation. The approved budget for this work in 2024 is \$7 million (100% basis).

Approximately 800,000 lbs U3O8 (100% basis) are targeted for production from McClean North in 2025, with approximately 3,000,000 lbs U3O8 (100% basis) identified for potential additional production from a combination of the McClean North and Caribou deposits during the years 2026 to 2030.

Jim Corman, Orano Canada's President and Chief Executive Officer, said, "Our current ability to capitalize on the strengthening uranium and nuclear markets is the result of a long-term investment in R&D within Orano and the MLJV to secure continued activities at the McClean Lake operation well into the future. The groundwork we do over the course of 2024, is expected to put the MLJV in position to see SABRE in action and to commence production in 2025. It is

anticipated that the McClean Lake mill will have sufficient capacity to process this ore, while continuing with committed planned production from Cigar Lake. It's an exciting time for employees, partners, and the industry as we return to a focus on growth."

David Cates, Denison's President and Chief Executive Officer, commented, "The restart of uranium mining at McClean Lake is a notable milestone for the MLJV and Denison. Mining at McClean Lake was suspended in 2008 in response to declining uranium prices. During the interim 15 years, the MLJV invested in the development of a proprietary mining method designed to selectively extract high-grade Athabasca Basin uranium ores from surface. The successful mining test of the SABRE method in 2021 provided the MLJV with important information about the productivity and cost of SABRE operations. This information suggests an incentive price meaningfully lower than current uranium prices, which has provided the JV with a strong basis to make a restart decision for mining at McClean Lake.

We would like to thank our colleagues at Orano Canada for their efforts to develop the SABRE method to a commercial-ready state, which has allowed for the joint venture to make the decision to resume production at McClean Lake."

## Upcoming Events

Register for Upcoming Events [HERE](#)

- **Lunch & Learn: Honey Cut Studios – February 2, 2024**  
Discover how to craft engaging and insightful videos that will help your brand stand out!
- **ESG in Mining: What Do You Need to Know? – February 29, 2024**  
Join experts Candace Laing and Karri Howlett as they shed light on the essential ESG information that is pivotal for suppliers.
- **SIMSA Nuclear Supply Chain Update to Members – March 19, 2024**  
SIMSA presents Nuclear Supply Chain Report
- **ESG Workshop 1 - Construction, Engineering, and Professional Services – March 26, 2024**  
A follow-up event to ESG in Mining: What Do You Need to Know?
- **ESG Workshop 2 - Manufacturing, Fabrication, and Distribution – March 27, 2024**  
A follow-up event to ESG in Mining: What Do You Need to Know?

- **ESG Workshop 3 - Site Services and Drilling – March 28, 2024**  
A follow-up event to ESG in Mining: What Do You Need to Know?
- **Saskatchewan Mining Supply Chain Forum (MSCF) – April 17 & 18, 2024**  
The 16th Annual Saskatchewan Mining Supply Chain Forum will take place on April 17 and 18, 2024 at Prairieland Park in Saskatoon.
- **SIMSA AGM – May 15, 2024**  
Save the Date! The SIMSA AGM will be on May 15, 2024 at Prairieland Park in Saskatoon.
- **Saskatchewan Suppliers Energy Forum (SSEF) – October 2, 2024**  
Save the Date! The 10th Annual Saskatchewan Suppliers Energy Forum will be on October 2, 2024 at the Delta Hotel in Regina.

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