

**Testimony Statement of
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National Nuclear Security Administration
U.S. Department of Energy
Before the
Subcommittee on Strategic Forces
House Committee on Armed Services**

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Chairman DesJarlais, Ranking Member Moulton, and Members of the Subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to present the President's Fiscal Year (FY) 2027 Budget Request for the United States Department of Energy's (DOE) National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA). DOE and NNSA appreciate the Subcommittee's continued support and partnership.

Today, NNSA's role in America's national security is greater than at any point since the Manhattan Project, while the challenges we face from our adversaries are more intense since the Cuban Missile Crisis. For the first time in our history, we face a threat from two near-peer nuclear adversaries. Russia is developing several exotic, destabilizing weapons. They have lowered the threshold for nuclear use, fired nuclear-capable hypersonic missiles near the borders of NATO allies, and repeatedly threatened nuclear escalation during the conflict in Ukraine. Meanwhile, China poses an escalating, long-term strategic challenge for the United States. It is rapidly increasing the size of its arsenal, with Department of War (DoW) projections indicating it could exceed one thousand warheads by 2030. In addition, China is advancing a broader and more sophisticated range of strike capabilities while repeatedly refusing to participate in trilateral or multilateral strategic stability talks supported by the President. Finally, reporting from the Department of State indicates China has conducted explosive nuclear tests while attempting to hide their clear violation of nuclear test ban commitments and norms.

The United States must also maintain vigilance against regional threats. North Korea continues to place nuclear weapons at the center of its coercive foreign policy and views its arsenal as a source of regime legitimacy. Meanwhile, the President has taken decisive action through Operations MIDNIGHT HAMMER and EPIC FURY to ensure Iran will never acquire a nuclear weapon.

In today's unprecedented security environment, NNSA's foremost priority is to modernize America's strategic deterrent, ensuring a comprehensive suite of capabilities at the President's disposal to address a complex and overlapping range of threats. NNSA is committed to delivering advanced weapon systems to the warfighter that deter adversaries from challenging U.S. resolve while reassuring our allies of America's atomic strength. NNSA is now acting with the urgency this moment demands, advancing initiatives that accelerate delivery timelines, managing cost and schedules across all major projects to maximize taxpayer value, and upholding peace through atomic strength.

NNSA is equally committed to enhancing its nonproliferation, counterproliferation, and counterterrorism capabilities. Too often, these missions are presented as competing with deterrence objectives, but this could not be further from the truth. By reducing stockpiles of weapons-usable nuclear material around the globe, preventing malicious actors from accessing nuclear and radioactive materials or expertise, and successfully preventing the use of a crude nuclear or radiological device, NNSA directly reinforces deterrence. In an era of growing demand for nuclear power and technology, these capabilities must be strengthened in a way that supports a global civil nuclear renaissance led by American technology, security, and safeguards.

Finally, NNSA's naval nuclear propulsion mission is essential to ensuring the U.S. Navy is an unmatched fighting force capable of projecting American power across the world's oceans; delivering American military might wherever it is needed and safeguarding the assured second-strike capability of the nuclear triad. NNSA will deliver *Columbia*-class propulsion plants to the Navy and cultivate the next generation of naval propulsion technology to sustain and strengthen these advantages.

In FY 2027, NNSA is requesting **\$32.8 billion**, an increase of **\$3.5 billion** in total resources (discretionary and Working Families Tax Cut Act funding) from the previous year, or **12%**.¹

Weapons Activities

NNSA's Weapons Activities portfolio covers stockpile management; production modernization; stockpile research, technology, and engineering; secure transportation; physical security; and information technology and cybersecurity activities. FY 2027 priorities in the Weapons Activities portfolio include urgently rebuilding America's nuclear weapons enterprise with agility and resilience to field a more diverse, flexible, and effective deterrent on a timeline that influences adversaries' decisions. Additionally, NNSA needs to restore reliable, scalable production capacity across the nuclear weapons enterprise to enable sustained delivery of plutonium pits, strategic materials, high explosives, and non-nuclear components at required rates. NNSA recently issued a set of sweeping Transformation Objectives to its enterprise to affect fundamental changes to institutional culture, technical programs, management processes, business practices, fiscal discipline, and systems of accountability. NNSA is requesting \$27.4 billion for Weapons Activities to support these efforts.

