

# THE ASX URANIUM PLAYBOOK

## HOW TO PLAY THE ENERGY SUPPLY CRISIS

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# The ASX Uranium Playbook: How to Play the Energy Supply Crisis

By James Cooper

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Is this the time for value-focused investors to take up a position in uranium stocks, or is this commodity set to capitulate into a long-term bear market, like lithium?

We'll start our exploration by digging into **energy-starved Europe**, a region begging for a nuclear solution.

And the location where the seed for much higher uranium demand could emerge.

You see, the European Union has been shaken. Geopolitically and economically.

Tensions with major gas exporter Russia have stirred the region's long-term energy security.

Higher energy prices and falling productivity have wounded the once-mighty German manufacturing machine.

With the EU's ageing demographic, the region is poorly equipped to tackle problems like energy scarcity, sticky inflation, and declining productivity.

But adding to its woes, the region's most powerful ally — the US — is preparing to impose further tariffs while perhaps abandoning its commitment to NATO.

Yet, there's an economic island of sorts... Within the heart of the European Union. An energy oasis that offers the playbook to prevent Europe's future economic rot.

This well-known country has spent decades preparing for this occasion by building a self-sufficient ENERGY FORTRESS.

Remarkably, very few countries have taken notice of this or given this country the credit it deserves. So, what's the country I'm talking about?

## ***‘Vive la France!’***

The French have (mostly) sidestepped Europe's economic pain, largely thanks to their 'energy moat.'

In fact, few realise that France is now an **energy-independent nation**.

Unlike most countries in the West, France has placed energy at the heart of its long-term planning. And with its ENERGY FORTRESS established, France is now an exporter of electricity! Making billions selling excess capacity to its energy-starved neighbours all across Europe.

So, how does one of the world's largest economies, which has barely any natural resources like oil, coal, or gas, generate more electricity than it needs?

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The country's patriarchal hero, Charles de Gaulle, planted the seed long ago. He laid the groundwork for France's future energy security.

De Gaulle was a statesman who led the Free French forces against Nazi Germany in World War II. He later rewrote the constitution of France and went on to become the country's President. De Gaulle was a patriotic Frenchman who lived by the words: '*Vive la France!*'

Long live France.

No doubt, he's experiences against Nazi Germany, which rampaged effortlessly through the country's ill-prepared armed forces, led to that cause. A cause that would shape France into becoming a self-sufficient energy powerhouse.

## Nuclear: How France made it work

De Gaulle strongly advocated for nuclear... In all of its forms. From the deadly... with the development of nuclear weapons to build the country's defence capability.

And nuclear power, which De Gaulle correctly predicted would fuel the country's **economic advantage**. Yet France was different from other 'nuclear adopters.'

Unlike the US, Japan, or Germany, the French held an unwavering commitment to this vital energy source. Since installing its first reactor in 1964, the country hasn't looked back!

Today, France generates almost 80% of its electrical needs from nuclear power, the highest share of any country in the world.

France offers a playbook for the effective deployment of nuclear energy and how it can strengthen resource-poor economies, even in an age of *commodity scarcity*.

While most nuclear critics draw on examples from Germany, Japan, and the US, pointing to their abandoned nuclear ambitions... Few have recognised the winning formula laid out by the French.

So, how is 'nuclear France' performing relative to its energy-starved peers?

One metric we can use is foreign direct investment, or "FDI," the total investment flowing into a country.

In 2024, the UN Trade and Development branch found that FDI fell a staggering 45% across Europe and as much as 60% in energy-hit Germany!

On all accounts, France fared much better in Europe's economic meltdown... recording a modest lift in FDI of 1.9%.

According to official records, France also ranks the highest among all European nations in terms of its 'investment attractiveness' — a title it has held for five consecutive years.

It's also the most desirable country for **industrial investment** in Europe. No wonder!

But hardly anyone seems to be linking its success to the country's reliance on nuclear power.

And that's delivering even more advantages...

Major backers like Microsoft and Amazon are pouring billions into developing energy-hungry data centres throughout France.

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As I mentioned earlier, Charles de Gaulle helped lead the country in the fight against Nazism. Now, his nuclear legacy is helping to establish France's AI future!

It goes to show that no matter what innovation brings, ENERGY will remain the limiting component. And France has established a massive competitive advantage thanks to its ability to generate cheap, base-load power.

In an era when the West faces declining productivity, ageing populations, unsustainable energy costs, and sticky inflation, nuclear truly is the economic prescription!

But there's a catch....

France has one critical kink in its otherwise impenetrable ENERGY FORTRESS.

One that could have important implications for commodity investors.

So, let me explain.

## Lights out over Paris?

This is where we touch on the dark side of France's heavy pivot to nuclear power.

As I pointed out earlier, France is not endowed with mineral wealth.

According to the World Bank, the country imported about 12 million kilograms of natural uranium in 2023.

To put that in perspective... Total global production that year was about 60 million kilograms.

That means France alone absorbed about 20% of the entire **global supply!**

**In fact, the three biggest consumers of uranium... France, the US and China... collectively consume 80% of total global supply!**

But what would happen if more nations recognised France's competitive advantage and pivoted to nuclear? As an investor, that's what you need to consider...

If you've been following this issue (like I have), you've probably seen a bunch of European countries clambering back to nuclear. Energy security is a hot topic, especially in energy-starved Europe.

But it's also high on Donald Trump's agenda, a key reason uranium stocks popped in May 2025 after the US administration committed to building more reactors.

Another critical point: while the US is currently the world's largest consumer of uranium with around 94 commercial reactors in operation, China will soon overtake it...

