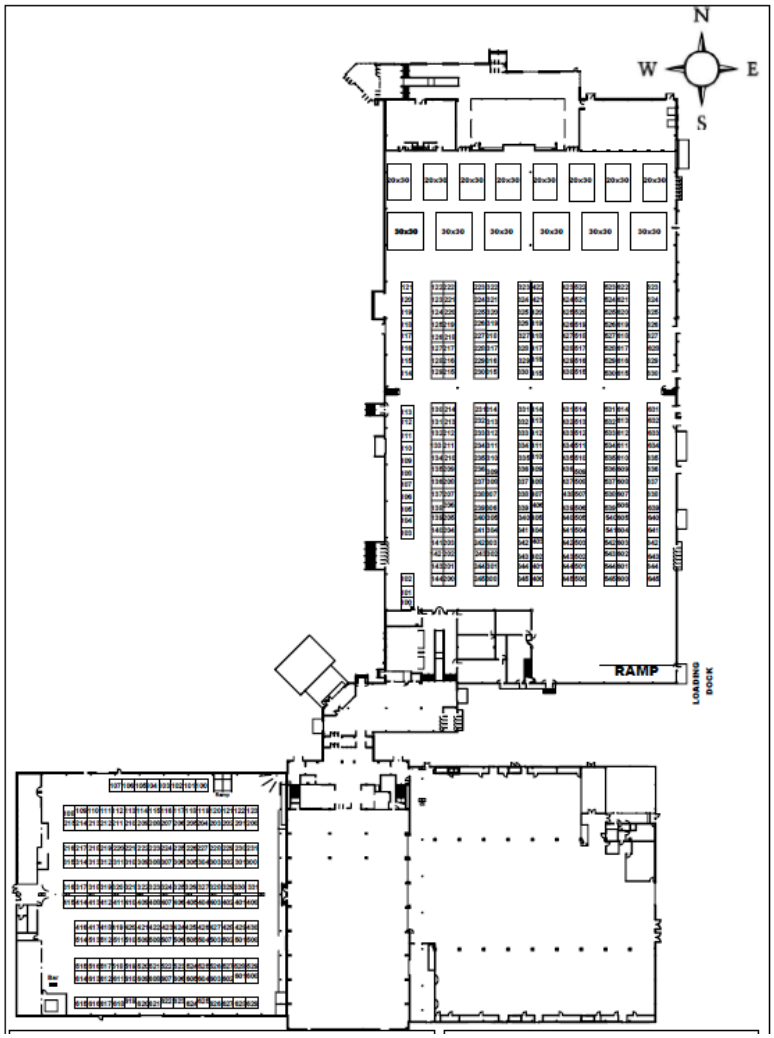
SIMSA | Saskatchewan Industrial & Mining Suppliers Association Inc

November 2, 2026

Executive Director's Message

The 2027 Mining Supply Chain Forum tradeshow will be expanded into Hall B, with a new large equipment area in Hall D/E (plus 10x10 booths). The map below reflects that we have expanded the tradeshow by a net gain of: 86 @ 10x10 booths, 8 @ 30x20 booths, and 6 @ 30x30 booths. The speakers will remain in Hall A (Hall C is occupied by another event). Tradeshow booths go on sale to members-only December 1st – given how fast things sell-out, we highly recommend you use this opportunity. Watch for emails this month.



Prairieland Park Map with MSCF Tradeshow Booths Marked

Look for some major upgrades to the “Energy Forum” next year. We also met with Cenovus in Lloydminster, regarding the revised “Energy Forum” for next year. More details soon.

SIMSA Board and staff had lunch with and heard from CIBC Deputy Chief Economist Benjamin Tal in October. We learned of their national and provincial economic forecasts, asked questions, and shared our perspectives. This kind of session helps SIMSA better plan for the future, as well as informs others.

October saw SIMSA promote and attend the BirdEX event, held in conjunction with the $52-billion BELL datacentre project. They will be using our member database to shortlist suppliers.