Stockpile Management

NNSA will no longer be defined solely as a scientific stewardship organization, but an organization focused on weapons production— on delivering real capabilities, at speed, to meet current and future DoW requirements. NNSA is fully committed to the rapid, simultaneous modernization of all three legs of the nuclear triad, and NNSA is delivering quickly.

In 2025, NNSA reached multiple milestones that attest to faster weapons delivery, at scale. In May, NNSA achieved the First Production Unit (FPU) for the B61-13 almost a year ahead of

¹ Throughout this document, amounts do not reflect the mandated transfer of \$96.74 million in FY 2026 from Naval Reactors to the Office of Nuclear Energy for operation of the Advanced Test Reactor.

schedule. The B61-13 strengthens deterrence and assurance by providing the President with additional options against certain harder and large-area military targets. In September, the W80-4 Life Extension Program achieved FPU for its canned subassembly 18 months ahead of schedule. Production for the full warhead remains on schedule for FPU in 2027. Finally, NNSA reached the Last Production Unit for the W88 Alt 370 program in December, providing key upgrades to the long-serving W88 onboard the ballistic missile submarine force.

Looking ahead, NNSA is continuing development of the W80-5 for the future nuclear armed Sea-Launched Cruise Missile. The W87-1 Modification program remains on track for FPU in the early 2030s, and the W93 is on course for production starting in the mid-2030s. While NNSA aggressively pursues modernization, we will continue maintenance of the current stockpile.

NNSA is requesting \$6.5 billion for Stockpile Management. While the accelerated weapons deliveries noted above represent significant progress, NNSA remains committed to accelerating modernization and delivery wherever feasible. Funding in FY 2027 will be used to achieve these objectives with the urgency this mission demands.

Production Modernization

Underpinning NNSA's ability to deliver weapons on time and at scale is NNSA's production enterprise. A clear-eyed honest assessment shows that the current structure of our production enterprise lacks both the capability and capacity to meet expanded mission needs on the timeline required. Decades of underinvestment in production facilities following the Cold War have resulted in the degradation and loss of critical capabilities. Contributing to the current situation, many of NNSA's unique, large-scale projects have suffered embarrassing schedule delays and cost overruns. My highest priority is to restore reliable, and scalable production capacity across the enterprise, enabling sustained delivery of plutonium pits, strategic materials, high explosives, and non-nuclear components. NNSA is requesting \$8.8 billion for Production Modernization.

Plutonium Pit Production

Expanded and accelerated plutonium pit production is essential to meet present and future DoW requirements. NNSA is committed to establishing a two-site plutonium pit production capability at Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) and the Savannah River Site (SRS). This dual-site approach is vital for national security and strengthening the nuclear industrial base, creating highly skilled American jobs and reducing reliance on single points of failure.

I am pleased to report that significant progress has been made in both the production of pits and equipment installation at LANL over the last year, but more focused and dramatic actions are still necessary to improve production rates and capacity. Efforts are already underway, including expanding LANL's pit production capability to produce at least 100 pits by the end of calendar year 2028, while simultaneously expediting the completion of the Los Alamos Plutonium Pit Production Project to reach 30 pits per year (ppy) rate production and double the target production capacity at LANL to beyond 60ppy. NNSA is also positioning SRS to facilitate this expanded pit production at LANL in the near term, while the Savannah River Plutonium Processing Facility continues to progress. The funding request for plutonium pit production is

\$4.9 billion and aims to accelerate construction and full rate production timelines at both LANL and SRS.

Strategic Materials

Alongside pit production, modernizing capabilities to produce or process strategic materials such as uranium, lithium, and tritium is of critical importance for the maintenance of the current stockpile and future modernization efforts.

Current uranium processing is carried out in Building 9212 at the Y-12 National Security Complex (Y-12), a Manhattan Project-era facility well past its design life. NNSA is replacing this structure with the modern Uranium Processing Facility (UPF). The construction of UPF is now more than 79% complete. NNSA anticipates construction to be finished in 2027 and now expects an accelerated timeline for full operations at the facility compared to the revised baseline established in 2024. NNSA is working closely with its Management and Operating Contractor partners to enact ways to expedite uranium casting at UPF with validated ability to scale output in response to mission demand on an accelerated timeline. NNSA is requesting \$290 million for UPF. This funding level reflects the use of funds made available through the Working Families Tax Cut (WFTC) Act (P.L. 119-21).

