

CVMR Bets Big on Bangui with a 25-Year Mining Pact Aiming to Loosen Russia's Grip on the Central African Republic

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Bangui has long been a geopolitical chessboard where diamonds and gold financed insurgencies while Russian mercenaries traded guns for mineral rights. Now, in a single, quietly-negotiated memorandum of understanding, President Faustin-Archange Touadéra is inviting a different outsider to redraw the map: privately held Canadian metals specialist [CVMR Corporation](#). On June 17 the Central African Republic (CAR) [granted](#) CVMR exclusive, 25-year rights to find and develop any uranium, coltan, copper, gold or nickel it can identify across the entire country—an audacious concession brokered after CVMR's founder Kamran M. Khozan met Touadéra and two senior ministers in Bangui last week.

The satellite first, refineries later

Khozan's playbook begins in orbit. A sister firm, **Canadian Advanced Satellite Imaging (CASI)**, will spend roughly US\$50 million on high-resolution scans to pinpoint deposits that decades of war, bad roads, and opaque contracts have kept hidden. Any viable find becomes a CVMR-led joint venture—one the company can later syndicate to third-party miners, effectively turning Bangui's geological unknowns into a tradable portfolio of upstream assets.

CVMR promises the part that Western donors have urged for years but rarely delivered: processing inside CAR. The draft public-

private partnership obliges the firm to build refineries on Central African soil, capturing value now shipped out as raw ore and exported jobs. For a landlocked state ranking among the world's poorest, a domestic nickel or uranium refinery would be transformative—if power, security, and governance can keep pace.

A pivot away from Russian muscle

Touadéra's timing is as strategic as the acreage on offer. For more than half a decade, the Wagner Group has been the undisputed heavyweight of CAR's mining sector, swapping battlefield support for concessions in gold and diamonds. But Moscow's recalibration—[retiring](#) Wagner's brand in favor of the Defense Ministry-controlled **Africa Corps**—has opened a diplomatic window. The president, under pressure to dilute Russian leverage and reassure Western lenders, is courting “multilateral economic diplomacy” and hopes the Canadian flag can help do what embargoes and U.N. peacekeepers have not: erode the mercenary monopoly without triggering a security vacuum.

Risks priced in bullets, not basis points

For investors, CVMR's 25-year footprint offers tantalizing exposure to battery-grade nickel, conflict-scarred coltan, and uranium coveted by both nuclear utilities and defense supply chains. Yet the same MoU is framed inside a conflict zone where rebels still overrun artisanal pits and where diamonds remain under a partial Kimberley Process ban. Political stability is fragile, state revenues opaque, and any refinery would require expensive safeguards against insurgent sabotage and corruption alike.

Khozan appears undeterred. CVMR has registered a local

subsidiary, **CVMR SARL**, and is in talks to launch a “dedicated financial mechanism” to channel outside capital once the first discoveries are proved up. The structure could let institutional money ride on Central African ore bodies without facing the frontier-market discount that typically condemns Bangui ventures to the penny stock bin.

The new scramble

If the deal survives CAR’s factional politics and Wagner’s entrenched interests, it could reorder a mining sector better known for misery than metallurgy. For Touadéra, the play is existential: diversify patrons, capture more downstream value, and show a restless electorate that foreign boots can yield more than security checkpoints. For CVMR, it is a high-stakes bet that technology, industrial know-how, and a neutral passport can out-maneuver the Kalashnikov brand of resource extraction.

Between satellite pixels and refinery blueprints lies a country’s wager that the next commodities boom might finally flow through its own smelters—and not fly straight to someone else’s port.