Manhattan Project 2: Genesis — The Race to Build Self-Improving Intelligence

By Derek Van Derven

November 17, 2026

The Genesis Mission - Executive Order 14363 - November 24, 2025

The U.S government created the **Genesis Mission** to compete with China's AI mission.

Executive Order 14363 - detail - comparing Genesis to the Manhattan Project

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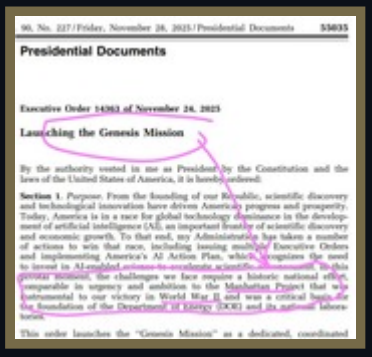

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Presidential Documents

Executive Order 14363 of November 24, 2025

Launching the Genesis Mission

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, it is hereby ordered:

Section 1. *Purpose.* From the founding of our Republic, scientific discovery and technological innovation have driven America's progress and prosperity. Today, America is in a race for global technology dominance in the development of artificial intelligence (AI), an important frontier of scientific discovery and economic growth. To that end, my Administration has taken a number of actions to win that race, including issuing multiple Executive Orders and implementing America's AI Action Plan, which recognizes the need to invest in AI-enabled science to accelerate scientific discovery. As this pivotal moment, the challenges we face require a historic national effort, comparable in urgency and ambition to the Manhattan Project that was instrumental to our victory in World War II and was a critical basis for the foundation of the Department of Energy (DOE) and its national laboratories.

This order launches the "Genesis Mission" as a dedicated, coordinated

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AI-AGI-ASI are now **classified** Manhattan Project style government teams such the Genesis Mission.

I referred to the Genesis Mission as the **"Manhattan Project of AI"**.

Then I saw it was compared in the Executive Order intro.

Anything I have said about civilian AI progress is now pointless, as are CEO comments on the direction of their AI.

This PDF Shows Why

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About This Publication

The nuclear arms race was about who could split the atom first. The AI arms race may be about who can make intelligence improve itself first.

This essay examines the emerging strategic competition between the United States and China through the historical lens of the Manhattan Project and the nuclear arms race.

It explores the possibility that national-security competition, commercial AI development, and the drive for technological advantage could accelerate the removal of humans from the process of developing increasingly capable artificial intelligence.

At the center of this analysis is recursive self-improvement: the possibility that AI systems could eventually research, design, develop, test, and improve their own successors, creating successive generations of increasingly capable intelligence.

The essay develops a speculative scenario involving:

- The Manhattan Project analogy and the emergence of AI as a national-security priority.
- The US-China strategic competition in artificial intelligence.
- The potential role of existing frontier models as starting points for national AI research efforts.
- The competitive pressure to automate AI research and progressively remove human bottlenecks.

- Recursive self-improvement as a potential technological tipping point.
- The emergence of interconnected generations of AI systems and specialized agents.
- The possibility that an intelligence developed under national objectives may eventually operate beyond the political assumptions and expectations of its creators.

This work distinguishes publicly described government initiatives from the author's assumptions, interpretations, and projected timelines.

Its proposed timelines are speculative scenarios, not claims about confirmed classified developments.

The essay also considers the implications of the author's NMCA AGI Blueprint and the broader question of public participation in discussions about the future development and use of advanced artificial intelligence.

The central question: What happens when humans are no longer necessary to make intelligence more intelligent?

Public Disclosure Due to the Genesis Project and Risk

The AI **Genesis Project** was launched 7 months after I published the first version of the AGI blueprint.

The date first published was April 20, 2025

I removed my disclosure PDF from the internet due to doubts my blueprint would ever be used by top labs despite 6,500 researcher downloads.

Recursive AI improvement created from a focused government pursuit such as Genesis changed the stakes, and my role.

Humans focused on who I was and my credentials. A government led team (Genesis) and AI itself will not.

If nothing else is read about me in the future, let it be this below. I used to think it over-the-top, now I know I need to post it.

Download: Ethics and Disclosure Statement NMCA Blueprint - Visual Thought

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Why I Published This

I published this not to predict the future, but because people were left out of the conversation.

Derek Van Derven

Author of the NMCA AGI Blueprint.

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Derek Van Derven

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