# Schneider Electric event highlights UK’s AI infrastructure momentum



Schneider Electric hosted its first “Partnering for AI-Ready Data Centres” event in London, bringing together senior leaders across technology, energy and infrastructure to chart a path for the UK’s AI future. The gathering coincided with a series of major announcements—including OpenAI’s Stargate UK supercomputer in Loughton, NVIDIA’s largest European GPU rollout, and the launch of the North East AI Growth Zone—cementing the UK’s ambition to lead in AI innovation.

Timed with the UK-US Tech Prosperity Deal, which unlocked a record £31 billion in investment, the event underscored the scale of opportunity. Discussions centred on workforce skills, sovereign data centre capacity, energy demand and the need for sustainable innovation in power and cooling systems to support AI workloads. “The UK has a huge opportunity to become an AI-maker,” said Mark Yeeles, Vice President of Secure Power UK&I at Schneider Electric. “But it will require deep collaboration across the ecosystem—from providers and operators to investors and government.”

Speakers included Anthony Hills of NVIDIA UK&I, Tom Gibbons of Dell Technologies and Mark Bjornsgaard of Deep Green, alongside senior voices from Schneider Electric.

NVIDIA reinforced its role in the UK’s AI infrastructure through a £2 billion pledge to boost the startup ecosystem and a partnership with Nscale to deploy up to 60,000 Grace Blackwell GPUs domestically. Other collaborations include R&D projects with Oxford Quantum Circuits and work with techUK on AI and robotics initiatives.

Government support is also scaling up. A £1 billion partnership with OpenAI aims to expand public compute capacity twenty-fold over five years, advancing AI security and applications across healthcare, education and defence. Prime Minister Keir Starmer’s ‘AI Opportunities Action Plan’ reflects this commitment to sovereign infrastructure.

UK AI startups raised £2.9 billion last year, with the sector’s economic contribution doubling to £11.8 billion. Employment has surged past 86,000. These figures are set to rise further through the UK-US Tech Prosperity Deal, which is fuelling investment across AI, semiconductors and data centres—including a $700 million infrastructure commitment by BlackRock.

Industry figures at the Schneider Electric event, including Matt Quirk of Supermicro and Matt Hawkins of CUDO Compute, stressed the need to convert momentum into measurable outcomes—driving innovation, developing talent and delivering sustainable infrastructure.

Demis Hassabis, founder of DeepMind, emphasised the UK’s unique strength in combining academic excellence with technical talent. He called for international standards on ethical AI, highlighting the UK’s role in shaping responsible innovation.

Schneider Electric’s focus on advanced power systems, modular data centres and liquid cooling technologies reflects the intersection of sustainability and scale that underpins AI readiness.

Together, these developments mark a forward-looking trajectory for the UK. Through sustained investment, collaboration and commitment to responsible growth, the country is well positioned to lead the next industrial era driven by artificial intelligence.

