

THE MATOUSH PROJECT

In 2006, Strateco set up the Matoush uranium project, located in the Otish Mountains at about 275 km north of Chibougamau. It is now considered as one of the highest-grade uranium projects in the world. Strateco aspires to become the first company in Quebec and the first so-called junior company in Canada, during the present cycle, to advance a uranium exploration project involving underground exploration operations.



URANIUM

Uranium is found in its natural state in the rock, soil, rivers and oceans. Small quantities can be found in the soil, water, plants, animals and the human body. Uranium is one of the most abundant elements in nature; more than gold and silver.

Did you know?

Canada is currently the second largest producer of uranium, generating one quarter of total world production.

WHAT IS URANIUM USED FOR?

- Uranium is used for a number of different purposes, but its principal use is to generate **electricity**. Uranium is the most promising energy-generating alternative of the future. Nuclear power is the only affordable, safe and GHG emission-free form of energy that has sufficient resources to meet mass demand.
- Nuclear technology also contributes to the improvement and diversification of many activity sectors essential to our everyday life and wellbeing. Cancer detection, elimination of deadly bacteria and water desalination are just few examples of the crucial role of this technology in areas such as **medicine**, **agriculture** and **food production**.
- Many **other activity sectors** enjoy the benefits of nuclear technology. It is used in smoke detectors, to scan baggage at airports, to check surface density in road construction, to authenticate and restore paintings and artworks in museums, to irradiate silicon for hybrid car parts, in photocopiers, to test airplane parts and in many other areas of everyday life.

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Strateco believes that sustainable development means caring for the environment at every stage of exploration and production, actively involving the local populations in the project, ensuring the safety and health of our workers and local residents and providing safe and clean energy for the future.

ADVANTAGES

■ A Secure Industry

Safety is a priority at every step of uranium use, from exploration to radioactive waste management. The industry is regulated by international and national standards that control every type of risk, for both workers and the general public.

■ An Energy Source GHG Emission Free

Nuclear energy is the only non-polluting energy source that can meet mass demand. In Canada alone, the use of nuclear energy avoids the emission of about 90 million tonnes of GHG per year. On a global scale, nuclear power currently reduces carbon dioxide emissions by some 2.5 billion tonnes per year.

■ An Affordable Resource

The cost of electricity generated by nuclear power is comparable with that of other sources of mass energy. Furthermore, if the social, health and environmental costs of fossil fuels are also taken into account, the economics of nuclear power are outstanding. In Canada, the nuclear industry represents 150 companies that generate 21,000 direct jobs and about 50,000 indirect jobs. The industry is also a leading source of jobs for aboriginal communities.

■ An Available Energy Source

The availability of an energy resource is essential for large-scale production. Certain clean resources, like wind and solar power, cannot meet global demand as they are generated intermittently. Uranium, however, is ubiquitous on the Earth, and is sure to be available over the long term.

■ A Secure Industry with Peaceful Aims

Canada is amongst the 189 signatory countries of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. Canadian policies regarding the use of the nuclear atom are strict: nuclear materials and technology must not be used for nuclear weapons. It is illegal to export uranium, nuclear components or technology for use in nuclear weapons.



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URANIUM MARKET DEVELOPMENT

The uranium market remains sizable due to the benefits of uranium and the needs of many activity sectors.

Mining companies are pushed to develop the uranium market. In Canada, exploration is booming. Canadian uranium is presently supplied by mines in northern Saskatchewan. However, active uranium exploration programs are also underway in the Northwest Territories, Yukon, Nunavut, Quebec, Newfoundland and Labrador, Ontario, Manitoba, New Brunswick and Alberta.

Nuclear reactors worldwide

- 439 nuclear reactors are operable (June 2010)
- 57 nuclear reactors are under construction and 151 reactors are planned
- Some 15 countries use nuclear energy for more than one quarter of their energy consumption
- Over thirty countries are actively considering embarking upon nuclear power programs
- In Canada, 18 nuclear reactors generate approximately 15% of the electricity and in Ontario, more than 55% of the electricity is generated by nuclear reactors
- The use of nuclear energy for the production of electricity represents an interesting choice for developing countries

Sources

International Atomic Energy Agency

<http://www.iaea.org/>

Nuclear Energy Agency

<http://www.nea.fr/>

Canadian Nuclear Association

<http://www.cna.ca/>

Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission

<http://www.cnsccsn.gc.ca/>

Natural Resources Canada

<http://www.nrcan-rncan.gc.ca/>

World Nuclear Association

<http://www.world-nuclear.org/>

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