NNSA is ensuring that warhead modernization programs have a sound supply chain for depleted uranium alloys and radiation cases with readiness to respond quickly to changing warhead requirements. To meet this need, NNSA is working to re-establish the high-purity depleted uranium supply chain. The request of \$655 million supports these efforts while also enabling NNSA to both maintain current production lines in Manhattan-era buildings and continue to mature and ultimately deploy more efficient manufacturing technologies at Y-12.

Y-12 has a long history of successfully delivering quality lithium products for the stockpile each year. However, these processes still occur in Manhattan Project-era facilities that pose operational and worker safety risks. Following unacceptable cost and schedule growth identified in the Lithium Processing Facility (LPF) project in FY 2025, I have directed NNSA to re-design LPF to focus on more cost-effective and timely solutions to meet mission needs. Last month, NNSA issued a Request for Information to a select group of vendors, soliciting industry expertise on the re-design of proposed LPF capabilities as multiple real estate projects on the currently planned LPF footprint at Y-12. The responses will inform NNSA's planned acquisition of the re-designed LPF. This change is key to demonstrating NNSA's ability to deliver big projects affordably to the American taxpayer and to meet the needs of our national security.

In parallel, NNSA is also diversifying lithium production options by partnering with a commercial vendor to reduce reliance on degraded legacy infrastructure and establish redundant capacity to ensure resilience. NNSA will continue to invest in Y-12 as the Lithium Center of Excellence through targeted modernization and new build efforts, lithium technology maturation work, and plans for a new lithium research and development facility. NNSA is expending funds appropriated in FY 2026 and through WFTC funds and is not requesting additional funds in FY 2027 for the LPF line item.

NNSA is also advancing two gas centrifuge technologies for unobligated domestic uranium enrichment to deliver Low Enriched Uranium for stockpile tritium production and Highly Enriched Uranium for Naval Nuclear Propulsion needs in partnership with Oak Ridge National Laboratory through the Domestic Uranium Enrichment Centrifuge program and with Centrus Energy. In 2025, NNSA awarded a contract to BWXT to develop a pilot plant for future Domestic Uranium Enrichment Centrifuge production. In January 2026, BWXT officially deployed this new production capability, the Centrifuge Manufacturing Development Facility. Additionally, NNSA released a Notice of Intent in October 2025 announcing a sole source contract to Centrus Energy for project planning, design, licensing, manufacturing demonstrations, and operation services for deployment of the AC100 centrifuge. Continuing to mature and deploy these technologies in parallel provides added resiliency to re-establish the enrichment capability necessary to meet future defense fuel requirements.

Tritium gas decays over time and must be continually replenished in active warheads to maintain stockpile effectiveness. NNSA's tritium mission, principally at SRS, has been a tremendous success, a testament to what our workforce can achieve when production is allowed to continue uninterrupted. NNSA recently completed a record 13 tritium extractions in a 9-month period, significantly beating the previous record of 8 extractions in a 12-month period. As a result of cooperation between NNSA, Tennessee Valley Authority, and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, NNSA has increased tritium production from 223 grams in 2007 to 3,300 grams in 2025 and expects the next yield will be higher still. This enhanced production capacity will give NNSA flexibility to field any configuration of the stockpile our security demands.

NNSA is also constructing the Tritium Finishing Facility at SRS to replace key capabilities. Once complete, TFF will support safe, reliable, and operationally efficient capabilities for decades to come. NNSA appreciates the support from Congress and will work towards a realistic schedule for commencing TFF operations while simultaneously managing investments in the current building to meet deliverables. NNSA is requesting \$881 million for Tritium and Defense Fuels.

Non-Nuclear Components

NNSA is taking steps to ensure sufficient production capacity for its highly specialized non-nuclear components which make up the overwhelming majority of a nuclear weapon. This work is primarily being carried out at the Pantex Plant (Pantex), Sandia National Laboratories (SNL), and the Kansas City National Security Campus (KCNSC).

At Pantex, NNSA is constructing the High Explosives Science and Engineering Facility, which will consolidate 15 aging facilities into three new, more efficient ones to conduct science, technology, engineering, and production activities. NNSA anticipates construction completion in FY 2026, and no additional funding is required for project completion. NNSA is also planning construction of the High Explosives Synthesis, Formulation, and Production (HESFP) Facility, which will replace 11 deteriorating World War Two-era facilities and establish an in-house explosives manufacturing capability. NNSA completed design refresh in FY 2026 and is working to meet congressionally mandated start of operations. NNSA will expend WFTC funds and is not requesting additional funds in FY 2027 for HESFP. I would like recognize the executives and workers of 3M Corporation for providing an abundance of critical materials for our High

Explosive (HE) programs to give NNSA margin to complete the buildup of our own HE capability.

