United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 14, 2026

The Honorable Chris Wright
Secretary of Energy
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Ave, SW
Washington, DC 20585

The Honorable Pete Hegseth
Secretary of Defense
U.S. Department of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Secretary Wright and Secretary Hegseth:

I write to express concern about NVIDIA's recent acquisition of SchedMD and request information about the government's dependency on NVIDIA hardware and software. This acquisition raises particular alarm due to the Department of Energy (DOE) and Department of Defense's (DoD) widespread reliance on SchedMD's workload management software, Slurm. Slurm software is used in critical DOE and DoD supercomputers and is "the top software used worldwide in aerospace and defense."[1] NVIDIA's acquisition of Slurm turns a once free software into one of NVIDIA's proprietary offerings, which may reduce competition and harm national security.[2] This would give NVIDIA disproportionate control over a chokepoint that rival firms rely on to operate government supercomputers.

In December 2025, NVIDIA completed its acquisition of SchedMD, the leading developer and support provider for critical job scheduling software, Slurm. This software is used by over 60% of the world's most powerful supercomputers.[3] As part of the acquisition, NVIDIA may obtain significant leverage over the supercomputing performance of its competitors like AMD.[4] For example, although NVIDIA has stated publicly that it will continue to distribute Slurm software

[1] NVIDIA, "NVIDIA Acquires Open-Source Workload Management Provider SchedMD," December 15, 2025, https://blogs.nvidia.com/blog/nvidia-acquires-schedmd; SchedMD, "Aerospace & Defense Institutions," https://www.schedmd.com/slurm-industries/aerospace-defense.

[2] NVIDIA, "NVIDIA Acquires Open-Source Workload Management Provider SchedMD," December 15, 2025, https://blogs.nvidia.com/blog/nvidia-acquires-schedmd; Reuters, "Nvidia acquisition of SchedMD sparks worry among AI specialists about software access," Max A. Cherney and Stephen Nellis, April 6, 2026, https://www.reuters.com/technology/nvidia-acquisition-schedmd-sparks-worry-among-ai-specialists-about-software-2026-04-06.

[3] Reuters, "Nvidia buys AI software provider SchedMD to expand open-source AI push," December 15, 2025, https://www.reuters.com/business/nvidia-buys-ai-software-provider-schedmd-expand-open-source-ai-push-2025-12-15; Oregon State University, "Novus HPC Cluster," https://arcs.oregonstate.edu/novus-cluster; Department of Defense, "Raider Slurm Guide," https://centers.hpc.mil/users/docs/afrl/raiderSlurmGuide.html; Air Force Research Laboratory, "AFRL's newest supercomputer 'Raider' promises to compute years' worth of data in days, saving time, money," Aleah M. Castrejon, September 11, 2023, https://www.afrl.af.mil/News/Article-Display/Article/3521947/afrls-newest-supercomputer-raider-promises-to-compute-years-worth-of-data-in-da.

[4] U.S. Department of Energy, "Energy Department Announces New Public-Private Partnership Model, Two Supercomputers, to Accelerate American Dominance in Science and Technology," October 27, 2025, https://www.energy.gov/articles/energy-department-announces-new-public-private-partnership-model-two-supercomputers; AMD, "Running Jobs," https://amdresearch.github.io/hpcfund/jobs.html.

for free, their commitment "does not mean [that NVIDIA] . . . will make all future Slurm features available as open source."[5] This gives NVIDIA, whose chips power more than 76% of the world's most powerful supercomputers,[6] even more control over a critical software layer. Over time, NVIDIA could optimize Slurm to work best with its own AI chips by prioritizing bug fixes and new features for their own chips, while degrading Slurm's compatibility with competitor chips. Moreover, NVIDIA now also controls the expert support needed to make Slurm run efficiently on non-NVIDIA chips.[7]

NVIDIA's acquisition of SchedMD is the latest in a series of acquisitions of other software companies, such as Bright Computing and Run:ai, for which NVIDIA has drawn antitrust scrutiny.[8] In addition to expanded supply of AI chips, these deals have given NVIDIA even more control over the critical software and the support that helps run data centers and supercomputing systems. If NVIDIA controls both AI chips and the software layers that make these chips work, they are in a position to box out competitors by making their hardware harder to deploy and harder to support.

Unchecked, these developments have serious consequences for national security. DOE and DoD procurement documents often require Slurm, meaning that this acquisition may give NVIDIA an anti-competitive vantage point over:

- Supercomputers that support critical defense functions, including "[nuclear] production modernization, stockpile modernization efforts, . . . and warhead flight dynamics."[9] A technical requirements document from the Los Alamos National Laboratory states it "anticipates that SchedMD's Slurm resource job management scheduler will be the primary scheduler and policy engine of the system" and that it "will directly procure the necessary software licenses and ongoing maintenance support from SchedMD."[10]

- High-performance computing systems that rely on Slurm to run ballistics simulations, including systems used by the U.S. Army Combat Capabilities Development Command (DEVCOM).[11]

---

[5] The Next Platform, "NVIDIA Nearly Completes its Control Freakery with Slurm Acquisition," Timothy Prickett Morgan, December 18, 2025, https://www.nextplatform.com/2025/12/18/nvidia-nearly-completes-its-control-freakery-with-slurm-acquisition.

