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

By Derek Van Derven

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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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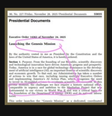

AI-AGI-ASI are now classified Manhattan Project style government teams such the Genesis Mission.

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?

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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