I moderated panel on **dIScover: Manufacturing Advantage + Opportunity.** *How Saskatchewan’s manufacturing strengths can unlock emerging markets.*

- **Steve Kastning, DFP Manufacturing / Duck Foot Parts -** Industry and entrepreneur perspective focused on building, manufacturing and scaling products in Saskatchewan.
- **Anne Ballentyne, Prairies Economic Development Canada -** Federal perspective on industrial investment, **defence** opportunities, procurement readiness, commercialization and support available to Prairie businesses.
- **Peter Siarkos, Saskatchewan Trade and Export Partnership -** Market and export perspective focused on identifying customers, entering new markets and helping Saskatchewan companies compete internationally.

Member’s News

Hydraulitechs wins the 2026 STEP Export Award

Radon Testing in Canada: SRC & Lung Sask Experts Answer Common Homeowner Questions

EDC's Financing and Insurance Solutions for Canadian Businesses Facing Rising Costs and Trade Uncertainty

Advocacy

SIMSA in partnership with other Associations is developing a skilled labour shortage report for Government. Look for updates on this in the near future. We have also had conversations on the topic with groups such as the Saskatchewan Teachers Federation and Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce.

SIMSA will be meeting with Provincial Government persons on local opportunities linked to nuclear power, in early November.

Nuclear

Two Doors Opening for Saskatchewan's Nuclear Supply Chain: CNA West 2026 and a Research Reactor Feasibility Study

November brings two developments in the nuclear industry to SIMSA members: Western Canada's premier nuclear conference comes to Calgary with SIMSA on the supply chain panel, and a Saskatchewan-led feasibility study for a research reactor — the "missing rung" SIMSA has been advocating for — moves to competitive procurement.

CNA West 2026: New Nuclear Horizons — Calgary, November 2 to 4

The Canadian Nuclear Association's second CNA West conference, *New Nuclear Horizons*, runs November 2 to 4 at the BMO Centre in Calgary. After a successful debut in Saskatoon last year, the event moves to Alberta and is expected to draw more than 800 in-person attendees, 60-plus speakers, 20-plus concurrent sessions and a trade show of more than 40 exhibitor booths. The agenda spans the issues that will decide how quickly nuclear is deployed in the West: financing, regulatory modernization, workforce development, Indigenous partnership, microreactors for industrial energy, and the supply chain needed to build and sustain a fleet.

SIMSA will be there. Our Nuclear Specialist, Grant Cherkas, P.Eng., is moderating the panel *Building a Resilient Canadian Nuclear Supply Chain: Lessons in Partnership and Readiness* on Tuesday, November 3 (11:15 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. MT), with panelists Adrian Davies, Candu Energy; Rhea Brown, SaskPower; and Scott Ryan, Aecon. The session will examine how to connect established nuclear suppliers with new entrants and companies from adjacent sectors — oil and gas, mining and heavy industry — particularly in Western Canada; how to move beyond project-by-project procurement toward a coordinated

pipeline that gives suppliers the confidence to invest and grow; where industry should collaborate rather than compete, on workforce development, supplier qualification and shared infrastructure; and what is at stake if Canada fails to strengthen its supply chain over the next five years. It is, in short, the conversation SIMSA has been having with its members for the past two years, taken to a national stage.

Saskatchewan features prominently elsewhere on the program as well. The November 3 main-stage session Building Saskatchewan's Nuclear Future: Talent, Procurement, Research and Investment brings together Premier Scott Moe, Cameco's Tim Gitzel, Chief Tammy Cook-Searson, Liam Mooney and Vince Bruni-Bossio, and the November 4 session Big Skies, Big Energy: Nuclear in Western Canada looks at the region as a whole. A pre-conference Nuclear Finance Summit on November 2 examines how new nuclear gets paid for, including Sweden's experience and lessons from the United Kingdom.

For SIMSA members, CNA West is the most efficient place in the West to meet the utilities, reactor vendors, engineering and construction firms and tier-one suppliers who will be issuing the work packages. Members attending are encouraged to connect with Grant at the conference; he will be networking with potential customers and promoting SIMSA member capabilities throughout the event.

Program, speakers and registration: https://cnawest.cna.ca

A Research Reactor Feasibility Study for Saskatoon — and Four Tenders to Watch

In our September article, SIMSA made the case for a small training and research reactor in Saskatchewan as the missing rung in our nuclear supply chain: a lower-risk, buildable-scale project on which local suppliers can earn their first nuclear-grade credentials and the province can develop the operators, technicians and engineers its future power reactors will need. That case has now taken a concrete step forward.

