# Nvidia CEO urges UK to strengthen AI infrastructure amid global race



The UK’s artificial intelligence (AI) sector is on the brink of major growth, according to Jensen Huang, CEO of Nvidia, the world’s leading AI hardware company. Speaking at London Tech Week, Huang praised Britain’s AI ecosystem as “one of the richest AI communities anywhere on the planet,” citing its innovative startups, world-class universities and dedicated researchers. But he warned that without stronger digital infrastructure, the UK will struggle to realise its full potential.

Huang spoke alongside Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer, who acknowledged public scepticism about AI’s impact on jobs and economic stability. He said the government must prove that AI can deliver real benefits to people’s everyday lives.

Huang highlighted recent commitments from major tech firms and welcomed the UK’s £1 billion pledge to boost its AI computing power twentyfold. Cloud providers including CoreWeave and Nebius are building data centres designed to run on Nvidia’s chips, part of a wider strategy to establish Britain as a global tech force.

Despite this progress, the UK remains well behind the US and China in private AI investment. Stanford’s 2025 AI Index Report found the UK attracted $4.5 billion last year, compared with $109.1 billion in the US and $9.3 billion in China. In response, the government’s AI Opportunities Action Plan includes faster planning approval for data centres and the UK’s first dedicated site at Culham in Oxfordshire.

Starmer has linked AI investment to economic growth, projecting an annual productivity rise of 1.5%—equivalent to £47 billion over ten years. But questions remain about job creation. While infrastructure projects like the £10 billion Northumberland initiative promise thousands of roles, experts caution that data centres themselves offer limited employment, calling for more realistic forecasts.

Starmer stressed the importance of working closely with the public. “When it comes to harnessing the power of this technology, I believe that the way we work through this together is critical,” he said. His government is also training civil servants in AI to improve public services.

As AI adoption accelerates, environmental concerns are mounting. Analysts warn that the energy demands of data centres could undermine renewable energy targets. Proposals include building data centres near green energy sources to offset their carbon footprint.

The UK’s ability to convert its AI talent into a globally competitive infrastructure will be tested in the months ahead. Balancing innovation with public trust and environmental responsibility will shape the country’s standing in the global AI race.

