

2025 Mid-Year Update

# Global Catastrophic Risks Fund



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# Your impact so far in 2025

In the first half of 2025, the GCR Fund disbursed **\$1.15M** to **6** different projects working across the spectrum of global risks.

Our grantees are doing critical work to improve global security, tackling risks related to **advanced AI, biosecurity, nuclear weapons, and more.**

**\$1.15M**

Granted in the first half of 2025

**6**

High-impact grantees

We've become ***a leading funder*** of unofficial and semi-official\* diplomacy.

The world's most critical risks require **international cooperation** to navigate, especially with the rapid development of new technologies.

With the GCR Fund, we identify and support the best projects to help **catalyze global cooperation** on extreme risks. When these projects don't exist, we create them. Your donations **build the infrastructure** to help humanity navigate these transformative years.

\*Unofficial (**track 2**) dialogues are backchannel exchanges, typically between non-governmental experts and retired government officials. Semi-official (**track 1.5**) dialogues can refer to a variety of dialogues with a mix of governmental and non-governmental participants. By contrast, **track 1** dialogues are official government-to-government diplomacy.



## Building the conversation between U.S. and Chinese experts

We deployed \$200K to **INHR** to renew support for work we first funded in 2023.

INHR runs high-quality **track 2 dialogues** between the U.S., China, and other countries.

Our grant aims to focus those talks particularly on the **intersection of AI and biosecurity** as well as on **advanced AI** (including risks from AI agents and AGI-related issues).

We believe that this is one of the **most cost-effective** ways of **shaping the international conversation** around the extreme risks of AI.

