

Responses to Questions for the Record from April 9, 2025, Full Committee Hearing Alexandr Wang, Founder and Chief Executive Officer, Scale AI

The Honorable Russ Fulcher

1. We had a hearing a couple of months ago where we discussed the role of AI in manufacturing. One area that caught me out of that was how AI can help to drive more productivity, safety, and maintenance of products, people, and equipment.
 - a. How can the U.S. employ AI to help in the energy saving and energy allocation areas in the production process?

Thank you for the question, as discussed in my testimony AI has a great number of use cases and it's imperative that we unleash AI to reap its benefits. In the energy sector itself, we have already seen a number of "low hanging fruit" use cases take shape and leveraging AI to better produce energy is a very strong one. To do so, AI could help provide better insights into the processes for production, where and how certain parts of the grid should be prioritized and much more.

- b. Do you envision more interactivity between operators and AI-based software at different points in the manufacturing process where quick shifting of additional power may be needed during testing of equipment or ramp ups in production? I am interested in understanding the need for building on our efforts to get more reliable sources of energy, such as advanced nuclear, to address the demand.

Thank you for the question. I think that this is very much something that the industry is currently working on and is an open question as we look to implement AI solutions. It's clear that we need to prioritize various forms of energy to meet the projected demands on the grid to have enough power. This is especially critical as we look at China's approach to energy and just this last month we saw them announce additional nuclear power plants which are expected to be online in the next few years. If we do not match or exceed China's intensity we risk ceding our global leadership in AI.

2. Plans such as Made in China 2025 have included investment in AI, semiconductor, quantum, 5G, and robotics are some of the industries the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) aims to monopolize. You noted in your testimony that China seeks to "widen its lead" on data collection and use, including running it through AI algorithms. Could you please explain your thoughts on creating and clarifying federal AI governance standards that can help reduce the "inconsistent definitions" you mention across the AI ecosystem so that companies can have rules that track with the unique challenges of their industries but are not obstacles to development and growth?

Thank you for the question. This is an important topic and as you mentioned China is racing ahead to work to become the global standard for AI. As part of our federal governance related to AI, Scale believes that it's important to clearly state one federal governance standard for AI. This year alone, we have already seen over 700 bills introduced at the state level and many of those bills have different definitions of the various actors within the AI ecosystem. The challenge with this becomes inconsistency at the state level and the likelihood of creating a system in which each state has very different compliance mechanisms. To help solve this potential situation, we strongly support the federal government setting clear definitions.

The Honorable Doris Matsui

1. America needs to lead in developing rules of the road for emerging technologies such as AI, so that they are trusted, secure, and reflect our democratic values. That's why I co-led the bipartisan, bicameral Promoting United States Leadership in Standards Act to strengthen U.S. leadership in international standards setting activities. This Congress, I will work to reintroduce and get this bill across the finish line. I'm deeply concerned that reckless cuts to our federal workforce and alienation of our allies will harm our ability to be the global technological leader.

Mr. Wang, what are the consequences if the U.S. falls behind in setting global standards for AI technologies?

Thank you for that question. This is a very important topic and one that I believe is imperative for the United States to lead. Standard setting and measurement science is one of the best ways for the United States to export our technology to the world and Scale feels strongly that for AI, this is especially critical. The reason for this is that these standards will determine the process for which AI will be evaluated, measured, and developed and it's imperative that these follow western, democratic ideals.

2. Mr. Wang, why is it so critical to make sure our federal agencies have the experts and resources they need to advance U.S. AI innovation?

Thank you for the question, at a high level in order for AI to be unleashed by the U.S. Government, it requires people who understand how to leverage the technology and the resources necessary to implement AI. To date, we have seen AI challenge the Government's way of thinking in that it has to be acquired like software, but maintained like hardware. If we want to unleash AI, the Government must start to look more like a commercial program than a traditional Government procurement. This is why both resources and expertise are so important in order to both set the Government up for success and to be able to scale these AI programs.

3. Mr. Wang, what strategies are being implemented to prepare the American workforce for the shifts brought about by AI, ensuring that workers are equipped with the necessary skills for emerging job roles?

Thank you for that question and as I mentioned in my testimony, it's critical that we are setting up the workforce of the future to thrive in the United States. As part of this, it's critical that we teach AI skillsets throughout K-12 education and then also are working with our Universities and Community Colleges to ensure that they are teaching the right skillsets. Scale has been proud to help develop this workforce through our flexible work opportunities. Last year alone, we paid out over \$500 million globally and provided opportunities to ten of thousands of Americans. These skillsets are critical to U.S. leadership in AI.

4. Mr. Wang, how can collaborations between the government and private sector be structured to accelerate the development and deployment of AI innovations while maintaining fair

competition and safeguarding public interests?

Thank you for the question. United States leadership in AI relies on all levels of the AI ecosystem—industry, government and academia—working together to progress the technology. One strong example of this is the standard setting process which see all three layers coming together to better inform measurement science around items like evaluations. It's critical that industry and the government work together to first identify the areas where partnership makes sense and then begin to execute on them.

The Honorable Nanette Barragan

1. Mr. Wang, in your written testimony, you say that Congress and the Administration should “Resource and empower the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST).”

The Trump Administration has already fired 70 probationary employees at NIST, which reports say is part of a larger plan to cut 20% of the Commerce Department’s workforce.

How do President Trump’s cuts and firings threaten our leadership in A.I. innovation?

Thank you for that question, I feel very strongly that NIST has a critical role to play in developing the world’s best standards and frameworks and ensuring that those can be exported to the world. In my testimony, I mention the importance of this work as well as leveraging the Global Network of AI Safety Institutes to do so. To date, we know that there are nearly 10 AI Safety Institutes around the world and the United States is currently serving as the Chair. This body serves as the best mechanism for us to export the standards and frameworks, which should be developed by NIST, to the world’s leading AI countries.