

# Rockdale, Texas Offers Many Benefits for Bitcoin Miners

*Rockdale, with 160 acres readily available, has already received nearly 40 inquiries from mining companies,*

NEW YORK, NEW YORK, UNITED STATES, December 23, 2023 /EINPresswire.com/ -- Nestled an hour northeast of Austin, Rockdale may appear to be the epitome of rural America with its rolling hills, green pastures, and the ubiquitous Walmart— a significant contributor to the city's sales tax revenue, a crucial aspect of its annual budget, according to Mayor John King.

However, for those attuned to the nuances, Rockdale is more than meets the eye; it's a haven for bitcoin miners. The town boasts crypto-friendly policymakers, expansive plots of land, abandoned industrial infrastructure awaiting repurposing, and seamless integration into Texas' power grid.

The Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT), a non-profit entity overseeing the state's grid, operates in a deregulated environment, allowing consumers to choose their energy providers. This deregulation benefits miners at scale, engaging in an industry where energy is the primary variable cost. The competitive energy market in Texas often translates to lower rates, a boon for cryptocurrency miners.

Once home to Alcoa's massive aluminum plant, the world's largest at the time, Rockdale faced a shift when the plant began shuttering operations in 2008. With the influx of crypto miners, the ensuing idle energy capacity found a new purpose. Miners also offer flexibility amidst fluctuating power supplies and prices, unlike traditional businesses. This adaptability is crucial for a state like Texas, which has grappled with the reliability of its power grid, especially during extreme weather events.

Mayor King elucidates the mutually beneficial relationship between miners and ERCOT. Miners efficiently utilize otherwise wasted power and serve as "interruptible load," capable of shutting down operations at a moment's notice to assist the grid during peak demand. Financial incentives drive this, as miners can sell surplus power back to the market at a substantial profit.

Senator Ted Cruz recognizes the potential of Bitcoin in addressing energy-related challenges, citing the cryptocurrency's ability to swiftly adjust power consumption during critical moments. Cruz emphasizes viewing Bitcoin as a means to fortify energy infrastructure rather than just a

consumer of energy.

With 160 acres readily available, Rockdale has already received nearly 40 inquiries from mining companies, many of them Chinese miners seeking a new base after Beijing's crackdown on domestic crypto mining. James Gibson, the town's economic development director, notes that these miners come equipped with capital and equipment, requiring only a location with swift access to power.

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