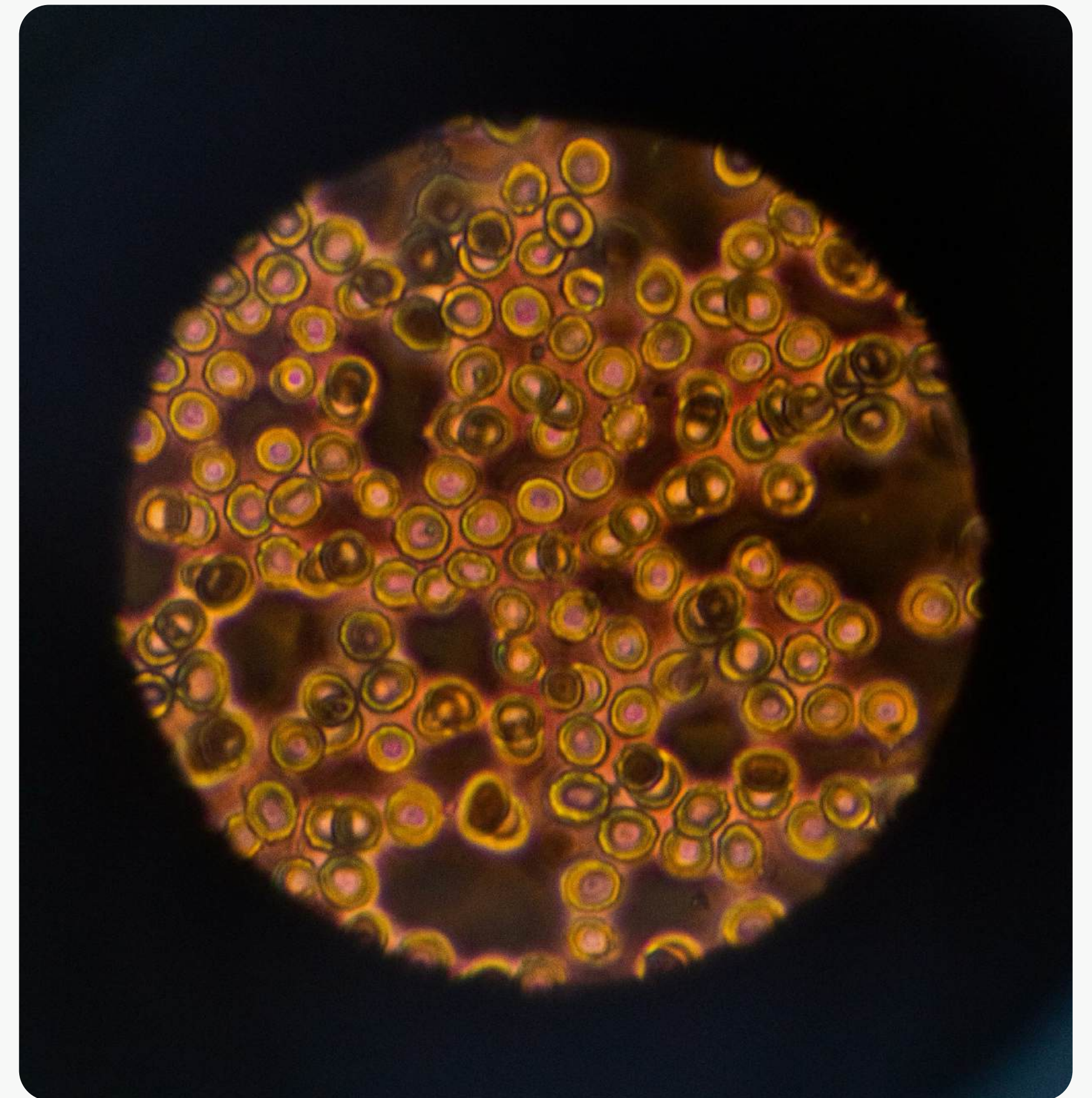


Photo: [Unsplash](#)



# Forming a bipartisan collaboration to engage policymakers on advanced AI risks

We proposed a partnership between **Brookings** and **Hoover** and funded it with \$50K.

The Brookings Institution runs high-quality U.S.-China track 2 dialogues on risks like advanced AI. The ultimate success of these dialogues requires **transferring insights** to the right officials who can influence **policy decisions**, which is challenging under a new political administration.

Our grant enables a bipartisan collaboration between the Brookings Institution and the Hoover Institution to support **roundtables** and **briefings of administration officials**. This project will create a more **robust platform** for engaging officials on advanced AI risks and U.S.-China cooperation.



Photo: Brookings Institution



Photo: Hoover Institution



# Establishing the first trilateral strategic nuclear dialogue

In April, we deployed \$250K to **Pacific Forum** to launch a new trilateral strategic diplomatic dialogue.

The three largest nuclear powers — the United States, Russia, and China — currently lack effective channels for discussing nuclear risks and strategic stability issues. Without **reliable channels for three-way communication**, these major powers risk **stumbling into conflicts or arms races** that could threaten global security.

Pacific Forum is launching the **first-ever trilateral strategic dialogue** between the U.S., Russia, and China on **nuclear weapons and other global catastrophic risks**.

**We worked directly with Pacific Forum to develop this unprecedented trilateral format.**

Even if formal arms control agreements prove elusive, the dialogue could help **prevent arms racing, establish crisis communication protocols**, and **build mutual understanding** of each side's strategic concerns and red lines.



Pacific Forum has a proven track record in organizing successful U.S.-China dialogues, including recent breakthroughs that resulted in the first informal US-China nuclear talks in five years.



The timing is promising, as President Trump's public statements about wanting trilateral denuclearization talks create a policy window that didn't exist under previous administrations.



The project will bring together former senior officials, leading academics, and policy experts who maintain strong connections to their respective governments.



Participants will discuss doctrine and strategy, crisis communications and escalation management, emerging technologies like AI in military applications, arms control possibilities, and broader strategic stability issues.



# Designing communications for nuclear war termination

We co-designed a project with the **Center for Nonproliferation Studies (CNS)** and the **American Enterprise Institute (AEI)** and provided a \$400K grant.

While enormous attention focuses on preventing nuclear war, far less work examines what happens after deterrence fails—the “**right of boom**” problem of **limiting damage once war begins**.

Our current crisis communication systems aren’t designed to survive a nuclear environment. We risk a future where **limited nuclear exchanges inevitably escalate** to civilization-threatening levels simply because the mechanisms for stopping don’t exist.

