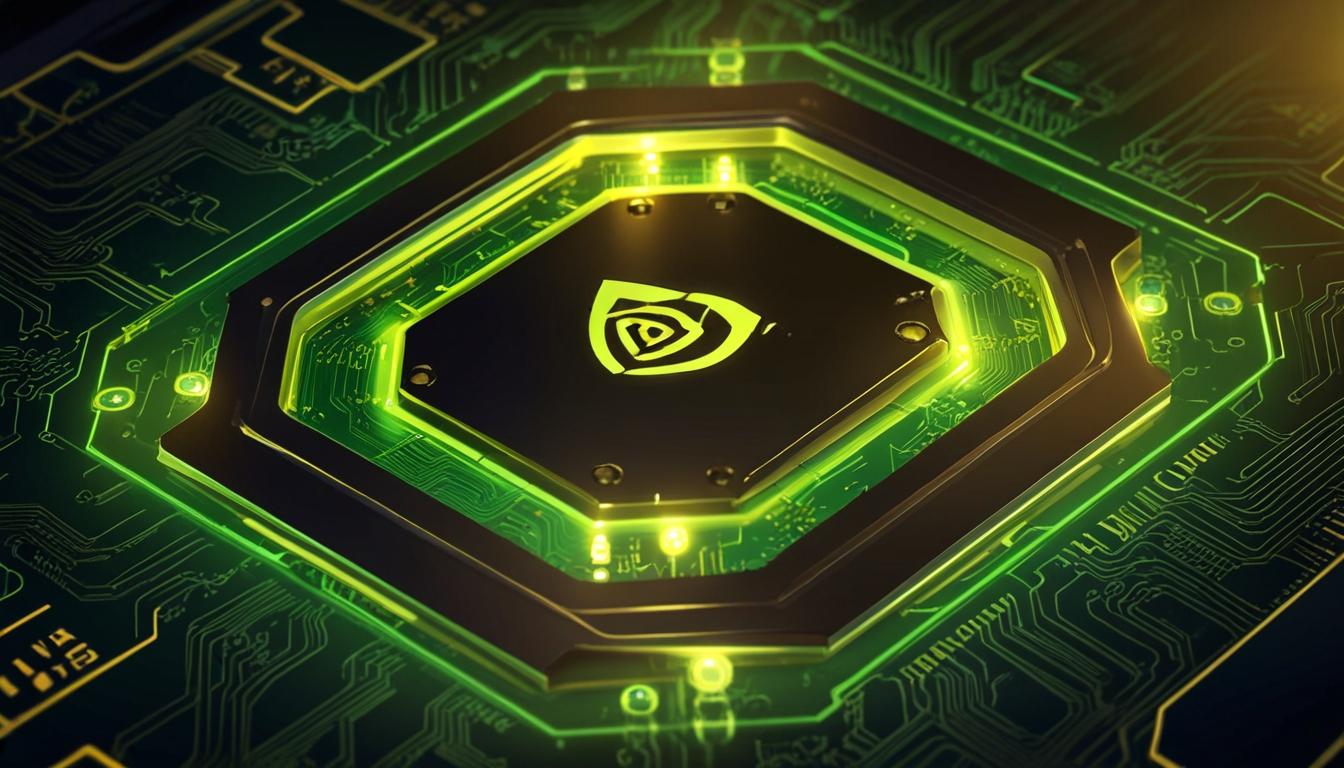
# NVIDIA leads European AI expansion with Blackwell infrastructure push



NVIDIA has unveiled plans to transform Europe’s AI infrastructure through its Blackwell initiative, a continent-wide collaboration aimed at advancing digital sovereignty and economic growth. The project brings together governments and leading tech firms from countries including France, Italy, Spain and the UK to strengthen Europe's AI capabilities amid growing geopolitical pressure.

Partners include emerging AI developers like Mistral AI, cloud firms such as Domyn and Nebius, and telecom operators including Orange, Swisscom, Telefónica and Telenor. Their shared goal is to establish scalable, secure and sovereign AI infrastructure tailored for regional businesses.

Orange is expanding enterprise AI services via Cloud Avenue, built on NVIDIA’s high-performance systems. Italy’s Fastweb has launched MIIA, a generative AI model trained on NVIDIA chips. In Norway, Telenor is developing a renewable-powered data centre housing a multilingual AI translation tool. Telefónica is building a distributed AI network across Spain, using hundreds of NVIDIA GPUs to deliver low-latency, privacy-focused services.

These efforts are backed by a projected 3,000 exaflops of compute capacity, to be deployed through AI tech centres in Finland, Germany, Sweden, Italy and the UK. This computing power is critical to support modern AI applications and reflects a wider public-private drive to build a comprehensive European AI ecosystem.

NVIDIA CEO Jensen Huang has warned that the UK, while rich in AI research, lacks the necessary digital infrastructure. Responding to this, Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer recently announced a £1 billion investment to boost the UK’s computing capacity twentyfold and scale AI adoption across sectors.

Europe’s ambitions are not without obstacles. Energy supply, skilled workforce shortages and regulatory complexity remain key concerns. McKinsey estimates that $300 billion in investment will be needed to scale Europe’s AI capabilities effectively.

As part of the Blackwell rollout, NVIDIA plans to open 200 AI data centres across Europe, including five major gigafactories equipped with next-generation GPUs. A standout collaboration with Mistral AI will deploy 18,000 Blackwell chips to new facilities, bolstering regional self-sufficiency.

The Netherlands is also moving to enhance its AI footprint, entering talks with NVIDIA and AMD to create a national AI supercomputer. Government-backed funding is being directed towards AI infrastructure to support broader EU digital ambitions.

