



May 11, 2021

Media Release

Three Sask Indigenous-owned companies sign agreement to explore SMR opportunities

Saskatoon, SK. Kitsaki Management, Athabasca Basin Development, and Des Nedhe Group announced today that the three companies have signed an MOU to jointly pursue small modular reactor (SMR) investments.

“There is strong momentum in Canada towards novel nuclear reactor technologies that have the potential to supply power throughout the country, including remote or off-grid areas,” says Sean Willy, CEO of Des Nedhe Group. “As three Indigenous organizations who are highly experienced in servicing the nuclear industry, it made perfect sense for us to get together and jointly pursue exploring opportunities in this exciting and emerging industry.”

That experience stretches back to the 1980s and ‘90s and has provided significant economic and employment opportunities for the organizations and their regions. That success enabled further growth and diversification into other industries, such as insurance, retail, professional consulting, property management, and more, both in terms of investing and providing service.

“We have a long history of mutually beneficial relationships with uranium companies as well as many investments outside of uranium,” says Anne Robillard, Chair of Athabasca Basin Development. “Our collective experience makes us uniquely qualified to explore opportunities related to SMRs, from investment to construction, operation and maintenance.”

Working cooperatively with each other, with other organizations, and with other First Nations has been a key to success and to the value the three companies have provided to industry and projects over the years. Collectively, the group has partnerships with over 40 Indigenous and non-Indigenous organizations across Canada. The group expects this network of partners and expertise to be of significant value to SMR projects going forward. The group welcomes any Indigenous groups/entrepreneurs who are interested in learning and understanding this industry to reach out.

“We have worked together on investments in the past, and together, we make a formidable team,” says Russell Roberts, CEO of Kitsaki. “By signing this MOU, we plan to address key items for SMR investment, including research, due diligence, environmental, communications and financing. We are very open to discussion with interested parties and excited to be part of this group to invest in and further advance Canadian SMR technology.”



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Kitsaki Management, along with its subsidiaries and affiliates which collectively comprise Lac La Ronge Indian Band's economic development organization, owns and operates a diverse group of companies that operate throughout Canada including but not limited to those that specialize in trucking; catering and mining camp services; contract mining and industrial construction; utility vegetation management; environmental services; engineering; and insurance. <https://kitsaki.com/>

Athabasca Basin Development (ABD) is an investment company that is owned by Black Lake Ventures LP, Hatchet Lake Development LP, Fond du Lac First Nation LP, Northern Hamlet of Stony Rapids, Northern Settlement of Wollaston Lake, Northern Settlement of Uranium City, and Northern Settlement of Camsell Portage. ABD owns a diverse group of companies that operate throughout Canada including but not limited to those that specialize in industrial construction; aviation; drilling; freight forwarding; remote road maintenance; retail; security services; and insurance. <https://athabascabasin.ca/>

The Des Nedhe Group – English River First Nation's economic development organization – owns and operates a diverse group of companies that operate throughout Canada including but not limited to those that specialize in industrial construction and mining services; retail; property management; custom steel fabrication; and communications, marketing, and Indigenous strategy. <https://desnedhe.com/>