This new project we designed with Dr. Jeffrey Lewis at CNS and Dr. Kori Schake at AEI will tackle **nuclear war termination** through research and targeted policy advocacy.



Photo: [Unsplash](#)





**This project is an example of highly active grantmaking.** We worked directly with Dr. Lewis to co-develop this proposal based on our research into “right of boom” interventions, including:

- Global Catastrophic Nuclear Risk, our 109-page report on these issues.
- “Philanthropy to the Right of Boom,” a blog post summarizing one of the key ideas from that report.
- Call me, maybe? Hotlines and Global Catastrophic Risk, our research report on crisis communications.
- “Christian Ruhl on Preventing World War III, US-China Hotlines, and Ultraviolet Germicidal Light,” a podcast episode with the Future of Life Institute.
- “Christian Ruhl on why we’re entering a new nuclear age — and how to reduce the risks,” another relevant podcast episode.
- “It’s time for a new atomic altruism,” an op-ed in Vox.
- “Why the U.S.-China Crisis Hotline Doesn’t Work,” an explainer in the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists that dives deep into some of the problems with existing crisis communications.



# Incorporating AGI into arms control negotiation curriculum

We deployed €100K to **the Arms Control Negotiation Academy (ACONA)**.

Arms control is a valuable tool in our toolbox for preparing for advanced AI, but mainstream **arms control experts** remain largely unaware of the rapid progress of AI capabilities.

ACONA is well-placed to educate and connect arms control experts around the world. Our grant will **incorporate advanced AI topics into the ACONA curriculum** to raise the salience of **AI safety and AI arms control** and create a networked community of arms controllers who are ready to tackle these emerging risks.



Photo: ACONA



# Planning U.S.-China strategic dialogues on AGI

We made a \$140K grant to **the Institute for Security and Technology (IST)**.

This grant will support IST and the AI Policy Network as they plan for potential **U.S.-China strategic dialogues on AGI, superintelligence, and related threats**.

Because this is a planning grant, we've decided not to share more at this point, but we hope to have more updates in the future.

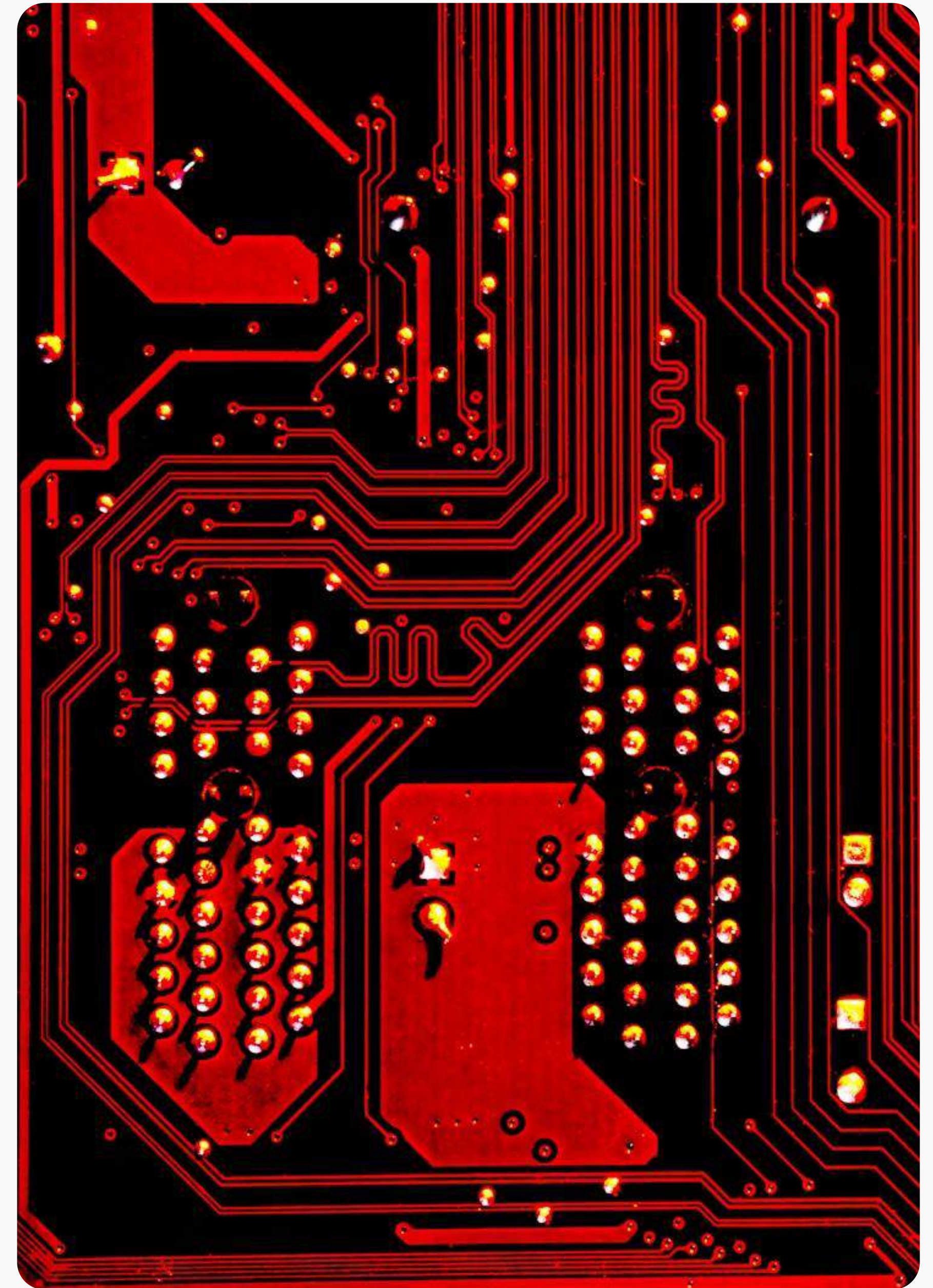


Photo: [Unsplash](#)



\$5,265,818

Contributed all time

\$3,051,611

Granted all time

\$2,604,149

Contributed in  
H1 2025

\$1,154,270

Granted in  
H1 2025

\$2,293,524

Available balance as  
of July 1 2025\*

\*This Fund seeks to maintain a minimum balance, as this allows us to make quick decisions and take advantage of time-sensitive opportunities. Balances differ slightly from the simple sum of money in-money out due to FX movements over time.

# Grants Overview in H1 2025

<u>INHR</u>	\$200,000	Supporting U.S.-China-International diplomatic dialogues on artificial intelligence, specifically on catastrophic risks at the AI-bio nexus and on advanced AI.
<u>Brookings</u>	\$50,000	Supporting a bipartisan collaboration between the Brookings Institution and the Hoover Institution on advanced AI, AGI, superintelligence, AI safety, and related issues.
<u>Pacific Forum</u>	\$250,000	Launching a new strategic diplomatic dialogue between the United States, Russia, and China on on nuclear weapons and other topics relevant to global catastrophic risks.
<u>Center for Nonproliferation Studies (CNS)</u>	\$400,000	Supporting a one-year project on war termination, including research and advocacy on command and control system changes, risk mitigation policies, the potential effects of advanced AI, and more.
<u>Arms Control Negotiation Academy (ACONA)</u>	\$114,000	Funding work to upgrade and incorporate advanced artificial intelligence into ACONA's arms control negotiation curriculum, highlighting key considerations and risks around rapid progress to AGI.
<u>Institute for Security and Technology</u>	\$140,000	Supporting activities and planning around U.S.-China strategic dialogues on artificial general intelligence, superintelligence, and related topics.







## Thank you for your support!

The Global Catastrophic Risks Fund is run by Founders Pledge, a global nonprofit empowering entrepreneurs to do the most good possible with their charitable giving.

This is a public fund and available to everyone. You do not need to be a Founders Pledge member to contribute.

**100%** of your contributions go to high-impact grants.

The costs to manage the Fund are covered by Founders Pledge, a nonprofit funded by our members and other generous donors.

## Stay in touch

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Power another year of reducing the biggest threats we face

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