# Edinburgh to host UK’s most powerful supercomputer with £750m investment



Scotland is set to become a major technology hub with the announcement of a £750 million investment to build the UK’s most powerful supercomputer at the University of Edinburgh. Chancellor Rachel Reeves confirmed the funding, part of the UK Government’s wider strategy to expand artificial intelligence capabilities.

The move comes days after Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer unveiled a £1 billion plan to boost the UK’s AI computing power twentyfold. The Edinburgh supercomputer will form a key pillar of this initiative, aimed at accelerating scientific research and development across medicine, energy and AI safety.

Peter Kyle, Secretary of State for Science, Innovation and Technology, said Edinburgh’s legacy of innovation made it a natural choice for the new system. He cited Scotland’s contributions from the industrial revolution to modern tech as a foundation for future breakthroughs.

Reeves said the project would play a central role in Scotland’s economic renewal. “Strong investment in science and technology is essential to delivering prosperity for working people,” she said. The supercomputer will support the AI Research Resource, a national network of computing infrastructure for high-level scientific inquiry.

The funding reinstates a previous £750 million commitment and underscores a renewed focus on the UK’s AI and R&D capabilities. Academics and industry leaders have welcomed the move as a vote of confidence in Britain’s tech future.

The Edinburgh machine will also form part of a £900 million programme to expand national computing capacity. Set to begin installation in 2025, the system is expected to be 50 times more powerful than current UK supercomputers, advancing the country’s pursuit of exascale computing.

Government officials said the investment responds to growing international competition in AI and supports recommendations from venture capitalist Matt Clifford, whose upcoming AI action plan calls for improved GPU access across public services and research.

By anchoring this flagship system in Edinburgh, the UK aims to cement its global AI standing while creating high-skilled jobs and driving economic growth. The project reinforces Edinburgh’s position as a centre of technological leadership and underlines the role of innovation in addressing society’s most pressing challenges.

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## Bibliography

1. <https://businesscloud.co.uk/news/uks-750m-supercomputer-to-be-built-at-university-of-edinburgh/> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.ft.com/content/b1e91422-231c-48e4-baba-e5de38e41021> - The UK government has reinstated £750 million in funding for the University of Edinburgh's supercomputer project, reversing a previous decision to suspend the investment. This move aims to bolster Britain's AI industry and scientific research capabilities. The funding reinstatement is welcomed by academics and industry stakeholders and comes alongside a separate £1 billion boost for the AI Research Resource. Once completed, the Edinburgh supercomputer is expected to be the most powerful in the UK and part of a global push toward exascale computing.
3. <https://www.ft.com/content/06936a56-7f2b-4519-bdc2-c3b5a212dc83> - Despite recent controversies over cutting £1.3 billion for technology projects, the UK government under Sir Keir Starmer continues its commitment to investing in artificial intelligence and supercomputing. This includes plans for a new supercomputer at the University of Edinburgh. The fresh Labour administration seeks to balance public spending constraints with promises to boost science and technology to drive economic growth. Tech Secretary Peter Kyle is driving this commitment, supported by an 'AI action plan' slated for release in September by AI expert Matt Clifford.
4. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/game-changing-exascale-computer-planned-for-edinburgh> - Edinburgh has been selected to host a next-generation supercomputer, aiming to revolutionise breakthroughs in artificial intelligence, medicine, and clean low-carbon energy. The exascale system, funded by the UK government, will be 50 times more powerful than the current top-end system and is expected to support critical research into AI safety and development. This investment is part of a £900 million initiative to uplift the UK's computing capacity, helping to drive economic growth and create high-skilled jobs.
5. <https://www.ed.ac.uk/news/2023/edinburgh-to-lead-new-era-of-uk-supercomputing/> - The University of Edinburgh is set to host the UK's first next-generation supercomputer, which will be 50 times faster than any of the country's existing machines. The exascale supercomputer, funded by the Department for Science, Innovation and Technology through UK Research and Innovation, will be housed in a new £31 million wing of the University's Advanced Computing Facility. Installation of the first phase is due to begin in 2025, and the supercomputer is expected to provide high-performance computing capability for key research and industry projects across the UK.
6. <https://www.ft.com/content/3df56e38-357c-495f-b81b-d11dcfe3055f> - The UK government plans to significantly boost its AI computing capacity over five years, including constructing a new supercomputer, to establish a competitive AI sector globally. This decision follows a report by venture capitalist Matt Clifford, advocating for 100,000 GPUs in government-owned capacity by 2030. The expanded capacity aims to support AI applications in academia and public services and will be funded by the Department for Science, Innovation and Technology's R&D budget. Prime Minister Keir Starmer emphasised the economic and public service benefits of AI.
7. <https://www.the-independent.com/news/uk/edinburgh-scottish-university-of-edinburgh-innovation-alister-jack-b2426313.html> - Edinburgh has been selected to host a next-generation supercomputer, aiming to revolutionise breakthroughs in artificial intelligence, medicine, and clean low-carbon energy. The exascale system, funded by the UK government, will be 50 times more powerful than the current top-end system and is expected to support critical research into AI safety and development. This investment is part of a £900 million initiative to uplift the UK's computing capacity, helping to drive economic growth and create high-skilled jobs.