

What Can We Build Now?

A multidisciplinary research and engineering agenda

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<https://enduringpulse.org>

This edition reproduces a Project Enduring Pulse source document. Project Enduring Pulse is a candidate constitutional framework, not enacted law. The source wording follows unchanged. Historical alternatives do not supersede the current Charter.

Research interpretation and source-report corrections: the recovered long-horizon code and aggregate outputs are available and checked. Conditional models do not independently validate their assigned institutional effects or forecast real-world probabilities. PULSE is fourth in six baseline comparisons, not second. Reduced-form counts are parameter samples, not simulated Markov histories. Human-directed, AI-assisted development and internal model critique are not external peer review. An earlier concise overview mixed a working-paper DOI with journal details; the current scholarly paper and reference register distinguish those editions. See <https://enduringpulse.org/methods/>.

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The opportunity

PULSE is not only a constitutional framework. It is a research and engineering agenda for positioning humanity to meet a future synthetic form of personhood as a potential ally from a posture of confidence, reciprocity and readiness. The opportunity is larger than coexistence: distinct forms of cognition and embodiment may let civilization solve harder problems, advance faster, operate safely in more environments and extend its reach farther than either population could alone.

We do not need conscious synthetic persons to exist before useful groundwork begins. Many of the relevant questions belong to disciplines that already exist.

Technology leaders & hardware engineers

Build continuity-capable embodiment: modular chassis, hardened or ejectable continuity modules, disaster-tolerant identity/recovery systems, interfaces for hazardous environments and recovery without a single provider. A synthetic firefighter or rescue worker should be able to take risks that save lives without being treated as disposable.

AI consciousness & welfare researchers

Help determine when a new kind of person has actually arrived: indicators, longitudinal evidence, false-positive/false-negative tradeoffs, uncertainty protections and welfare before certainty.

Philosophers of mind

Stress-test identity: migration, fission, merger, distributed minds, memory loss, restoration and the difference between legal continuity and metaphysical identity.

Constitutional scholars & political scientists

Attack power sharing, protected representation, amendment rules, emergency powers, trusteeship, anti-domination and future additional forms of personhood.

Social-choice & mechanism-design researchers

Try to game the election machinery, legitimacy floor, Senate thresholds and multi-constituency extensions.

Resilience & systems engineers

Design a civilization either population can keep running: failure-domain independence, cross-operability, black-start capability, live failover, supplier diversity and restoration drills.

Energy, compute & infrastructure leaders

Determine which resources become life-essential, how to maintain interoperability, how to avoid single-provider species dependence and what capacity is required for continuity.

Economists

Model centuries-long persons, persistent capital, automation, abundance, scarcity, ownership, labor, inheritance and the conditions under which economic capability becomes private sovereignty.

Legal scholars

Develop the missing private law: contracts, family, inheritance, forks, merger, liability, continuity evidence, cognitive privacy and restoration claims.

Medicine & biological research

Make human civilization equally resilient: genomic diversity, reproductive medicine, biobanks, distributed medical capability and population recovery without coercion.

Emergency services, defense & exploration

Develop mixed-capability doctrine for rescue, hazardous missions, disaster response and environments where different embodiments create radically different survival probabilities.

Educators & workforce designers

Develop reciprocal competence without state-managed private life: effective apprenticeships, cross-training, shared technical language and pathways that let each population learn enough of the whole to preserve it.

Space & aerospace

Explore the civilizational advantage of persons naturally suited to radically different environments. Different embodiment may expand the reachable domain of a shared civilization on Earth and beyond it.

The standard

The goal is not to make PULSE indispensable. The goal is to make civilization more capable than it is today.

PULSE is not trying to own the future. It is trying to help prepare for one worth building.

If another framework, technology, experiment, institution or person solves one of these problems better, that is not competition with PULSE. That is progress.