The Global Institute for Energy, Minerals and Society (GIEMS) — the research and training institute founded and equally owned by the University of Saskatchewan, the University of Regina and Saskatchewan Polytechnic — is leading a Front-End Loading 1 (FEL-1) feasibility study to assess the potential deployment of a nuclear research reactor at the University of Saskatchewan's Saskatoon campus. FEL-1 is the earliest stage of project definition. Its purpose is to identify the requirements, constraints, risks and information gaps and to determine whether the project should advance to FEL-2. No reactor technology, size or configuration has been predetermined, and no decision has been made to proceed with a reactor — but the question is now being asked formally, with a structured study behind it.

GIEMS is competitively procuring specialized expertise through four separate RFP work packages, one for each assessment area:

- **Technical** — reactor options, siting, infrastructure, regulatory and licensing pathway, safety, fuel and waste, and preliminary cost and schedule.
- **Indigenous, Environmental and Societal** — environmental and land-use considerations, Indigenous perspectives, community input and engagement.
- **Business and Economic** — operating models, lifecycle costs, workforce and training, revenue and long-term sustainability.

- **Research, Testing and Training** — demand and utilization across Saskatchewan's post-secondary and research sector.

The RFPs are being posted publicly through SaskTenders, with contract award and study start to follow, and FEL-1 completion targeted for spring 2027. All procurement-related questions must go through the formal SaskTenders process identified in each RFP.

Why this matters to SIMSA members: this is a near-term, Saskatchewan-based opportunity for engineering, environmental, economic, regulatory and Indigenous-engagement consultancies — and for firms that can team with national nuclear engineering houses to bring local knowledge to a bid. Equally important is what comes after. A positive FEL-1 outcome would set up FEL-2 and, eventually, a licensed nuclear facility in Saskatoon with CNSC-grade requirements for civil, mechanical, electrical, instrumentation and fabrication work. Suppliers who understand the study now will be best positioned to understand the project later. This is exactly the kind of walk-before-you-run project SIMSA has been advocating for, and we encourage members to follow it closely.

Study overview and links to the tender postings: https://www.giems.ca/nrrfeasibility-study-fel1. Tender search: https://www.sasktenders.ca

Getting Involved

Members planning to attend CNA West should let SIMSA know so we can coordinate introductions. Members interested in the GIEMS work packages — either as a prime or as a local teaming partner — should review the postings on SaskTenders and reach out to SIMSA; we can help identify complementary partners and point you to the qualification and quality requirements that nuclear clients expect. SIMSA's cohort program, Supplying the Nuclear Industry, and our NRCan-funded Enabling SMRs project both remain available to members building their nuclear readiness.

Contact SIMSA's nuclear specialist, Grant Cherkas, P.Eng., at grant.cherkas@simsa.ca, for more information on CNA West, the research reactor feasibility study, and upcoming nuclear supply chain sessions.

New Members

New members to SIMSA from the month of October were:

- **Rise Air**
- **Green Line Hose & Fittings**
- **Export Development Canada (EDC)**
- **Ensero Technologies Inc.**
- **Métis Nation–Saskatchewan**
- **Crete-Tek Contracting Ltd.**
- **Thiessen Safety Consulting Services Ltd.**
- **Millwrights Local 1021**
- **Tatanka Telecom Corporation**

Upcoming Events

Register for Upcoming Events HERE

- **SIMSA & BHP Roundtable – November 5, 2026**
  The SIMSA & BHP Roundtable will be on Thursday, November 5th at Prairieland Park in Saskatoon.

- **BHP Potash Supply Chain Ready Program (SCR): Session #3 – November 26, 2026**
  At this virtual session, learn about BHP's Indigenous Engagement Approach.

- **How To Use Your SIMSA Membership – December 10, 2026**
  At this virtual event, learn how to navigate your membership benefits and all that SIMSA has to offer!

- **Saskatchewan Mining Supply Chain Forum (MSCF) – April 14 & 15, 2027**
  Co-hosted by SIMSA, the Saskatchewan Mining Association and the Saskatchewan Ministry of Trade & Export Development, the 19th Annual Saskatchewan Mining Supply Chain Forum will take place on April 14 and 15, 2027 at Prairieland Park in Saskatoon. Tradeshow booths and tickets on sale to SIMSA members only on December 1. Tradeshow booths and tickets on sale to general public on December 8. Sponsorship now sold out.

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