

Carel de Jager

Founder and CEO, Sixpence. Co-founder and CTO, Bitmach.

Speaker, in English and Afrikaans. South Africa.

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Speaker biography (100 words)

Carel de Jager is the founder and CEO of Sixpence, a blockchain intelligence company in Pretoria whose software helps banks, exchanges, auditors and regulators verify what happens on public blockchains. Coinbase chose the company from more than 50 proposals for a proof-of-reserves grant in 2023. He is also co-founder and CTO of Bitmach, an AI and energy infrastructure company that turns surplus electricity into computing that can be switched off when the grid needs the power. He led the CSIR's distributed ledger research group from 2022 to 2025, after nine years as an engineer at Eskom's Lethabo Power Station. A regular voice on CNBC Africa, Moneyweb, RSG Geldsake and Radio 702, he speaks in English and Afrikaans about implementing AI, agentic payments, energy infrastructure, blockchain forensics and crypto regulation.

Long biography (250 words)

Carel de Jager builds the systems that let institutions trust what happens on blockchains, and he is trying to turn South Africa's spare electricity into computing. He is the founder and CEO of Sixpence, a blockchain intelligence company founded in Pretoria in 2020 as Silver Sixpence. Its LedgerCore data engine powers LedgerWatch, used for investigations and monitoring, LedgerBrain, which runs compliance checks on AI agents, and Coinfig, for crypto tax. The company's Merkle tree tool was used by Mazars in its 2022 proof-of-reserves reports for Binance, KuCoin and Crypto.com, and in 2023 Coinbase selected it from more than 50 proposals to build open-source proof-of-reserves software. Its measurements of South Africa's crypto flows are regularly reported by Moneyweb. He is also co-founder and CTO of Bitmach, with Rob Hersov and Stafford Masie. Bitmach is an AI and energy infrastructure company that converts surplus electricity into computing that can be interrupted in seconds, beginning with bitcoin mining, an idea Carel first published in 2018, and building towards AI infrastructure. He spent nine years as an asset care engineer at Eskom's Lethabo Power Station and led the CSIR's distributed ledger research group from 2022 to 2025. He holds a BEng in chemical engineering and an MEng in engineering management, cum laude, from North-West University, and wrote the foreword to Auditing Bitcoin: A Framework for Digital Asset Assurance (Palgrave Macmillan, 2026). He has spoken at more than 100 events since 2018, in English and Afrikaans, and is a regular commentator on CNBC Africa, Moneyweb, RSG Geldsake and Radio 702.

Kort biografie (Afrikaans, 50 woorde)

Carel de Jager is die stigter en uitvoerende hoof van Sixpence, wie se blokketting-intelligensiesagteware deur banke, ouditeure en reguleerders gebruik word, en medestigter en tegnologiehoof van Bitmach, 'n KI- en energie-infrastruktuurmaatskappy. Hy het die WNNR se navorsingsgroep vir verspreide grootboektegnologie gelei en was nege jaar 'n ingenieur by Eskom. Hy praat in Afrikaans en Engels oor KI in die sakewêreld, agentbetalings, energie-infrastruktuur, blokketting-forensika en kriptoregulering.

Fact sheet

Roles	Founder & CEO, Sixpence (2020–); co-founder & CTO, Bitmach (2024–)
Former	Research Group Leader: DLT, CSIR (2022–2025); Blockchain Academy consultant (2017–2023); Asset Care Engineer, Eskom Lethabo (2013–2022)
Education	MEng Engineering Management, cum laude (NWU, 2015); BEng Chemical Engineering (NWU, 2012)
Speaking topics	Implementing AI in an organisation; the agentic economy and Know Your Agent; energy and AI infrastructure; blockchain forensics and compliance; stablecoins and crypto regulation in Africa
Recognition	Coinbase proof-of-reserves grant (2023, selected from 50+ proposals); foreword to Auditing Bitcoin (Palgrave Macmillan, 2026); panellist, BCEAO central-bank conference, Dakar (2026)
Media	CNBC Africa; Moneyweb Crypto Podcast; RSG Geldsake met Moneyweb; Radio 702; EWN; Daily Maverick; TechCentral; MyBroadband
Wording	Sixpence (formerly Silver Sixpence). Bitmach is an AI and energy infrastructure company, never 'in partnership with Eskom' or 'Africa's largest'. Foreword author, not co-author.

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