

Mr. Isaiah Taylor is the founder and CEO of Valar Atomics, an advanced-nuclear company developing high-temperature gas-cooled reactors (HTGRs) using TRISO fuel, helium coolant, and graphite moderation to deliver reliable, inherently safe, low-cost heat for clean fuels and abundant power.

Under his leadership, the team built its full-scale non-nuclear thermal prototype, Ward Zero, in ten months; broke ground on its first test reactor with Utah's San Rafael Energy Lab (USREL); became the first start-up to achieve zero-power criticality in Valar's NOVA core with Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL); and, in partnership with the Department of War and Department of Energy, successfully executed the first airlift of a nuclear reactor in Operation Windlord.

Valar was also selected to the U.S. Department of Energy's Nuclear Reactor Pilot Program. In June 2026, its Ward 250 reactor achieved zero-power fueled criticality at USREL—the first DOE-authorized reactor built and operated outside a national laboratory—and subsequently generated power, marking the first nuclear power produced by a private company founded since the discovery of nuclear fission. Inspired by his great-grandfather's work on the Manhattan Project, Taylor founded Valar to bring high-temperature nuclear gigawatts online and has assembled one of the largest concentrations of HTGR engineering talent in the world.

