

Ucore's Strategic Leap: Pat Ryan Discusses the First Mover Advantage in Rare Earths Processing at Louisiana's Strategic Metals Complex

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In a recent InvestorNews interview with host Tracy Weslosky, Pat Ryan, Chairman and CEO of [Ucore Rare Metals Inc.](#) (TSXV: UCU | OTCQX: UURAF), shared insights into the company's latest strategic developments, particularly focusing on the Louisiana Strategic Metals Complex (LA-SMC) discussed in Ucore's most recent [news release](#). Central to Ucore's progress is the support from Louisiana Governor Jon Bel Edwards, who has played a pivotal role in advancing the LA-SMC project through the execution of a contract for exemption of ad valorem taxes. This move is part of a larger \$15 million incentive package from Louisiana Economic Development and is expected to yield an estimated \$8.2 million in tax savings over ten years, significantly aiding the project's progression.

The recent visit by Ucore's team to the Kingston, Ontario, RapidSX™ Demo Plant marks a key step in the transition process of replicating the plant's technology in Louisiana. This initiative is part of Ucore's broader strategy to establish a strong operational base in North America, positioning itself as a critical player in the rare earth processing industry.

Additionally, Ryan discussed the potential collaborations Ucore is exploring with both government support in [the US](#) and [Canada](#); along with various industries, emphasizing the company's focus

on strengthening the supply chain for metal alloy making and catering to sectors such as automotive, wind energy, and national defense.

Also in the interview, there was a discussion surrounding feature coverage of Ucore in a Reuters' [article](#) titled *Insight: Western start-ups seek to break China's grip on rare earths refining*, dated December 4, 2023, Ucore Rare Metals stands out for its innovative approach in the rare earths sector. Ucore aims to revolutionize rare earths processing by mid-2025 using RapidSX technology, which is touted to be thrice as fast as the traditional solvent extraction process, without generating hazardous chemical waste, and requiring significantly less physical space. Ucore's initiative is a part of a broader movement among Western companies to establish a non-Chinese supply chain for these critical minerals, essential for numerous electronic devices and the clean energy transition.

To access the complete interview, [click here](#)

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About Ucore Rare Metals Inc.

Ucore is focused on rare- and critical-metal resources, extraction, beneficiation, and separation technologies with the potential for production, growth, and scalability. Ucore's vision and plan is to become a leading advanced technology company, providing best-in-class metal separation products and services to the mining and mineral extraction industry.

Through strategic partnerships, this plan includes disrupting the People's Republic of China's control of the North American REE supply chain through the near-term development of a heavy

and light rare-earth processing facility in the U.S. State of Louisiana, subsequent Strategic Metal Complexes in Canada and Alaska and the longer-term development of Ucore's 100% controlled Bokan-Dotson Ridge Rare Heavy REE Project on Prince of Wales Island in Southeast Alaska, USA.

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Energy Fuels on Path to Become the American Critical Mineral Powerhouse

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Uranium has been a winning sector in 2023 with uranium prices up 41% YoY, making it the best performing energy commodity in the past year. As the uranium price hovers near a 12 year record

high (US\$69/lb), today's company is set to benefit.

US based rare earths processor, Energy Fuels announces a very robust third quarter

written by Tracy Weslosky | December 18, 2023

With COP26 just past its middle mark today, the stock rallies jettison around critical materials such as rare earths, cobalt, and lithium for electric battery materials, we at InvestorIntel.com are being deluged by interest from investors due to our editor in chief [Jack Lifton](#)'s reputation as a renowned authority. Add in uranium, which is finally getting some attention it deserves with greater education in place on the value of [nuclear energy](#) as a leading cleantech solution, Obama's speech at COP26 that astutely draws attention to the global pollutant leaders, China coming in at a strong #1, and yes, the USA – we are #2.

In this drive to clean up the planet, however, let us draw attention to a global leader as the world forges ahead to a [Net Zero economy](#) in the next 20-30 years – [Energy Fuels Inc.](#) (NYSE American: UUUU | TSX: EFR).

North America's only processor of rare earths, Energy Fuels provided a very robust [third quarter report](#) earlier last week. The company owns the White Mesa Mill in southeast Utah, which is

also the US's only commercial licensed processor of radioactive materials.

Energy Fuels has a strong balance sheet and ended the quarter with US\$100.8 million in cash and marketable securities as well as \$29.3 million of inventory, which has a current estimated value of \$46.9 million, made up of 691,000 pounds of uranium and 1,672,000 pounds of high-purity vanadium, both in the form of an immediately marketable product.

Mark Chalmers, Energy Fuels' President and CEO, said it best: "Energy Fuels continues to make rapid progress toward positioning our White Mesa Mill as America's "Critical Minerals Hub," by maintaining the Mill's key uranium and vanadium production capabilities while further diversifying our portfolio to include rare earth elements production – an exciting and strategically important move both domestically and for the Company. We also continue to watch the uranium markets closely in order to best evaluate our opportunities to capitalize on recent price increases and market improvements."

The company also has been focusing its asset base on the sale of non-core, conventional uranium projects located in the United States in late October. The sale included cash on closing, shares in the purchasing company, future potential processing revenue as well as future potential payments based on new production from these assets.

The strategic positioning of Energy Fuels should not be underestimated by anyone following this sector. The global drive to Net Zero requires a massive amount of "clean energy". This clean energy is destined for millions of new electric motors in wind turbines, electric vehicles and the never-ending consumption of small, strong permanent magnets in personal electronic devices. The demand so far outstrips the current

supply that it is an almost inconceivable problem as the Western world seeks to eliminate the Chinese supply chain for critical materials.

Energy Fuels currently has the only facility in North America that is on track to start meeting this demand. They successfully [delivered rare earth](#) carbonate to [Neo Performance Materials Inc.](#)'s (TSX: NEO) rare earths separation facility in Estonia. The company has a supply agreement for monazite sand from a United States supplier and is receiving multiple inbound expressions of interest for rare earths processing from potential suppliers around the globe.

The indisputable fact is that the clean energy economy will cost trillions of dollars and require resources that are not even in existence. We pledge as leaders in news and information on the critical materials sector to continue regular coverage of companies in the capital markets that are making a real difference.

Note from the Publisher: Tracy Weslosky is long Energy Fuels and Neo Performance Materials.