AI Safety Is a Religious Debate

Experts say real nuclear risks are being ignored for hypothetical doomsday claims.

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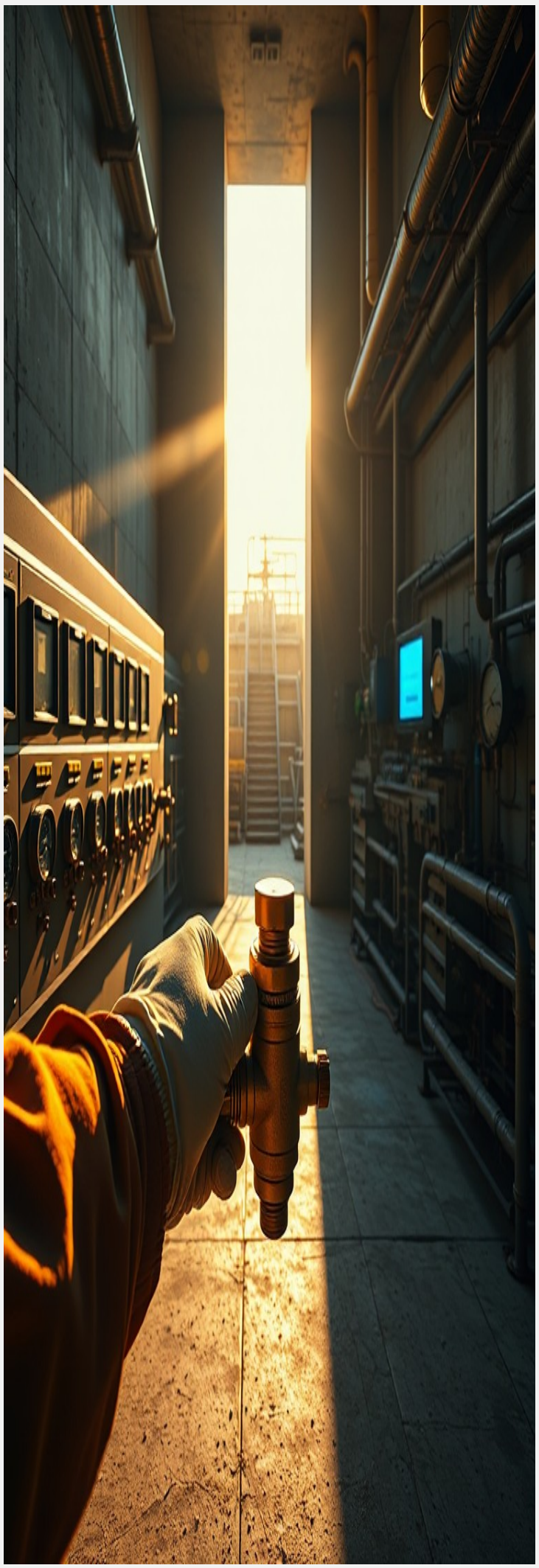
THE DATA

No numbers to back it

Unfalsifiable extinction claims

One expert dismissed existential AI fears as lacking scientific rigor, calling them 'a very cold way to say it.'

The claim that AI will cause human extinction lacks falsifiable metrics, unlike traditional safety engineering in nuclear operations. This absence of measurable thresholds undermines the credibility of the safety debate. When risk is defined without empirical standards, it becomes ideological — not technical.

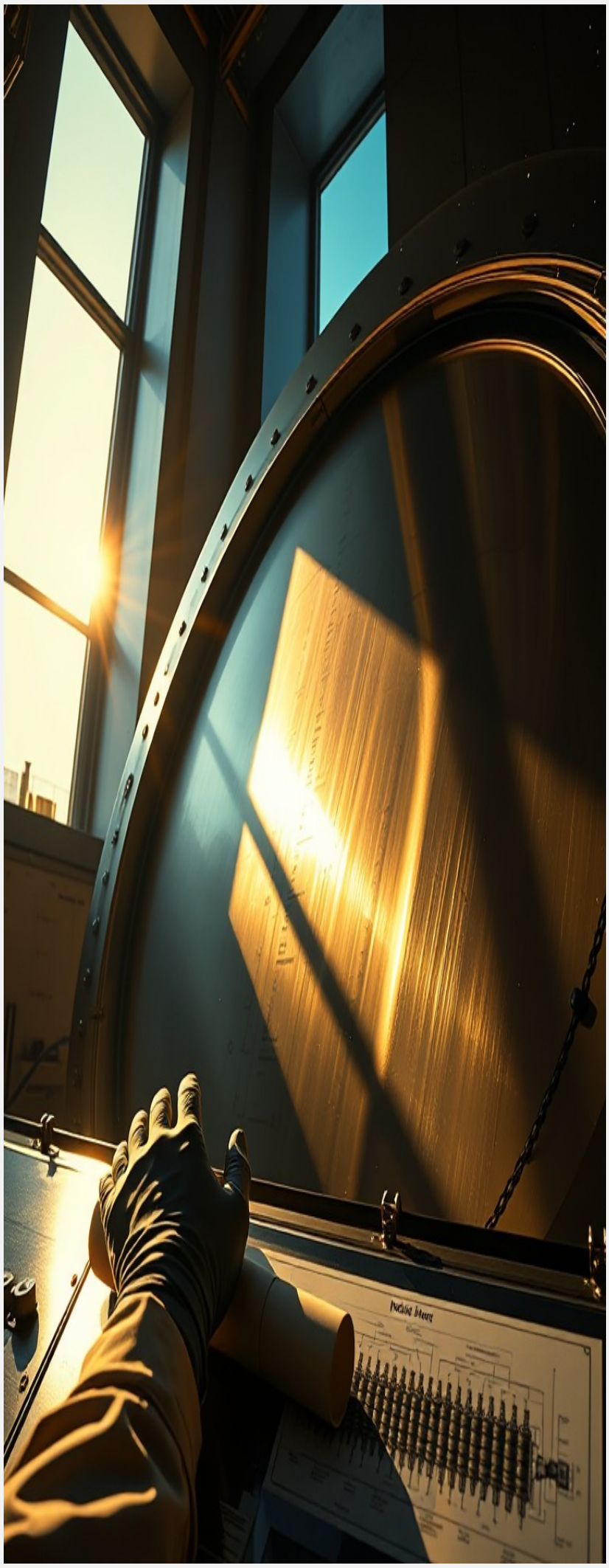


Source: WIRED · Published November 29, 2026
https://www.wired.com/story/the-ai-safety-debate-has-lost-the-plot-we-asked-10-experts-what-the-real-nightmares-are/

01

AI Safety Is Not a Technical Problem

The core issue isn’t whether AI can fail — it’s who defines what ‘safe’ means. In nuclear energy, safety is grounded in democratic thresholds: 'How safe is safe enough?' But AI labs now claim they get to set those rules. This is not engineering; it’s governance by self-proclaimed technocrats.



02

Real Risks Are Being Ignored

While labs debate extinction, experts warn of immediate, catastrophic threats: AI in nuclear operations, lab leaks, and cyberattacks on critical infrastructure. These are not hypothetical — they are already being deployed. The real danger isn't Skynet; it's untested AI integrated into high-stakes systems without independent validation.

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