

# “A nuclear renaissance is underway”: Yellow Cake’s message on The Next Big Thing

Published 24 September 2025

**Mobeen Tahir**

Director, Research

## Key Takeaways

- Yellow Cake holds 21.7m lb of uranium, giving investors direct exposure to the commodity.
- Supply is structurally tight, with long mine timelines supporting higher prices.
- Data centres and AI are emerging as powerful new sources of nuclear demand.
- Small modular reactors could reshape the industry with faster, flexible deployment.
- Nuclear waste is manageable and recycling will grow in importance over time.

The world’s hunger for energy is only getting bigger with data centres springing up like mini cities, each consuming as much power as tens of thousands of homes. The challenge is clear. How do we deliver abundant, clean, and reliable energy? Nuclear power offers one of the few solutions that ticks all those boxes.

Chris Gannatti, WisdomTree’s Global Head of Research, and I recently had the pleasure of speaking with Andre Liebenberg, CEO of Yellow Cake Plc – a company that gives investors direct exposure to uranium, the fuel at the heart of nuclear energy. With momentum building behind nuclear power as a clean, secure, and energy-dense solution, Andre offered us a front-row perspective on the forces reshaping the uranium market.

In this blog, we outline some of the key messages Andre shared during our podcast. To hear the full episode, click [here](#).

## What we learned from the conversation

### What’s Andre Liebenberg’s story?

Andre began his career as an engineer in South Africa before moving into investment banking and later joining BHP Billiton. He first encountered uranium through BHP’s Olympic Dam project – the world’s largest uranium deposit. After working in private equity, he helped build Yellow Cake in 2018, taking the company public with a US \$200 million initial public offering.

### What exactly does Yellow Cake do?

Yellow Cake holds 21.7 million pounds of uranium oxide, worth over US \$1.5 billion at today's prices. With no debt and minimal overhead, its business model is simple: buy and hold uranium long term, giving investors a way to track the uranium price through its shares. A key contract with Kazatomprom, Kazakhstan's state uranium producer, allows Yellow Cake to purchase up to \$100 million of uranium annually at the spot price through 2027.

## **Why is supply so tight?**

Andre explained that uranium prices today reflect a market where supply cannot respond quickly. Even if prices doubled tomorrow, no new production would appear in the next six months. It can take 16 years, on average, to move a project from discovery to production and with demand now growing at 4–6% annually, supply deficits are widening.

## **What role are restarts playing?**

Several shuttered mines have attempted restarts, but many have run into problems. Kazatomprom recently guided lower on output, while Cameco reduced guidance by 3–4 million pounds for the year, out of a total industry output of 165 million pounds. These hiccups highlight how fragile the supply side remains.

## **How much uranium does Yellow Cake really hold?**

Yellow Cake's stockpile represents about 15% of annual global reactor needs – a meaningful but not dominant share. That makes it a significant anchor in the market while still reflecting the broader supply-demand balance.

## **What about new demand from data centres?**

Andre noted that the race for artificial intelligence is also a race for energy. "AI machines just need huge amounts of power," he said. For hyperscalers like Microsoft, Meta, and Amazon, electricity is an input, not an output – and nuclear, with its reliability and precision, is increasingly seen as the best fit.

## **Are small modular reactors (SMRs) a game changer?**

Andre believes SMRs could account for 20% of the global reactor fleet by 2050. For data centres especially, the ability to site a reactor next to operations is compelling. Early winners are likely to be those using conventional uranium fuel (3–5% enrichment), such as designs from Rolls-Royce and GE Hitachi. Advanced reactors using higher-assay fuel will take longer to scale because of fuel cycle bottlenecks.

## **Is recycling realistic?**

While the idea is promising, with companies like Oklo highlighting that 95% of fuel energy potential is wasted on first use, Andre was cautious. Recycling exists in pockets but is not yet economic at scale. It will come, he said, but not meaningfully in the next decade.

## **What about nuclear waste?**

Andre stressed that nuclear waste is a solvable issue. All waste produced since the 1950s would fit in a few football fields, and storage technologies such as Finland's new deep repository are advancing. He added that the industry has historically been defensive about its brand but could benefit from the "halo effect" of big tech's involvement.

## **Could thorium or fusion displace uranium?**

Andre described alternatives like thorium or nuclear fusion as 'the Holy Grail,' but they are unlikely to impact the market in the next 20 years. For the foreseeable future, uranium remains the dominant nuclear fuel.

