

Written Testimony

Chairman Babin, Ranking Member Lofgren, Chairman Weber, Ranking Member Ross, and members of the Subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to testify. My name is Jordan Bramble. I'm the CEO and co-founder of Antares, where we build factory-produced nuclear microreactors for critical missions on Earth and in space.

At Antares, we very much appreciate the bipartisan support on this committee and throughout Congress in support of advanced nuclear energy. Your support has enabled us to reach a point where building and deploying advanced nuclear reactors has gone from an aspiration to reality.

The passage of the bipartisan ADVANCE Act of 2024 and the May 2025 executive orders signed by President Trump created a policy environment that allowed Antares to go from concept to a concrete build schedule.

The ADVANCE Act streamlined Nuclear Regulatory Commission processes for advanced reactors and microreactors while preserving safety.

Executive Order 14301 of May 2025, Reforming Nuclear Reactor Testing at the Department of Energy, created the Reactor Pilot Program with a clear mandate: achieve criticality of at least three advanced test reactors by July 4, 2026, under DOE authorization.

Executive Order 14299, Deploying Advanced Nuclear Reactor Technologies for National Security, directed the Department of War through the Army to commence operation of an Army-regulated reactor at a domestic military installation no later than September 30, 2028. As industry and government partnered to pioneer a new wave of nuclear innovation through the Reactor Pilot Program, with the same focus and urgency, we encourage the nation to rally around this new target: the first deployment of an advanced small modular reactor to provide power to a military installation by 2028.

These steps are enabling industry to build with craftsmanship and accelerate from producing a reactor in years to building a reactor in months.

The Department of Energy's Reactor Pilot Program was an unequivocal success.

The program worked because DOE provided focused, coordinated support – effectively a concierge service – that removed bureaucratic friction while enforcing rigorous safety standards under DOE's Atomic Energy Act authority.

Companies bore their own costs, while DOE accelerated reviews, Documented Safety Analyses, and readiness processes without lowering the bar.

On June 4, 2026, our Mark-0 reactor achieved criticality at Idaho National Laboratory's Reactor and Critical Experiment facility. Our reactor was the first privately developed advanced non-light-water reactor to reach criticality in the United States in more than forty years, the first under the Pilot Program, and the 53rd reactor built at INL since 1951—the first novel design there in over five decades.

We learned a tremendous amount from the program. Mark-0 validated reactor physics, control systems, TRISO HALEU fuel handling, and the full end-to-end authorization and supply-chain pathway. We also learned how to partner with INL and DOE-Idaho to operate a nuclear facility with the utmost care. When government and industry align on execution rather than process alone, hardware moves in months while safety remains paramount.

At Antares, we are focused on national security and the needs of our military. We are under contract with two military services to provide energy to critical assets at some of our nation's most important military installations. Through the Defense Innovation Unit's Advanced Nuclear Power for Installations (ANPI) initiative, we will deliver microreactors to enable missions at Joint Base San Antonio. Through the Army's Janus Program, we will deliver microreactors at Fort Bragg, home of the Airborne and U.S. Army Special Operations Command.

These two programs represent energy resilience for our men and women in uniform. They are contracted pathways to field systems that operate independently of the commercial grid and provide mission assurance to our nation's military installations for years.

As Antares ramps up production, we are actively exploring commercial applications to provide resilient power to compute capabilities, remote oil and gas hubs, austere mining environments, fulfillment and distribution centers, and more.

We are also building nuclear power for space. In December 2025, President Trump signed his Space Superiority executive order 14369, which was followed in April 2026 by the National Science and Technology Memorandum-3, the National Initiative for American Space Nuclear Power. We at Antares are responding to this charge.

The same heat-pipe architecture, passive safety, TRISO fuel, and manufacturability that define our terrestrial microreactor form the design basis for space applications. This dual-use approach aligns directly with NASA's plans for lunar fission surface power and the Space Reactor-1 Freedom pathfinder. Let me be clear, Antares is eager to build to support NASA's planned 2028 nuclear-electric propulsion demonstration mission as well as lunar surface reactors ready for launch by 2030.

I am excited to report to this committee that Antares' future is bright. Looking six to twelve months ahead, the schedule is firm. In 2027, we will produce electricity at INL for six months with the Mark-1 reactor, scaling the same core and fuel validated by Mark-0. In 2028, under EO 14299 and our military contracts, we will begin deployments on Fort Bragg and Joint Base San Antonio.

Nuclear energy remains the high-density solution that removes the bottleneck for reindustrialization, economic progress, and national security. Adversaries already probe our energy networks. Hypersonic threats, space as a warfighting domain, and AI-enabled autonomous systems all require denser, always-available power that diesel or the grid alone can guarantee. Antares exists to deliver that capability on the warfighter's timeline. And we won't stop there because we are confident that the nuclear companies that ultimately win the commercial market and international opportunities will emerge from military deployment first.

Thank you for your leadership and for holding this hearing. I invite every Member to visit our factory in Torrance and our work at Idaho National Laboratory. What's happening at those two sites is the best evidence I can offer that American nuclear energy is back.

I look forward to your questions.