This growing network of alliances marks a pivotal step in Europe's AI evolution. By combining investment, innovation and sovereign strategy, the Blackwell initiative could define the continent’s place in the global AI economy, positioning Europe not just as a participant, but as a leader in responsible and competitive AI development.

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.mobileeurope.co.uk/orange-swisscom-telefonica-and-telenor-join-nvidia-in-european-ai-infra-push/> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.ft.com/content/cc04adfb-81b2-477f-b85c-ce042e8f83a8> - Nvidia CEO Jensen Huang highlighted the UK's insufficient digital infrastructure despite its strong AI research talent and significant private investment. In response, UK Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer announced a £1 billion investment to expand the nation's AI computing capabilities, aiming to increase compute power twentyfold and position the UK as an AI leader. The funding will bolster the UK AI Research Resource launched in 2023 and support wider AI adoption, including training for civil servants. Nvidia also announced initiatives like a new AI Technology Centre in Bristol and the UK Sovereign AI Industry Forum in collaboration with firms like BAE Systems and BT. Additionally, AI cloud companies Nscale and Nebius will launch facilities using thousands of Nvidia's chips. Despite this momentum, UK AI investments remain significantly lower than those of the US and China, with plans to close this gap, including a long-term goal of expanding government computing capacity to match 100,000 Nvidia GPUs by 2030.
3. <https://www.ft.com/content/36cb69e3-822b-4e3b-bb6d-04b617ca78ab> - Nvidia CEO Jensen Huang announced that Europe's ongoing shortage of computing power for artificial intelligence (AI) will be resolved soon, as the continent accelerates efforts to catch up with the US and China in AI development. Speaking at the VivaTech conference in Paris, Huang revealed plans for at least 200 AI data centres throughout Europe over the next few years, leading to a projected tenfold increase in data centre capacity. This expansion includes five major 'gigafactories' equipped with Nvidia's advanced graphics processing units (GPUs). A key element in this effort is Nvidia's expanded partnership with French AI start-up Mistral AI, which plans to deploy 18,000 of Nvidia's latest Blackwell GPUs in a new facility near Paris, marking a significant step for European technological autonomy. The initiative coincides with broader investments by European cloud providers, such as Nscale and Nebius, to build GPU-rich infrastructure. However, significant hurdles remain, including energy availability, engineering workforce, and planning delays. McKinsey estimates that up to $300 billion in investment will be necessary to scale Europe's AI capacity and meet surging demand. Despite the challenges, Huang expressed confidence that Europe's AI and GPU shortages will soon be mitigated by homegrown infrastructure efforts.
4. <https://www.reuters.com/technology/artificial-intelligence/netherlands-secures-nvidias-supply-possible-ai-facility-2025-01-09/> - The Dutch government is in discussions with U.S. chip firms Nvidia and AMD about supplying hardware and technological knowledge for a potential artificial intelligence (AI) facility. This facility aims to house an AI supercomputer that will enhance research and development, aligning with broader EU projects to strengthen Europe's digital economy. Last year, the Dutch government allocated 204.5 million euros ($210 million) for investments in AI and plans to leverage European subsidies for this initiative. Economy minister Dirk Beljaarts indicated that these discussions have increased the likelihood of realizing the project but did not provide full details, citing global competition in technology. The negotiation with Nvidia, which took place in Silicon Valley, signifies an important step towards establishing the Dutch AI facility.
5. <https://www.se.com/ww/en/about-us/newsroom/news/press-releases/schneider-electric-collaborates-with-nvidia-on-designs-for-ai-data-centers-65f801c8595e3ff8cd0a80c8> - Schneider Electric, a leader in digital transformation of energy management and automation, announced a collaboration with NVIDIA to optimize data center infrastructure and advance edge artificial intelligence (AI) and digital twin technologies. Schneider Electric will leverage its expertise in data center infrastructure and NVIDIA's advanced AI technologies to introduce publicly available AI data center reference designs. These designs aim to redefine benchmarks for AI deployment and operation within data center ecosystems, marking a significant milestone in the industry's evolution. With AI applications gaining traction across industries and demanding more resources than traditional computing, the need for processing power has surged exponentially. The rise of AI has spurred notable transformations and complexities in data center design and operation, with data center operators working to swiftly construct and operate energy-stable facilities that are both energy-efficient and scalable.
6. <https://www.marispacex.com/news/marispace-x-collaborates-with-nvidia> - The multi-million euro European cloud project Marispace-X, financed by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action (BMWK), is collaborating with NVIDIA on software-defined, connected, AI-based solutions for the world's oceans. The collaboration aims to analyse the vast amounts of data generated in Marispace-X's maritime data space with the help of the latest hardware and AI processes. Specialists from various members of the Marispace-X consortium are already testing NVIDIA technologies, including NVIDIA RAPIDS for data science and NVIDIA Modulus for developing AI models to accelerate physics simulations, as well as the NVIDIA DGX AI supercomputing platform, for use cases such as generating novel and highly accurate acoustic models and enabling accelerated computation of underwater data. The focus is on practical applications, including detecting objects using AI and sensor fusion, generating predictions with the help of physics AI, and better protecting critical maritime infrastructure by detecting the smallest changes. For example, it could help find the optimal locations in the Baltic Sea for seagrass meadows, which can be a very important CO2 reservoir for achieving climate neutrality in the future. The comprehensive analyses could reveal the specific soil properties or microcurrents that the meadows need. The goal is to cultivate seagrass in a targeted manner to offset the effects of the climate. The collaboration with NVIDIA extends to the financial services and insurance sectors, including sustainable finance, ESG, and natural disaster assessment modeling. Digital platforms and intelligent services based on ocean data, AI, and digital twins will emerge and help better manage risks such as those presented by offshore renewable energy infrastructure.