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## Bibliography

1. <https://tech.eu/2025/06/09/uk-ai-ecosystem-perfect-for-take-off-but-lacks-infrastructure-says-nvidia-ceo/> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.ft.com/content/cc04adfb-81b2-477f-b85c-ce042e8f83a8> - At the opening of London Tech Week, Nvidia CEO Jensen Huang emphasized that the UK lacks critical digital infrastructure to fully leverage its strong position in artificial intelligence (AI), despite having top-tier research talent and substantial private investment. Responding to this, British Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer announced a £1 billion investment to boost the nation’s AI computational capabilities, aiming to increase compute power twentyfold. This initiative complements plans from AI cloud providers Nscale and Nebius to build facilities equipped with Nvidia chips. Nvidia is also expanding its UK presence by launching an AI Technology Centre in Bristol and initiating the UK Sovereign AI Industry Forum, in collaboration with major firms like BAE Systems and BT. Meanwhile, the UK government is implementing AI training for all civil servants as part of a broader effort to modernize public services. Despite progress, the UK lags significantly behind the US and China in AI investment, with only $4.5bn in private funding compared to $109.1bn and $9.3bn respectively, according to Stanford’s 2025 AI Index Report. A new action plan aims to scale UK-owned GPU capacity to 100,000 units by 2030. ([ft.com](https://www.ft.com/content/cc04adfb-81b2-477f-b85c-ce042e8f83a8?utm_source=openai))
3. <https://www.reuters.com/world/uk/uk-pm-starmer-outline-plan-make-britain-world-leader-ai-2025-01-12/> - British Prime Minister Keir Starmer aims to position the UK as a global leader in artificial intelligence (AI). Announcing his plan in a speech in London, Starmer highlighted the economic benefits of adopting AI, predicting a 1.5% annual productivity boost translating to an extra £47 billion ($57 billion) over a decade. The government will implement 50 recommendations from the "AI Opportunities Action Plan" by venture capitalist Matt Clifford, including expedited planning permissions for data centers and energy connections. The UK's first special data center will be established in Culham, Oxfordshire. Despite competition from the U.S. and China, Starmer believes that prioritizing AI will generate jobs, investment, and economic growth. However, previous policy decisions like the high-tax budget have affected business confidence, and recent reports indicate stagnant economic growth. Starmer emphasizes the broader societal benefits of AI and underscores the urgency for swift action. ([reuters.com](https://www.reuters.com/world/uk/uk-pm-starmer-outline-plan-make-britain-world-leader-ai-2025-01-12/?utm_source=openai))
4. <https://apnews.com/article/c3d3da1a5503019cc79fc6b0718f0857> - Britain's Labour Party government announced £63 billion ($82 billion) in investments in AI, life sciences, infrastructure, and technology during an international business summit in London. Prime Minister Keir Starmer sought to assure around 300 executives from various industries that Britain's economy was now stable and welcoming for investments. Despite initiatives to reduce bureaucratic hurdles, the government faces balancing employer interests with workers' rights. A noteworthy point was the absence of Elon Musk, who criticized Britain's current state, but officials denied politically snubbing him. Important deals included expansion of London Gateway port and new research facilities like Eli Lilly's life sciences incubator. Treasury chief Rachel Reeves proposed a National Wealth Fund to support clean-energy industries. The event concluded with a royal reception featuring a performance by Elton John. ([apnews.com](https://apnews.com/article/c3d3da1a5503019cc79fc6b0718f0857?utm_source=openai))
5. <https://www.ft.com/content/2f25065d-3eeb-49f6-a5eb-8d22ed4697a5> - The new Labour government of Britain, led by Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer, aims to attract AI firms by removing planning obstacles for data centre infrastructure investments, predicting significant job creation. However, actual job forecasts for data centre projects may be inflated. For instance, a £10 billion investment in Northumberland is estimated to create 4,000 jobs according to the government, but direct employment in data centres is around 400 jobs. The additional jobs come from construction over a decade and indirectly linked employment in the local economy, often based on multipliers from economic models, which may be overestimated. Academic studies, like one by Henry Overman, suggest smaller actual job multipliers. The government should provide transparent, realistic job estimates rather than overly optimistic numbers. Data centres are crucial for economic progress but are capital-intensive rather than labour-intensive, requiring an updated narrative aligning with productivity growth goals. ([ft.com](https://www.ft.com/content/2f25065d-3eeb-49f6-a5eb-8d22ed4697a5?utm_source=openai))
6. <https://www.reuters.com/sustainability/boards-policy-regulation/policywatch-uk-says-ai-will-super-charge-economy-will-it-scupper-net-zero-2025-01-23/> - The UK aims to leverage artificial intelligence (AI) to stimulate its economy while maintaining its net-zero emissions goal. Prime Minister Keir Starmer's plan includes creating "AI growth zones," boosting public computing power, forming an AI Energy Council, and proposing the development of small modular nuclear reactors to meet AI's energy demands. This initiative, led by entrepreneur Matt Clifford, also emphasizes skills development and creating a National Data Library. The government predicts using AI and digital tools could boost public-sector productivity and save £45 billion. However, increased energy demands from data centers and AI could outpace the growth of renewable energy capacity. Solutions proposed include localizing data centers near renewable sources and leveraging thermal storage. The plan envisions AI assisting in bringing more renewables online and improving industrial energy efficiency. Still, balancing AI's substantial energy requirements with sustainability remains a key challenge. Industry experts suggest fostering collaboration, lateral thinking, and efficient use of computing power to achieve both economic and environmental goals. ([reuters.com](https://www.reuters.com/sustainability/boards-policy-regulation/policywatch-uk-says-ai-will-super-charge-economy-will-it-scupper-net-zero-2025-01-23/?utm_source=openai))