

[Home](#) / [Operations](#) / [Mining](#) / [Mines facilities around](#)

[the world / SOMAIR](#)

SOMAIR: OPEN-PIT MINE OPERATIONS



Updated March 2016

SOMAIR, a subsidiary of AREVA, has been mining **several uranium deposits** in northwestern Niger, several kilometers from the city of Arlit, since 1971.

SOMAIR (Société des Mines de l'Aïr) was created in 1968. Its capital is held 63.6% by AREVA

and 36.4% by SOPAMIN (Société du Patrimoine des Mines du Niger, the Nigerien agency that manages the State's mining interests).

PRODUCTION: NEARLY 63,300 TONS ALREADY PRODUCED

The uranium ore is **extracted in open-pit mines** at a depth of 50 to 70 meters from a horizontal sedimentary deposit located 7 kilometers northwest of the town of Arlit. The average grade of the uranium ore in this deposit is 2.8‰ (2.8 kg of uranium per metric ton of ore)

From the beginning, the ore has been processed dynamically (crushing, fine grinding, chemical treatment, washing, filtration, drying and packaging) at the plant located near the site. Low-grade ore (less than 1‰) is processed statically using the acid heap leaching method.

In both cases the solutions containing the uranium are then processed at the plant, the capacity of which was increased to 3,000 tons/year in 2001 (7.8 million lb of U₃O₈).

In 2015, SOMAIR produced **2,509 tons of uranium metal** in the form of sodium uranate, bringing the company's cumulative production since it began mining to more than 63,240 metric tons of uranium as of end-2015.

MINING OPERATIONS THAT SUPPORT LOCAL DEVELOPMENT

Certified to both the ISO 14001 and OHSAS 18001 standards, SOMAIR works to improve performance in order to strengthen its competitiveness in the global uranium market.

SOMAIR also fosters access to **health and social services** in an isolated region, thus helping to improve living conditions for the local populations.

SOMAIR has nearly 2,500 employees, 98% of whom are Nigerien. Its headquarters are at Niamey.

diaporama



[Play the slideshow](#)

The mining activities of AREVA Somair in images

CONTACT

SOMAIR
Immeuble Sonora I
Place du Rond Point Kennedy
B.P. 12910

Niamey, Niger
Tel.: +227 72 29 70
Fax: +227 72 51 13

Find out more about AREVA's mining operations in Niger
Visit the niger.areva.com website