

THE TIMES

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Business big shot

Name Paul Atherley

Age 59

Position Chief executive, Berkeley Energia

His work as a mining engineer has exposed him to 50-degree heat in Australia and minus-50 degree temperatures in China (Marcus Leroux writes). Paul Atherley likes to joke that with his latest endeavour he has at last found a happy medium.

The uranium miner's Salamanca project has more going for it than a balmy climate and proximity to some of Spain's best wine. Mr Atherley reckons it can produce the world's cheapest uranium — and enough to power Britain's energy needs for more than five years.

Mr Atherley believes China's economy will not be derailed by recent upheaval. He is, however, a little closer to the situation than most, as a former chairman of the British Chamber of Commerce in China and vice-chairman of the China Britain Business Council. However, he says there will be implications for miners as the economic foundations of an increasingly affluent China shift towards consumption.

Mr Atherley graduated in mining engineering from Imperial College in 1982. He has also been an executive director of HSBC Australia's investment banking division.

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