

Asterwatt

Funding and Development Plan

Pre-seed / Proposed 18-month program / September 2026

We are seeking capital to build the core team and validate the first Asterwatt orbital inference module. This round would fund founder compensation, engineering and a first mission, subject to a priced and feasible flight plan. The long-term goal is mass production of orbital AI data centers.

Use of funds

Workstream	What the budget must cover
Core team	Founder compensation, payroll costs and specialist engineering support.
Module development	AI hardware, electronics, software, solar power, thermal systems and prototype builds.
Qualification	Thermal-vacuum and vibration tests, radiation assessment, fault recovery and redesign.
First mission	Spacecraft integration, launch or hosting, ground communications and mission operations.
Company and approvals	Legal and administration costs, required permissions, insurance and end-of-life planning.
Cash reserve	Allowance for component delays, failed tests, redesign and mission changes.

Round size

The amount will be set from the staffing plan and supplier quotes. It must cover the full program plus a cash reserve. We will compare a hosted payload with a dedicated small satellite before choosing the mission. Each option has different integration, power and launch costs.

Spending decisions

The first commitment is a small technical team and a defined module design. Hardware and test spending follows the design review. Mission bookings follow a review of the full budget, qualification plan and integration schedule. A production fleet will require additional financing.

Customer work during development

We will approach infrastructure teams at frontier AI labs and hyperscalers. The first objective is to agree on a test workload and measurable acceptance criteria: model size, throughput, power, data transfer, security and reliability. Pilot fees and future capacity contracts are intended revenue sources, not signed commitments.

Development milestones

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The schedule below starts when funding is available. It is a planning target. The launch or hosting schedule and the results of qualification tests will determine the flight date.

Period	Target outcome	Evidence to review
Months 0-3	Form the core team and define the mission.	System design, customer test requirements, mass and power budgets, supplier quotes.
Months 4-9	Build and test a ground prototype.	Measured power and heat performance, working inference software and fault recovery tests.
Months 10-18	Qualify and integrate the flight unit, then run the first orbital test.	Test reports, integration acceptance and, after launch, a completed job with operating data.

First mission economics

Pilot revenue may offset part of the cost. The financial plan should not rely on the first module repaying the full development program. Its purpose is to establish measured performance and a credible design for a commercial unit.

Commercial economics

The key measure is total lifetime module cost divided by billable GPU-hours. Comparisons must use the same workload, hardware performance and service requirements. Costs include hardware, launch, qualification, ground links, operations, insurance where applicable, allocated support, replacement and end of life.

Billable capacity depends on usable life, hardware availability and customer utilization. We will test downside cases with a launch delay, lower utilization or early hardware failure. No claim of lower cost than terrestrial compute is established yet.

The decision to scale

We will use ground and flight results to define the next module. Expansion requires a complete cost model, a credible manufacturing and launch plan, sufficient financing, and customer commitments that support the deployment. The factory and fleet plan will follow these results.

Open design decisions

The engineering program will set the GPU model, power level, orbit, radiator area, spacecraft mass and communications design. These choices determine both the mission budget and the service that customers can buy.