At SNL, NNSA is constructing the Power Sources Capability project, which will provide new production, research and development, and office space for the multiple power sources required for weapons systems and replaces an aging 75-year-old warehouse. NNSA anticipates construction completion in 2030 and is requesting \$140 million. In addition, NNSA is progressing planning for the Microsystems Engineering, Science and Applications Photolithography Capability project to provide new clean room space and modern photolithography equipment required for the manufacturing of radiation hardened microelectronics that allow weapon systems to operate effectively under adverse conditions while in flight. NNSA is requesting \$51 million for this project.

To meet the expanded production, facility, and workforce needs at KCNSC, NNSA is advancing the Kansas City Non-Nuclear Expansion Transformation, which utilizes a phased-in approach to allow for immediate use of completed facilities while construction continues elsewhere. Phase One will be transferred to NNSA on May 19, ahead of schedule. Phase Two began construction near the end of 2025, and agreements are being finalized for Phase Three. NNSA expects to begin construction on a new phase each year through the 2030s.

Stockpile Research, Technology, and Engineering (SRT&E)

The SRT&E program provides the foundation for science-based stockpile decisions; delivers advanced capabilities to support DoW requirements; and innovates across the enterprise to improve productivity, efficiency, and responsiveness. This mission has been a tremendous success and is the modern foundation of our nuclear deterrence. Generations of exceptional scientific talent paired with world-class capabilities have advanced insights into the nuclear stockpile— including weapons performance, plutonium aging, and component certification — providing an unmatched understanding that strengthens strategic deterrence. NNSA is requesting \$4.6 billion for SRT&E.

To ensure the President has flexible nuclear options in every conceivable conflict scenario, NNSA is designing novel and advanced capabilities on accelerated timelines. SRT&E's Rapid and Advanced Capabilities program is collaborating with the DoW to conduct several *Concept Assessments* of novel weapon systems through the Nuclear Weapon Council's joint warhead acquisition process, including an effort to improve hard and deeply buried target defeat options. NNSA stood up the Nuclear Deterrence Rapid Capabilities Team in 2025 to meet emerging deterrence needs that require solutions on a faster timescale than traditional warhead acquisition. Under this model NNSA intends to demonstrate novel systems within two years and to deliver a fieldable capability to DoW within another two years through the Stockpile Management program as authorized by Congress. No one in the world can do this better than America's weapons labs. NNSA is requesting \$499 million for Rapid and Advanced Capabilities.

The Advanced Simulation and Computing (ASC) program provides unprecedented modeling and simulations that are essential for designing and certifying the nuclear stockpile along with support for NNSA's nonproliferation, counterproliferation, and counterterrorism mission. At the

center of the program are the supercomputers, principally *El Capitan*, NNSA's first exascale supercomputer, which was recertified last year as the world's fastest with a peak performance ability to perform 1.8 quintillion calculations per second. NNSA will use its computing power to take advantage of DOE's world leading *Genesis Mission*, which unites three things America does better than anyone else: Artificial Intelligence (AI), advanced computing, and innovation, into a collaborative effort across government, industry, and academia to usher in a new golden age of scientific discovery. NNSA will invest in mission-enabling projects that are tailored to solve mission-specific challenges faster and with less power consumption than traditional computers to ultimately speed discovery, optimization, and manufacture of new materials and weapons designs. NNSA is requesting \$910 million for ASC.

America's nuclear arsenal is designed to survive the most extreme environments imaginable, and some of those environments are created in our Inertial Confinement Fusion (ICF) program, which allows experimentation at extreme temperatures and pressures characteristic of nuclear weapons explosions to support the design, certification, and assessment of the nuclear stockpile. The National Ignition Facility (NIF) remains the only location on earth capable of achieving fusion ignition. Last April, NIF set new records for both energy yield and target gain, achieving 8.6 megajoules of energy from 2.08 megajoules of energy to the target. In FY 2027, ICF will continue to mature technologies to reach higher fusion yields to answer key stockpile questions, including through partnerships with private fusion energy companies when appropriate. ICF will also continue the design and procurement of equipment for the Enhanced Yield Capability project to upgrade NIF to achieve higher fusion yields. NNSA is requesting \$914 million for ICF.