## **What are the geopolitical realities?**

Russia controls around 45% of global enrichment capacity, meaning Western markets remain reliant despite sanctions. The US has legislated a ban on Russian fuel from 2028, but building Western capacity will take time. As Andre put it, the West became "addicted to cheap Russian fuel," and diversifying supply will be a slow process.

## **How is sentiment across the industry?**

When Yellow Cake had its initial public offering (IPO) in 2018, nuclear was barely mentioned in mainstream media. Today, nuclear is back in the headlines daily. Investor and industry conferences have swelled from fewer than 100 attendees to over 1,200. "There's almost no pushback on the thesis anymore," Andre said. The only question investors ask is about timing and catalysts.

## **Final takeaway**

Yellow Cake provides a clear window into the structural shifts shaping the uranium market: long supply lead times, widening deficits, new demand from AI and data centres, and policy momentum for nuclear. For investors, the story is not about whether nuclear has a role but how quickly the world can scale it.

## Important Risks Related to this Article

### IMPORTANT INFORMATION

**Marketing communications issued in the European Economic Area (“EEA”):** This document has been issued and approved by WisdomTree Ireland Limited, which is authorised and regulated by the Central Bank of Ireland. **Marketing communications issued in jurisdictions outside of the EEA:** This document has been issued and approved by WisdomTree UK Limited, which is authorised and regulated by the United Kingdom Financial Conduct Authority. WisdomTree Ireland Limited and WisdomTree UK Limited are each referred to as “WisdomTree” (as applicable). Our Conflicts of Interest Policy and Inventory are available on request. This marketing communication has been prepared for professional investors, but the WisdomTree products set out in this document may be available in some jurisdictions to any investors, subject to applicable laws and regulations. As the product may not be authorised or its offering may be restricted in your jurisdiction, it is the responsibility of every person or entity to satisfy themselves as to the full observance of the laws and regulations of the relevant jurisdiction. Prior to any application investors are advised to take all necessary legal, regulatory, tax and investment advice on the suitability and consequences of an investment in the products. Past performance is not a reliable indicator of future performance. Any historical performance included in this document may be based on back testing. Back testing is the process of evaluating an investment strategy by applying it to historical data to simulate what the performance of such strategy would have been. Back tested performance is purely hypothetical and is provided in this document solely for informational purposes. Back tested data does not represent actual performance and should not be interpreted as an indication of actual or future performance. The value of any investment may be affected by exchange rate movements. Any decision to invest should be based on the information contained in the appropriate prospectus and after seeking independent investment, tax and legal advice. These products may not be available in your market or suitable for you. The content of this document does not constitute investment advice nor an offer for sale nor a solicitation of an offer to buy any product or make any investment. An investment in exchange-traded products (“ETPs”) is dependent on the performance of the underlying index, less costs, but it is not expected to match that performance precisely. ETPs involve numerous risks including among others, general market risks relating to the relevant underlying index, credit risks on the provider of index swaps utilised in the ETP, exchange rate risks, interest rate risks, inflationary risks, liquidity risks and legal and regulatory risks. The information contained in this document is not, and under no circumstances is to be construed as, an advertisement or any other step in furtherance of a public offering of shares in the United States or any province or territory thereof, where none of the issuers or their products are authorised or registered for distribution and where no prospectus of any of the issuers has been filed with any securities commission or regulatory authority. No document or information in this document should be taken, transmitted or distributed (directly or indirectly) into the United States. None of the issuers, nor any securities issued by them, have been or will be registered under the United States Securities Act of 1933 or the Investment Company Act of 1940 or qualified under any applicable state securities statutes. This document may contain independent market commentary prepared by WisdomTree based on publicly available information. Although WisdomTree endeavours to ensure the accuracy of the content in this document, WisdomTree does not warrant or

