

FM-01 / DE-BRIEF

WHAT THE NEW DIGITAL ECONOMY ACTUALLY IS

Filmed at Bitcoin Prague with Cambridge researcher **Alexander Neumueller**. One plain brief on the shift underway, and why it matters to anyone who served.

SITUATION

Bitcoin mining, energy generation, and AI compute are collapsing into a single stack, and at the base of all of it sits **energy generation**, the closest thing the new economy has to a hard currency. Filmed at Bitcoin Prague, Robert Luft sits down with Cambridge's Alexander Neumueller to map where that convergence is heading, and where the opening is for those who served.

KEY POINTS

- 01 ENERGY IS THE BASE LAYER**
 Mining rigs, AI data centers, and the grid all draw on one foundation: generated power. Whoever produces and controls energy controls the economy stacked on top of it. Treat energy as the currency of the future.
- 02 THE CONVERGENCE IS REAL, AND FAST**
 The wall between Bitcoin mining and AI compute is coming down. Around **70% of public miners** have moved into AI infrastructure, signing tens of billions in compute contracts, because they already hold what AI needs most: power and the sites to run it.
- 03 THE DATA, NOT THE NOISE**
 Neumueller walks through the Cambridge Digital Mining Industry Report: direct surveys of **49 firms across 23 countries**, covering close to half the global network. It trades guesswork for operator data and confirms electricity as the cost that decides who competes.
- 04 A JOBS ENGINE FOR THE FIELD**
 The power and data-center build-out is the largest infrastructure push in a generation, and it is short on people. The country needs roughly **300,000 more electricians** this decade; electrical work alone runs 45 to 70% of a data center's build cost. Construction, electricians, low-voltage and cable technicians, and facility ops are hiring, and veteran pipelines are being recruited directly.
- 05 AI IS THE MULTIPLIER, ON BOTH FRONTS**
 Knowing how to use AI, and where it is being fielded, is becoming a baseline skill. On the battlefield it is increasingly decisive; in the civilian economy the same fluency is leverage. The brief also runs a short primer on tokenization, real-world assets moving on-chain.

THE SUBJECT

ALEXANDER NEUMUELLER

Digital Assets Researcher
 Research Lead, Digital Assets,
 Energy & Climate Impact
 Cambridge Centre for
 Alternative Finance
 University of Cambridge

Lead author, Cambridge Digital
 Mining Industry Report

CONDUCTED BY

ROBERT LUFT

Host, Digital Field Manual
 Chief Strategy Officer, Megawatt

16-year U.S. Army veteran,
 multiple combat deployments

FIELD REFERENCE

CAMBRIDGE DIGITAL MINING INDUSTRY REPORT

Direct survey of 49 mining firms across 23 countries, covering close to half the global Bitcoin network.

[READ THE REPORT >](#)

01 WATCH

Full interview, filmed at Bitcoin Prague.
youtu.be/yY-inczaDbY

02 READ

This DE-BRIEF. The one-screen read on the interview.