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HD LOSSES ADD UP FOR PALADIN

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ENERGY URANIUM producer Paladin **Energy**'s loss-making woes have worsened following a third straight year of subdued prices for the **energy** source.

Paladin yesterday tabled a first-half loss of \$284 million, 32 per cent worse than its \$218 million half-year loss in 2012-13.

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The producer with projects in Australian and Africa also said it did not expect any short-term improvement after shutting one of its two producing mines last week and reducing production guidance for the year.

However, it predicts the nuclear power industry will recover and the long-term future will be positive for uranium producers, with mine closures and lack of investment in new supply to spark sharp price rises.

Chinese giant **China** National Nuclear Corp agreed last year to pay Paladin \$212 **million** for a 25 per cent **stake** in Langer Heinrich mine in Namibia, with regulatory approval expected this year.

The **company**'s shares closed unchanged yesterday at 47.5c.

Paladin's loss was inflated by a \$252.5 million impairment on its Queensland exploration assets. Stripping those out, its gross result was a \$33 million loss, compared to an \$12.6 million profit last year. It blamed the loss on a 21 per cent fall in the uranium price and higher impairment of inventory at its loss-making Kayelekera mine in Malawi.

co chinuc : China National Nuclear Corp. | palrs : Paladin Energy Limited

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