guarantee its accuracy or correctness. Any third party data providers used to source the information in this document make no warranties or representation of any kind relating to such data. Where WisdomTree has expressed its own opinions related to product or market activity, these views may change. Neither WisdomTree, nor any affiliate, nor any of their respective officers, directors, partners, or employees accepts any liability whatsoever for any direct or consequential loss arising from any use of this document or its contents. This document may contain forward looking statements including statements regarding our belief or current expectations with regards to the performance of certain assets classes and/or sectors. Forward looking statements are subject to certain risks, uncertainties and assumptions. There can be no assurance that such statements will be accurate and actual results could differ materially from those anticipated in such statements. WisdomTree strongly recommends that you do not place undue reliance on these forward-looking statements. WisdomTree Issuer ICAV The products discussed in this document are issued by WisdomTree Issuer ICAV ("WT Issuer"). WT Issuer is an umbrella investment company with variable capital having segregated liability between its funds organised under the laws of Ireland as an Irish Collective Asset-management Vehicle and authorised by the Central Bank of Ireland ("CBI"). WT Issuer is organised as an Undertaking for Collective Investment in Transferable Securities ("UCITS") under the laws of Ireland and shall issue a separate class of shares ("Shares") representing each fund.

The Fund is described in a Key Information Document (KID) or Key Investor Information Document (KIID) for UK investors, and the prospectus of WT Issuer ("WT Prospectus"). A copy of the WT Prospectus and the KID / KIID is available, for EEA/UK only, in English at [www.wisdomtree.eu](http://www.wisdomtree.eu). Where required under national rules, the KID will also be available in the local language of the relevant EEA Member State. Investors should read the WT Prospectus before investing and should refer to the section of the WT Prospectus entitled »Risk Factors¼ for further details of risks associated with an investment in the Shares. The [summary of investor rights](#) associated with an investment in the fund is available in English on WisdomTree Europe¼s website. WisdomTree Management Limited may decide to terminate the arrangements made for the marketing of its collective investment undertakings. In such circumstances, shareholders in the affected EEA Member State will be notified of this decision and will be provided with the opportunity to redeem their shareholding in the fund free of any charges or deductions for at least 30 working days from the date of such notification. Notice to Investors in Switzerland – Qualified Investors This document constitutes an advertisement of the financial product(s) mentioned herein. The prospectus and the key investor information documents (KIID) are available from WisdomTree¼s website at <https://www.wisdomtree.eu/en-ch/resource-library/prospectus-and-regulatory-reports> Some of the sub-funds referred to in this document may not have been registered with the Swiss Financial Market Supervisory Authority ("FINMA"). In Switzerland, such sub-funds that have not been registered with FINMA shall be distributed exclusively to qualified investors, as defined in the Swiss Federal Act on Collective Investment Schemes or its implementing ordinance (each, as amended from time to time). The representative and paying agent of the sub-funds in Switzerland is Société Générale Paris, Zurich Branch, Talacker 50, PO Box 5070, 8021 Zurich, Switzerland. The prospectus, the key investor information documents (KIID), the articles of association and the annual and semi-annual reports of the sub-funds are available free of charge from the representative and paying agent. As regards distribution in Switzerland, the place of jurisdiction and performance is at the registered seat of the representative and paying agent. For Investors in France:

The information in this document is intended exclusively for professional investors (as defined under the MiFID) investing for their own account and this material may not in any way be distributed to the public. The distribution of the Prospectus and the offering, sale and delivery of Shares in other jurisdictions may be restricted by law. WT Issuer is a UCITS governed by Irish legislation, and approved by the Financial Regulatory as UCITS compliant with European regulations although may not have to comply with the same rules as those applicable to a similar product approved in France. The Fund has been registered for marketing in France by the Financial Markets Authority (Autorité des Marchés Financiers) and may be distributed to investors in France. Copies of all documents (i.e. the Prospectus, the Key Investor Information Document, any supplements or addenda thereto, the latest annual reports and the memorandum of incorporation and articles of association) are available in France, free of charge at the French centralizing agent, Societe Generale at 29, Boulevard Haussmann, 75009, Paris, France. Any subscription for Shares of the Fund will be made on the basis of the terms of the prospectus and any supplements or addenda thereto. **For Investors in Malta:** This document does not constitute or form part of any offer or invitation to the public to subscribe for or purchase shares in the Fund and shall not be construed as such and no person other than the person to whom this document has been addressed or delivered shall be eligible to subscribe for or purchase shares in the Fund. Shares in the Fund will not in any event be marketed to the public in Malta without the prior authorisation of the Maltese Financial Services Authority. **For Investors in Monaco:** This communication is only intended for duly registered banks and/or licensed portfolio management companies in Monaco. This communication must not be sent to the public in Monaco.