As the stockpile evolves, SRT&E's Assessment Science program provides the expertise needed to maintain confidence in the nuclear stockpile. The program performs experiments to support decisions for NNSA's nuclear stockpile. In FY 2027, it will expand its experimental facilities, including construction of two unique test beds in Nevada under the Enhanced Capability for Subcritical Experiments portfolio. NNSA is requesting \$1.5 billion for Assessment Science.

Infrastructure and Operations

NNSA's Infrastructure and Operations program maintains, operates, and modernizes infrastructure in a safe, secure, and cost-effective manner to support all NNSA programs. A significant portion of NNSA's critical facilities are operating beyond their 40-year life span while other capabilities must be reestablished. Infrastructure and Operations provide a comprehensive approach to modernizing NNSA infrastructure while maximizing return on investment, enabling program mission sustainment, and reducing enterprise risk. The program also plans, prioritizes, and constructs mission-enabling facilities and infrastructure. These facilities are fundamental to achieving NNSA's plutonium, uranium, tritium, lithium, high explosives, and other mission objectives.

While new facilities are under construction, NNSA must continue to maintain and operate its existing legacy facilities to meet accelerated weapons delivery timelines as well as meet global nuclear security requirements. These efforts include predictive, preventive, and corrective maintenance activities to maintain facilities, property, assets, systems, roads, and vital safety systems. The need to operate legacy facilities while simultaneously constructing new ones places

additional financial and workforce strain on NNSA and requires adaptability and flexibility to overcome. The Infrastructure and Operations request reflects the overall need for sustained investment in maintenance and recapitalization. NNSA is requesting \$4.8 billion for Infrastructure and Operations.

Securing the Enterprise

NNSA is responsible for a robust array of transportation, physical security, and cybersecurity of the weapons, materials, personnel, and information of the nuclear security enterprise. NNSA is modernizing all three pillars of security to respond to a new threat environment.

In FY 2027, NNSA's Office of Secure Transportation (OST) will continue to prioritize the sustainment and ongoing modernization of operations and equipment, including acquisition of the Mobile Guardian Transporter (MGT). MGT is the next generation secure trailer system designed to safeguard cargos while protecting the public. FPU for MGT is expected in FY 2029. OST's strength is our people. NNSA also remains focused on recruiting and retaining a highly skilled Federal Agent workforce. NNSA appreciates Congress' ongoing support in sustaining this elite team and ensuring mission readiness. The Secure Transportation Asset (STA) program, which provides this capability, has a record of 100 percent safe and secure shipments without compromise, loss of components, or radiological release. NNSA is requesting \$587 million to enhance STA's capability to provide safe and secure mission operations that enable NNSA's nuclear modernization efforts.

As the overall mission set continues to grow, NNSA is acquiring and employing innovative physical security technology to mitigate risk and promote more efficient security operations. Among the most complex and rapidly evolving security threats NNSA faces are from drones and other uncrewed aircraft systems. NNSA is making substantial investments in next-generation counter-uncrewed aircraft systems (CUAS) and finalized deployment of a CUAS platform at NNSA in August 2025. NNSA anticipates the system will be operational at Pantex, Y-12, and LANL by the end of FY 2026 with the final deployment at SRS completed by the end of FY 2027. The FY 2026 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) permitted NNSA to integrate KCNSC, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, and Sandia National Laboratories into the CUAS program. Initial site-configuration discussions have started, and KCNSC is projected to have an operational CUAS platform by early FY 2028. NNSA appreciates Congress' support in the FY 2026 NDAA for expanded CUAS authority at all national security laboratories and nuclear weapons production facilities. NNSA is requesting \$50.4 million for CUAS.

In response to escalating cybersecurity challenges, NNSA is fundamentally redesigning its information technology (IT) environments to provide secure, risk-informed solutions across the nuclear security enterprise. NNSA is prioritizing commercial cloud expansion, modernizing classified networks for resilience, enabling connectivity for Digital Transformation and Digital Engineering, and implementing AI. Recent deployments of enterprise-wide, unclassified and classified multi-cloud platforms support information sharing, enhanced collaboration, and streamlined workflows across the nuclear security enterprise. NNSA also recently completed cyber portfolio deployments across more than six million machines to enhance resilience while

expanding investment in AI tools and IT infrastructure. NNSA is requesting \$935 million for IT and cybersecurity.

Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation

The Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation (DNN) portfolio is America's shield against nuclear and radiological attack. NNSA stops threats before they reach the U.S. Homeland through a multi-layered defense, based on denying, detecting, countering, and defeating nuclear and radiological threats. The DNN portfolio works in concert with the rest of NNSA to deter strategic attacks against the United States and achieve peace through atomic strength. In executing this mission, the DNN portfolio also advances American Energy Dominance and helps implement President Trump's May 2025 executive orders on nuclear energy.

Material Management and Minimization

The Office of Material Management and Minimization denies terrorists and adversary state actors the materials needed to produce a nuclear weapon by minimizing the need for and presence of weapons-usable nuclear material around the world. This allows key research and business activities to continue while eliminating proliferation risks. Under this program, NNSA has removed or confirmed the disposition of 7,347kg of highly enriched uranium (HEU) and plutonium, the equivalent of several hundred nuclear weapons. NNSA has also converted from HEU to high-assay low-enriched uranium (HALEU), or verified as shut down, 111 research reactors and medical isotope production facilities. The most recent conversion was carried out in collaboration with Japan in December 2025.

NNSA is also working with the Department of Energy's Office of Nuclear Energy (DOE-NE) to unleash energy dominance and implement the President's executive orders on nuclear energy. Last year, NNSA produced over 300kg of HALEU oxide, which DOE-NE is using to support advanced reactor demonstration projects and the DOE Reactor Pilot Program. Last August, NNSA increased their HALEU commitment to DOE-NE by five metric tons, almost doubling the previous commitment of 6.7 metric tons.

NNSA is requesting \$266 million for these activities, with a focus on HALEU production, HEU removals, and implementing executive order and legal requirements related to surplus plutonium management.

Global Material Security

The Office of Global Material Security denies adversary access to nuclear and radioactive materials, protecting U.S. communities and stopping threat long before they reach the homeland. Through this office, NNSA partners with U.S. industry to advance competitiveness, prosperity, and security. The program currently works with eight domestic advanced reactor vendors on security-by-design to increase the competitiveness and exportability to American nuclear technology.

The program also supports the development of groundbreaking technologies to replace radioactive materials with alternative technologies. This includes a congressional mandate to eliminate all cesium-137 blood irradiators in the United States by the end of 2027. To date, 94% of these irradiators have been removed by NNSA or are under contract for removal. In 2025, NNSA removed the final irradiators from Iowa, Kansas, Nevada, and Oklahoma.

NNSA also engages with foreign partners to enable them to use U.S.-manufactured radiation detection systems to conduct their own counter nuclear smuggling operations. These efforts have resulted in the interdiction of dozens of radioactive sources and hundreds of kilograms of nuclear material. NNSA is requesting \$391 million for these vital national security activities.

Nonproliferation and Arms Control

The Nonproliferation and Arms Control program supports the American nuclear industry while advancing U.S. nonproliferation, monitoring and verification, and export objectives. It advances American leadership at the International Atomic Energy Agency, engages with American industry to incorporate safeguards by design, and ensures partner countries implement international safeguards obligations.

NNSA supports the expansion of U.S. nuclear exports by implementing the 10 CFR Part 810 nuclear export control process and by providing technical assistance to the Department of State on the negotiation and implementation of agreements for peaceful nuclear cooperation (123 Agreements). These agreements open up new markets for American companies while securing commitments from foreign partners to adhere to U.S. nonproliferation standards. Most recently, NNSA played a key role in the negotiation of the 123 Agreement between the United States and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. NNSA is ready to lend its expertise in implementing the President's Executive Order requirement for an additional 20 agreements to be in place or under negotiation by the close of the 120th Congress. NNSA is requesting \$214 million for these activities.

Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation Research and Development

The Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation Research and Development program develops domestic capabilities to detect and characterize global nuclear threats in coordination with mission stakeholders across the nonproliferation, counterproliferation, counterterrorism, and nuclear warfighting mission areas.

Current activities include the production of satellite-based sensors to detect nuclear explosions in the atmosphere and outer space that are crucial for nuclear warfighting, space control, and nuclear test monitoring. NNSA completed two deliveries in May and October 2025 of the latest Global Burst Detector payloads to the Space Force for integration onto GPS satellites for this purpose. NNSA also conducts research to detect foreign nuclear weapons development activities, including uranium enrichment and weaponization, and to improve the U.S. ability to detect evasive nuclear testing by foreign adversaries. NNSA is requesting \$819 million for these activities.

Nuclear Counterterrorism and Counterproliferation (CTCP)

The CTCP program counters nuclear terrorism and proliferation and responds to any nuclear or radiological threat, incident, or accident worldwide. CTCP serves as the technical foundation of deterrence by attribution and denial and is the Nation's last line of defense against radiological and nuclear emergencies. CTCP is working rapidly to operate effectively in a less stable international security environment with lower barriers to nuclear material and expertise acquisition.

To effectively respond to nuclear emergencies at home and abroad, CTCP is responsible for the Nuclear Emergency Support Team (NEST). NEST maintains a vast array of capabilities to detect, assess, defeat, and attribute the origins of interdicted nuclear materials, improvised nuclear devices, or nuclear device detonations; safely resolve accidents involving a U.S. nuclear weapon; and mitigate any impacts to public health and safety during a radiological or nuclear emergency. NEST executed 80 unclassified emergency response operations in 2025 and safeguarded some of the nation's most important events including the presidential inauguration and Army 250th celebrations in Washington, DC; New Years Eve in New York City; and Super Bowl LX in San Francisco. This summer, NEST will execute its most complex security operation to secure the 104 World Cup games occurring across the United States, Mexico, and Canada.

Finally, CTCP conducts rigorous, objective technical assessments of emergent nuclear weapon challenges, advanced fuel cycles, and applications of AI, to inform planning and operations for the Department of War and other interagency partners. Leveraging unique weapons and response expertise across its portfolio, CTCP engages in extensive training and coordination with local, state, federal, and international partners to prepare them for a potential nuclear or radiological emergency. Last year, CTCP delivered over 250 training events and executed over 40 exercises with domestic and international partners. NNSA is requesting \$651 million for CTCP.

Naval Reactors

The Naval Reactors portfolio supports NNSA's close partnership with the U.S. Navy in support of the nuclear fleet. Naval Reactors advances naval nuclear propulsion capabilities for America's attack and ballistic missile submarines and aircraft carriers to keep the Navy on the cutting edge of warfighting and maintain the assured second-strike capability of the sea-based leg of the nuclear triad.

Naval Reactors continues to deliver key reactor and propulsion plant components to support construction of DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA. The reactor core was certified for use in FY 2025 and will be installed in the submarine this year. Reactor plant components for the next several submarines are in manufacturing and are on pace to support construction timelines. Additionally, progress continues at the Spent Fuel Handling Recapitalization Project, including the start of steel erection for the north half of the Main Process Building and delivery of major equipment for transferring spent nuclear fuel into pools. NNSA is requesting \$2.39 billion for Naval Reactors.

Federal Salaries and Expenses

NNSA's Federal workforce executes the essential governmental functions that underpin the agency's mission, including programmatic and project execution and contract management, budget development, and rigorous oversight of management and operating contractors. These are the dedicated American men and women whose ingenuity, commitment, and demonstrated merit are the bedrock of our nuclear security. Investing in the workforce and ensuring NNSA attracts and retains the most capable individuals through rigorous, merit-based processes, is investing in the future of American scientific and engineering dominance and peace through atomic strength.

NNSA is requesting \$577 million for Federal Salaries and Expenses. NNSA continues to face significant challenges in recruiting and retaining top talent, driven by demographic trends and intense competition from the private sector. At the end of FY 2026, 16.6% of NNSA's federal workforce will be eligible for retirement. NNSA must compete for highly specialized skills that are crucial to meeting current and future mission requirements. These same skills are in high demand across both established and emerging industries. Sustaining a strong, capable workforce is essential to ensuring the success of NNSA's national security mission. At the requested appropriation level, NNSA expects the number of Federal FTEs to be 1,992.

Conclusion

The world is clearly at an inflection point. Great power competition has returned, and the power of the atom poses transformative opportunities alongside significant risks. The hour is late and the need is urgent, to strengthen America's nuclear weapons enterprise. With its unparalleled capabilities, the Department of Energy and NNSA bear a unique and profound responsibility to safeguard the United States and its allies. The FY 2027 budget request underscores the urgency of meeting today's mission requirements while simultaneously preparing the nuclear security enterprise to address future challenges in an increasingly unstable geopolitical environment. NNSA will embrace urgency and flexibility to be successful because there is no other option. Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today.