

1. The National Association of Manufacturers' "2026 State of Manufacturing Tour" came to Siemens Energy's Charlotte Hub on Monday. Local outlets such as the Charlotte Observer and Charlotte Business Journal covered the visit. Leandro Paladini, our General Manager for Large Power Transformers, told the Charlotte Business Journal that we have hired 115 workers for the new large power transformer manufacturing facility slated to be completed in June 2027. Matt Neal said, "this is the only facility where we do a significant amount of grid business and gas business in one location. It's definitely our largest footprint for manufacturing in the U.S."
2. During his State of the Union address on Tuesday, President Donald Trump said he negotiated "rate payer protection pledges" with big tech companies to avoid sticking consumers with increased utility bills from data centers, though he has not yet elaborated as to how the pledges would work. As a reminder, companies such as Microsoft, Google, and Anthropic previously announced commitments to "pay their own way." Secretary of Energy Chris Wright said in an interview with POLITICO that the administration had reached agreements with all of the "brand-name" AI companies. This comes as a new report from data intelligence firm Sightline Climate predicts that as many as half the world's data center projects slated to come online this year could face delays due to power constraints, long wait times for grid infrastructure, and criticism from local residents.
3. The Department of Energy (DOE) closed a \$26.5 billion loan package — the largest it said it has ever issued — to utility Southern Company to pay for multiple power projects in Georgia and Alabama. The 30-year loan will finance 5 gigawatts (GW) of new natural gas generation and 6 GW of nuclear uprates, alongside hydropower modernization, new battery storage systems and more than 1,300 miles of transmission and grid improvement projects. Both the DOE and Southern Company said the loan will lead to \$7 billion in electricity savings for consumers but did not explain how it would lower bills.