# Helion Energy raises $425 million to pioneer nuclear fusion power plant



A nuclear fusion startup, Helion Energy, has successfully raised approximately $425 million in funding to advance its goal of establishing the world’s first nuclear fusion power plant. This announcement was made shortly after unveiling its latest prototype in Everett, Washington. Among the notable investors in the funding round is Sam Altman, the founder of OpenAI, who has previously expressed the belief that the future of artificial intelligence will necessitate substantial energy resources that can primarily be fulfilled by nuclear fusion.

In remarks made last year, Altman elaborated on the significance of energy in the pursuit of artificial general intelligence (AGI), stating, “energy is the hardest part.” This perspective underscores the critical role that advanced energy solutions, like those being pursued by Helion Energy, may play in the broader technological ecosystem, particularly as businesses increasingly pivot towards AI-driven operations.

Nuclear fusion is often referred to as the “holy grail of clean energy” due to its immense potential to replicate the natural processes of the Sun, providing nearly limitless energy without the accompanying hazardous waste associated with traditional nuclear fission processes. However, experts caution that significant scientific and engineering breakthroughs are still required before commercial viability can be achieved, with some projections suggesting that practical implementation could be decades away.

Despite these hurdles, Helion Energy maintains an ambitious timeline, aiming to complete its first nuclear fusion power plant by 2028. As part of this initiative, the company has already entered a purchase agreement with Microsoft, underlining the tech giant’s confidence in Helion’s capacity to develop a 50-megawatt nuclear fusion facility that can contribute to the transition towards clean energy.

As a consequence of this latest funding round, which has elevated Helion Energy’s valuation to $5.2 billion, the company is poised to significantly ramp up its manufacturing capabilities in the United States. David Kirtley, the company’s chief executive, emphasised the strategic importance of this funding by stating, “We will be radically scaling up our manufacturing in the US – enabling us to build capacitors, magnets, and semiconductors much faster than we have been able to before.” He further acknowledged the complexity of the undertaking, noting, “There’s still a lot of work to do, and our team is excited to keep pushing to do what no one has done before.”

The situation highlights the intersection of advanced energy technology and the evolving landscape of artificial intelligence, as industry leaders and investors align their efforts with the potential promise of nuclear fusion as a pivotal solution for future energy demands.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## References

* <https://www.helionenergy.com/articles/helion-announces-425m-series-f-investment-to-scale-commercialized-fusion-power/> - This URL supports the claim that Helion Energy has raised $425 million in funding to advance its nuclear fusion technology and commercialize fusion power.
* <https://www.helionenergy.com/articles/announcing-helions-425m-series-f/> - This URL corroborates the details of Helion's $425 million Series F funding round and its plans to accelerate the path to commercialized fusion power.
* <https://www.noahwire.com> - This is the source of the original article, though it does not provide specific details on Helion's funding or technology beyond the article itself.
* <https://www.openai.com/> - This URL is related to OpenAI, founded by Sam Altman, who is mentioned as an investor in Helion Energy and has discussed the importance of energy for AI development.
* <https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/> - This URL is relevant because Microsoft is mentioned as having a purchase agreement with Helion Energy for a nuclear fusion facility.
* <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nuclear_fusion> - This URL provides background information on nuclear fusion, often referred to as the 'holy grail of clean energy' due to its potential for limitless energy without hazardous waste.
* <https://www.lightspeedvp.com/> - This URL is associated with Lightspeed Venture Partners, one of the new investors in Helion Energy's funding round.
* <https://www.softbank.com/en/> - This URL is relevant to SoftBank Vision Fund 2, another new investor in Helion Energy's Series F round.
* <https://www.mithril.com/> - This URL is related to Mithril Capital, an existing investor in Helion Energy.