[6] NVIDIA, "The Need for Speed: NVIDIA Accelerates Majority of World's Supercomputers to Drive Advancements in Science and Technology," Dion Harris, November 20, 2024, https://blogs.nvidia.com/blog/top500-supercomputers-sc24.

[7] SchedMD, "Slurm Support & Development," https://www.schedmd.com.

[8] HPC Wire, "Nvidia Acquires Bright Computing for its HPC Cluster Management Software," Tiffany Trader, January 11, 2022, https://www.hpcwire.com/aiwire/2022/01/11/nvidia-acquires-bright-computing-for-its-hpc-cluster-management-software; Politico, "Feds put Nvidia AI deal under antitrust scrutiny," Josh Sisco, August 1, 2024, https://www.politico.com/news/2024/08/01/feds-nvidia-ai-deal-chips-00172322.

[9] Los Alamos National Laboratory, "Advanced Simulation and Computing Platforms," https://www.lanl.gov/about/mission/high-performance-computing/platforms; Los Alamos National Laboratory, "Enabling breakthrough improvements in time-to-solution in a post exascale era," https://www.lanl.gov/about/mission/high-performance-computing/platforms/ats-5.

[10] Los Alamos National Laboratory, "RFP Technical Requirements Document for ATS-5 System," September 3, 2024, https://cdn.lanl.gov/files/ats-5-rfp-sept2024_d80e2.pdf.

[11] U.S. Army Combat Capabilities Development Command (DEVCOM) Army Research Laboratory, "Resolution as a Computational Factor in CTH Simulations of a Shaped-Charge Jet," Daniel Hornbaker, February 2024,

- DoD contracts tied to critical defense missions. For example, the Air Force's 57th Intelligence Squadron previously contracted directly for Slurm support, and described market research "that one company, SchedMD, is capable of providing the services needed to fulfill the requirement for the 57th IS."[12]

As your Departments invest in new supercomputing systems to "secure American leadership in artificial intelligence (AI) for science, energy, and national security,"[13] it is critical that the federal government preserves competition. Otherwise, dominant firms can hike prices, costing taxpayers, while stifling innovation and America's AI leadership. Locking in a single provider is also a bad deal for national security, because it creates chokepoints that foreign actors can exploit. As reports call into question potential ties between NVIDIA and China's DeepSeek, the DOE and DoD should assess whether relying on NVIDIA and the software companies that it owns may pose foreign influence and cybersecurity risks.[14]

There is no publicly available information regarding the extent to which DOE and DoD systems are dependent on NVIDIA hardware or software. To better understand the nature of these concerns, I ask for a response to the following requests by May 5, 2026.

1. Please identify every active DOE and DoD RFP/RFQ or solicitation that lists Slurm software or Slurm support as a requirement.

2. To the best extent practicable, identify DOE and DoD supercomputing and HPC clusters that currently rely on Slurm or other SchedMD/NVIDIA software.

3. Do DOE and DoD have legally binding commitments in contracts to ensure that Slurm stays open-source and vendor-neutral? If so, will DOE and DoD continue to include these commitments in future contracts?

4. For systems that rely on Slurm or other software that is now owned by NVIDIA, do your Departments have plans to diversify to alternative software options? If so, which alternative software options are your Departments considering?

5. Do DOE and DoD any have plans to preserve competition in future supercomputing procurements?

6. Have DOE and DoD assessed Foreign Ownership, Control, or Influence (FOCI) risks of contractors for Defense and national lab supercomputers?

---

https://apps.dtic.mil/sti/trecms/pdf/AD1221876.pdf.

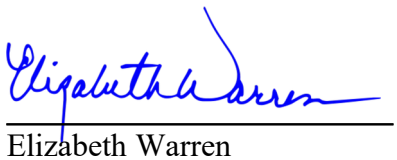
[12] SAM.gov, "SOW (SLURM)," U.S. Air Force 57th Intelligence Squadron, July 30, 2020, https://sam.gov/workspace/contract/opp/d31f25dc2a7a4725a1d89a27454bca8e/view; SAM.gov, "Single Source Justification_Redacted," https://sam.gov/workspace/contract/opp/7513d38f148948239bbd99e067e5eb8b/view

[13] Oak Ridge National Laboratory, "Genesis @ ORNL," https://www.ornl.gov/genesis; Data Center Dynamics, "US DoD details military bases available for AI data center build-out," Sebastian Moss, January 12, 2026, https://www.datacenterdynamics.com/en/news/us-dod-details-military-bases-available-for-ai-data-center-build-out.

[14] Reuters, "Exclusive: Nvidia helped DeepSeek hone AI models later used by China's military, lawmaker says," Stephen Nellis, January 28, 2026, https://www.reuters.com/world/china/nvidia-helped-deepseek-hone-ai-models-later-used-by-chinas-military-lawmaker-2026-01-28.

7. Have DOE (including the National Nuclear Security Administration) and DoD assessed any other national security risks related to NVIDIA's acquisition of SchedMD? If so, provide these assessments in writing.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator