Nuclear startup to build at DOE Paducah Site

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U.S. Department of Energy

An aerial photo shows the Department of Energy Paducah Site. General Matter, a nuclear enrichment startup led by former SpaceX employee Scott Nolan, plans to build an enrichment facility at the site.

General Matter, a nuclear enrichment startup led by former SpaceX employee Scott Nolan, plans to build an enrichment facility at the U.S. Department of Energy Paducah Site.

Paducah Mayor George Bray confirmed to The Sun that General Matter has a project with the site, and he said further details may be released soon by the company.

"I think they are going to release something very quickly and there will be information forthcoming," Bray said. "From everything I can tell so far, it's going to be very good for Paducah, but also, these are all two, three, four, five-year projects. Because we're talking about nuclear, there's a lot of complexities to it."

General Matter was one of six companies added to the DOE's contractor list in December 2024 to procure low enriched uranium to incentivize the development of new, greater uranium production capacity, Murray public radio station WKMS reported Friday. The company has largely stayed under the radar until recent months, only announcing itself on social media on April 14 of this year.

The company is backed by two investor groups, according to its website, IQT and Founders Fund. The latter is a San Francisco based venture capital fund with investments in a large portfolio of tech companies, such as OpenAI, Spotify and Facebook. The fund is heavily invested in projects from billionaire Elon Musk, such as SpaceX, Neuralink and The Boring Company, according to its online portfolio. Founders Fund's partners include Nolan and tech-billionaire investor Peter Thiel, a cofounder of PayPal and Palantir Technologies and a conservative political megadonor.

General Matter's involvement at the DOE Paducah Site is one of many recent developments toward its reindustrialization more than a decade after the Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant was decommissioned in 2013. Another nuclear enrichment company, Global Laser Enrichment, is working on a facility adjacent to the site that it hopes to have operational by 2030, as The Sun has previously reported.

Last week it was announced by the DOE that the site was selected as one of four locations for the creation of new high-powered artificial intelligence data centers and energy generation projects as part of the White House's AI action plan.

Though it is unclear whether General Matter's plans for the Paducah site have any connection to powering AI, Nolan did confirm to President Donald Trump that the startup plans to provide power to AI companies. During an Oval Office event for the signing of executive orders loosening nuclear power regulations on May 23, Trump asked Nolan if his company planned to power AI plants and he said it did.

"Just like car engines need fuel, nuclear reactors need fuel," Nolan said in a statement included in a news release from The White House. "Right now, the U.S. is completely dependent on other countries to make the key step of enrichment in this fuel, and these Executive Orders are going to pave the way for the U.S. to regain its lead."

WKMS reports that an event will be held to formally announce the project in Paducah on Aug. 5. Kentucky Gov. Andy Beshear, U.S. Sens. Rand Paul and Mitch McConnell, Rep. James Comer as well as local officials and members of the nuclear industry are expected to attend.

PUBLIC NOTICE

A copy of the FY2024-25 Annual Financial Report of the Lyon County Board of Education is available on the Lyon County Schools' website, www.lyon.kyschools.us — Departments/Central Office/ Financial Reports or at the business office located at the address below. This location and notice is pursuant to KRS 160.463.

Caldwell County Historical Society invites public to listen to special guest speaker

The Caldwell County Historical Society invites the public to attend its upcoming monthly meeting on Thursday, August 7 at 6 p.m., held at the George Coon Public Library Auditorium. This month's meeting will feature a special guest speaker, Bill Adams, a Vietnam War veteran and longtime Caldwell County resident. He will share firsthand experiences of his military service, life during wartime, and reflections on the lasting impact of the Vietnam War on American history and culture.

"We are honored to welcome Adams to share his story," said Society President Melissa Earnest. "Oral histories like his are essential for preserving the human side of historical events. His perspective will enrich our understanding of the Vietnam era."

The meeting is free and open to the public. Those interested in local history are encouraged to attend, learn more about the Society's work, and consider joining. Membership information will be available at the meeting.

Kentucky Farm Bureau awards 600-plus scholarships

BY TOM LATEK | KENTUCKY TODAY

LOUISVILLE — The Kentucky Farm Bureau (KFB) Education Foundation announced Monday that it has awarded more than 600 post-secondary education scholarships, which represents the highest amount in the history of the program.

In partnership with county Farm Bureaus, the KFB Foundation awarded 601 Kentucky high school seniors a total of $810,150 in scholarships at both the state and county level, in amounts which range from $500 to $4,000. This brings the total amount of scholarships awarded to over $3.9 million since the program's inception in 1953.

Awardees from McCracken County include Pratha Patel, who received a $1,000 KFB Education Foundation Scholarship, and Cade Churchwell and Lily Harlan, who each received a $2,000 McCracken County Farm Bureau Scholarship.

"Our investment in young people is an investment in the future of Kentucky," said Eddie Melton, KFB President. "We're proud to support these outstanding students who are working hard today, and who are well on their way to becoming the leaders of tomorrow. Whether their academic paths lead them to agriculture or another field, Kentucky Farm Bureau is honored to walk beside them as they take their next steps."

Statewide scholarships include students attending a Kentucky college or university who are pursuing a degree in agriculture or a related field; students attending a Kentucky college or university who are pursuing a four-year degree in animal health/veterinary technology or a related field; students attending a Kentucky college or university who come from farm families; as well as other criteria. A total of 110 county Farm Bureaus awarded scholarships to students in their local areas.

A complete list of 2025 recipients by county can be found online at https://tinyurl.com/mry3k397.

For more information about Kentucky Farm Bureau's scholarship program, visit kyfb.com/scholarships.

Kentucky Farm Bureau is the state's largest general farm organization with more than 485,000 member families.

www.timesleader.net