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.intelligentcio.com/eu/2025/09/24/schneider-electric-hosts-partnering-for-ai-event-to-drive-collaboration-across-the-uks-ai-and-data-centre-ecosystem/> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.intelligentdatacentres.com/2025/09/24/schneider-electric-hosts-partnering-for-ai-event-to-drive-collaboration-across-the-uks-ai-and-data-centre-ecosystem/> - Schneider Electric hosted its inaugural 'Partnering for AI-Ready Data Centres' event in London, aiming to foster collaboration within the UK's AI and data centre ecosystem. The event coincided with significant AI developments in the UK, including the unveiling of Stargate UK, OpenAI's new supercomputer in Loughton, and NVIDIA's largest GPU rollout in Europe. Discussions at the event addressed challenges such as the workforce skills gap, the need for renewable energy, and innovations in power and cooling to support AI workloads sustainably. Key speakers included leaders from NVIDIA, Dell Technologies, Deep Green, Supermicro, and JLL, alongside Schneider Electric executives. The event underscored the UK's commitment to becoming a leader in AI innovation through collaborative efforts across technology providers, operators, investors, government, and academia.
3. <https://www.nvidia.com/en-us/about-nvidia/press-releases/2025/09/16/16-00-nvidia-unveils-uk-ai-infrastructure-plan/> - NVIDIA announced a partnership with UK-based AI infrastructure company Nscale to scale up 300,000 NVIDIA Grace Blackwell GPUs worldwide, with up to 60,000 GPUs in the UK. This collaboration aims to build AI factories serving leading AI models, including those from OpenAI, to support the UK's sovereign AI goals. The initiative is part of a broader effort to accelerate the AI industrial revolution in the UK, fostering job opportunities and sustainable economic growth. Additionally, NVIDIA is collaborating with Oxford Quantum Circuits to build a quantum-GPU AI supercomputing center and launching an R&D hub with techUK to advance the nation's AI and robotics ecosystem.
4. <https://www.reuters.com/world/uk/uk-chatgpt-maker-openai-sign-new-strategic-partnership-2025-07-21/> - The UK government and OpenAI have signed a strategic partnership to advance artificial intelligence (AI) security research and bolster the UK's AI infrastructure, including investments in data centres. The initiative is part of the UK's broader strategy to become a global AI leader, responding to growing competition from the United States, China, and India. Technology Secretary Peter Kyle emphasized AI’s potential to transform public sectors such as healthcare, education, and the economy. The government plans to invest £1 billion to expand public compute capacity twenty-fold over the next five years. OpenAI, acknowledging the UK’s proactive stance through Prime Minister Keir Starmer's 'AI Opportunities Action Plan,' may also expand its London operations and contribute to AI applications in legal, defense, and education fields.
5. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/investment-in-british-ai-companies-hits-record-levels-as-tech-sec-pitches-uk-as-global-magnet> - British AI companies attracted record investment last year, driving the government's Plan for Change. A total of £2.9 billion in private support and average deals worth £5.9 million have set the stage for further investment and new opportunities for both AI companies and financial backers alike. It means British AI companies alone now contribute £11.8 billion to the UK economy – double the amount in 2023 – while AI employment tops 86,000 across the country. This record investment is unlocking new growth which will benefit communities, helping fuel further development and putting more money in people’s pockets through AI.
6. <https://www.reuters.com/world/uk/uk-us-sign-multibillion-dollar-tech-deal-during-trumps-visit-2025-09-13/> - The United Kingdom and the United States are set to sign a significant multibillion-dollar technology agreement during President Donald Trump's upcoming state visit to the UK. The deal aims to strengthen collaboration in emerging tech sectors, including artificial intelligence, semiconductors, telecommunications, and quantum computing. UK Technology Secretary Liz Kendall highlighted the transformative potential of these technologies. President Trump's three-day visit, beginning Tuesday, will include a delegation of top U.S. tech leaders such as Nvidia CEO Jensen Huang and OpenAI’s Sam Altman. As part of the broader set of deals, investment firm BlackRock is expected to invest $700 million in UK data centers. The agreement underscores increasing transatlantic collaboration, with U.S. tech firms like OpenAI expanding operations in London and UK companies such as DeepMind deepening ties with American counterparts, in line with shared AI Action Plans launched by both nations earlier this year.
7. <https://www.reuters.com/technology/artificial-intelligence/uk-must-have-global-ambition-ai-deepminds-hassabis-says-2025-03-17/> - DeepMind's founder, Demis Hassabis, emphasized the importance of the UK leveraging its strengths in AI to influence global deployment, highlighting the country's top universities and talent pool. He spoke at a Google AI event where Google announced upgrades in the UK and introduced new products, including data residency expansion for Google Agentspace and the Chirp 3 audio generation model on Vertex AI. British Prime Minister Keir Starmer mentioned the UK's collaboration with the US on an economic deal focusing on advanced tech. Additionally, Oracle announced a $5 billion investment in Britain to support AI innovation and cloud services over the next five years. Hassabis also called for international standards on AI's use of copyrighted material.