According to the World Nuclear Association, China has around 58 operable nuclear reactors. However, 31 reactors are under construction, and 40 more are planned for construction!

That brings it to 129 nuclear reactors!

Easily making it the world's largest consumer of uranium in the years to come.

These are hard numbers that show firm commitments for future uranium demand. Given the enormous costs, a pledge to build new reactors doesn't come lightly.



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In other words, higher demand is virtually baked in.

Yes, higher demand would eventually drive more output at uranium mines. But nothing moves quickly in the mining sector.

New mines take years, sometimes decades, to achieve approvals, financing and all of the rest! But this is an exceptionally deep problem for uranium, given that its supply chains have profound geopolitical risks.

## **Exposing France's fragile supply**

France was once a global empire, using its mighty fleet of naval vessels to secure international supply chains of key commodities like gold, sugar, tobacco, and rubber.

While France 'officially' surrendered its colonial breadbaskets years ago, powerful connections remain... What some might label as 'hidden colonialism.'

France has maintained an active presence in its former colonies, especially mineral-rich West Africa. Don't be fooled! This is not about maintaining peace and democracy like the mainstream would have you believe.

It's about securing raw materials.

Over the years, France has deployed thousands of troops across uranium-rich Niger.

This landlocked West African country holds some of the world's largest uranium reserves and gifts France around one-third of its requirements.

And for years, the French, aided by local elites, have bled this uranium-rich country dry.

Despite feeding France with an abundance of uranium and powering it toward economic dominance, Niger remains one of the poorest countries on Earth.

Famine, drought, war and poverty remain the daily plight of most people here. But times are changing for the French and the West more broadly...

## **The West is losing its grip on established supply chains for raw materials**

Across France's former colonies, significant leadership changes are taking place. New Junta governments are replacing former pro-Western dictators.

And these new leaders tend to despise Western governments and their international mining companies! Gold miners across Mali are waking up to this new reality.

And in 2023, a coup d'état broke out in uranium-rich Niger, ousting the country's President.

Mohamed Bazoum was a cozy ally for the West, a key reason France had access to a cheap, reliable uranium supply.

But as I've outlined, that situation is looking precarious...

In 2024, the new Junta government cut military ties with the US, ordering 1,000 American troops out of the country.

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And since coming to power, it has cosied up to new allies in China and Russia, nations which are also keen to grab hold of Niger's vast uranium reserves.

Clearly, France is losing its grip on Niger and West Africa more broadly. The region has grown tired of feeding the West with abundant resources, receiving little in return.

**And that represents a major threat to France's ENERGY FORTRESS!**

For the moment, Niger continues to export uranium to France. But how long that lasts is anyone's guess.

Approximately a third of France's uranium supply comes from the Sahel...

A dispute that creates a sudden supply disruption will devastate France's energy security.

In my mind, governments, investors and the West are not paying attention to this potentially major threat.

## **But this is not a problem isolated to France**

This has enormous implications for ANY country looking to tap into the miracles of nuclear energy. So, where else could supply come from if Niger supply breaks down?

Well, there's Kazakhstan, the world's largest uranium producer...

But it is already heavily committed to China...

And it's unlikely to shift that alliance given China sits at its doorstep, is a major investor in the country and most of its mining firms.

That includes Kazatomprom, the world's largest uranium-producing company, which accounts for around a quarter of global supply.

So, where else could supply ramp-up to feed the West's growing need for uranium?

Well, there's Namibia... Another important uranium hub.

This country has become a choice destination for ASX plays like **Paladin Energy [ASX:PDN]**, **Bannerman Energy [ASX:BMN]**, and **Deep Yellow [ASX:DYL]**.

But here, too, problems fester...

Water scarcity proved a major hurdle for Paladin's ability to process ore last year.

And in a sign of the times today, the Namibian government recently expressed interest in nationalising its resources.

No doubt that will keep ASX management teams awake at night.

Discussions about bringing its mines under state control have subsided for now.

However, as I keep reminding readers, resource-rich nations tend to elevate this agenda when the commodity cycle turns upward, and resource prices rise.

We're seeing this worldwide, from copper, gold AND uranium.

So, what about Australia?

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## Well, even in Australia, there are risks...

Take **Toro Energy's** [ASX:TOE] partially 'stranded' Wiluna uranium deposit.

The West Australian government has blocked new uranium projects, which could limit Toro's ability to expand and increase the life of its future mine.

Meanwhile, the Federal government has also barred certain uranium developments across the Northern Territory.

That leaves perhaps one secure option for investors looking at uranium options in Australia... South Australia's **Boss Energy** [ASX:BOE].

Could this be a prized uranium investment opportunity?

Perhaps, but Boss has its problems, too.

The board infamously offloaded its holdings in the stock during some challenging production periods in 2024, soon after the mine restarted operations.

In response, the company's share price cratered 60%!

No doubt, Boss will come through this.

But I'm trying to point out that the uranium market is not an easy arena for the stock picker! That's why I've been watching it (mostly) from the sidelines.

From the boom in 2023 to a significant correction in 2024.

Uranium stocks have cratered to multi-year lows while the fundamentals have never been stronger. The sector is swimming in bargains, but that window won't stay open long.

**I firmly believe NOW is the time to seriously consider opportunities in the uranium market.**

You'll hear more of my ongoing commentary on resource opportunities like this as part of your free subscription to *Mining Memo*.

And if you'd like to find out the name of the specific long-term uranium play I'm recommending to my paid subscribers...

You can do so by joining *Diggers and Drillers* [here](#).

**Best regards,**



**James Cooper**  
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92



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