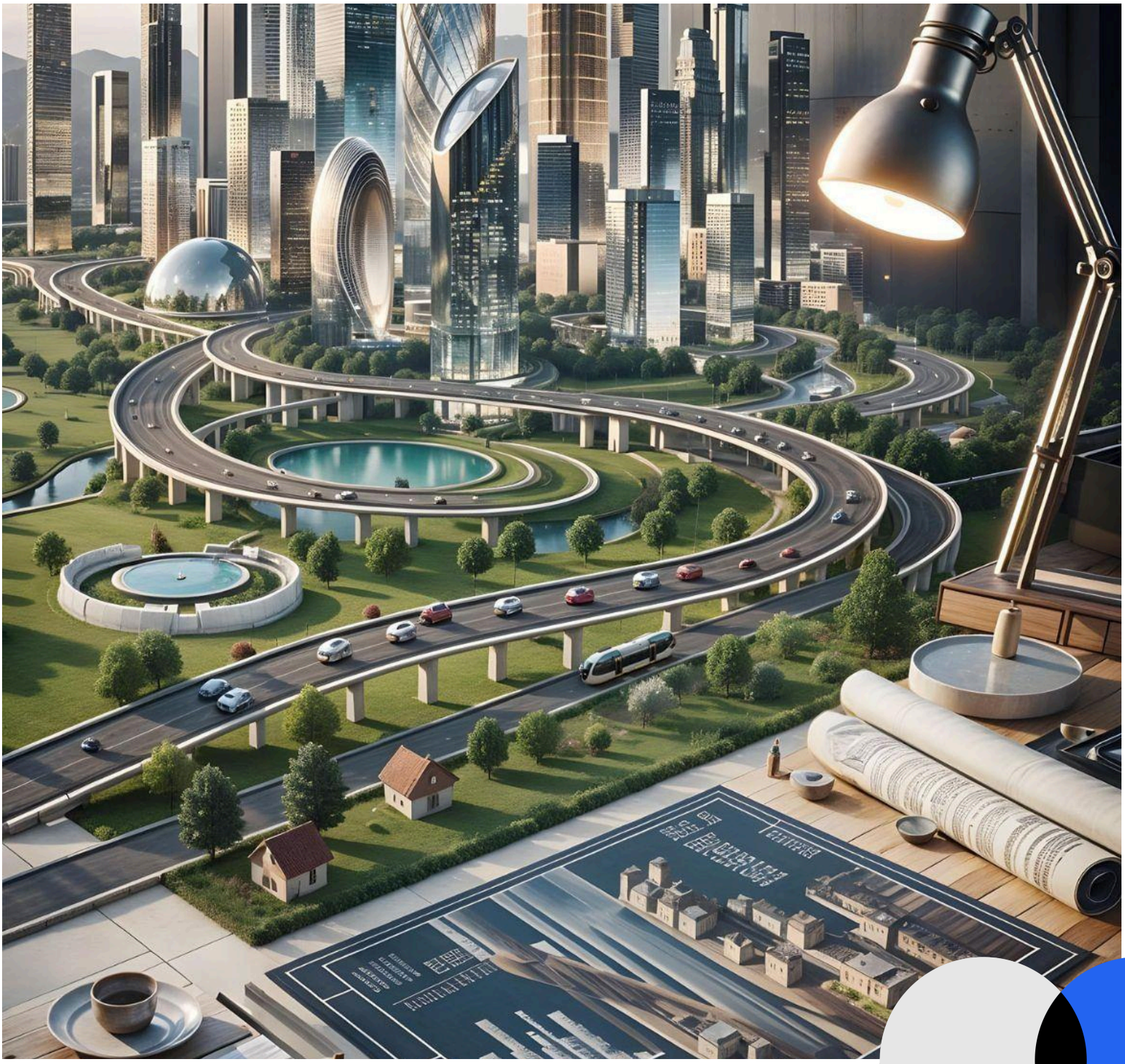

Ideas to Power Democratic AI

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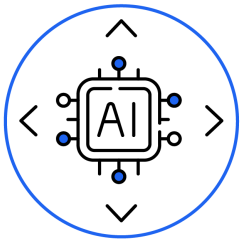
OpenAI



OpenAI, Europe and AI

Today, democratic values and governance face almost unprecedented challenges from authoritarian regimes at the very moment when AI infrastructure and its economic and national security benefits are in high demand around the world. The People's Republic of China (PRC) is making real progress in advancing its autocratic version of AI with the goal of becoming the global leader in the technology by 2030.

The United States and Europe have long worked together to build the financial rails for the world, increase productivity and shared prosperity, and in so doing, spread democratic values. We need a similar approach to AI today, by which the US and its allies leverage interest in AI infrastructure and its benefits to encourage global adoption of AI built on democratic principles, rather than authoritarian AI. The European Commission and key EU Member States need to be ambitious in making the planned EU gigafactories a step change for the region and its ability to reap the benefits of this technology for its citizens.

OpenAI is pleased to be working closely with both American and European policymakers toward frameworks and projects that can provide significant scaffolding for this global strategy, as well as the basis of an updated trans-Atlantic relationship when it comes to regulating new technologies to better support safety, innovation and growth.

Chris Lehane
Chief Global Affairs Officer

Overview

Energy has always been the ability to make ideas happen, but never more so than in the AI era, when energy will power not just discrete innovations in mobility, productivity and discovery—it will power the scaling of human ingenuity itself. As our CEO Sam Altman has written, intelligence and energy are the keys to human progress. Once we have abundant energy and intelligence, along with good governance, we can theoretically have anything else.

In January, we stood with President Trump and our partners at the White House to announce the Stargate Project, a $500 billion investment in new AI infrastructure for OpenAI in the US. Stargate 1 is rising on nearly 1,000 acres in Abilene, Texas. Since announcing Stargate in January, we've received and reviewed hundreds of proposed sites across more than 20 US states, and we expect to share more about additional sites soon.

Stargate will provide strategic capability to protect America's national security and that of our allies by ensuring that the AI we advance is shaped by democratic principles. In advancing democratic AI, America is competing with a PRC advancing its autocratic version of AI and determined to become the global leader by 2030. To that end, the PRC approved the construction of 10 new nuclear reactors last year alone, with 10 more coming online this year.

For our part, OpenAI for Countries is our response to governments interested in building their own AI ecosystems on democratic rails, including AI leaders in Europe. Since launching Stargate, we've heard from many countries who want help in building out similar AI infrastructure to support their future economic growth and national development. They recognize that AI, like electricity, is a foundational technology that can strengthen a country's economic competitiveness and national security, and that infrastructure is destiny. Through OpenAI for Countries, and in coordination with the US government, our formalized partnerships will help countries build in-country data-center capacity and provide customized ChatGPT for their citizens.

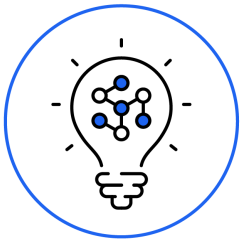
Building enough AI infrastructure is not just vital for ensuring that AI around the world is based on American rather than PRC technology—it's an unmissable opportunity to catalyze a reindustrialization of the US. Building the infrastructure needed to produce enough energy and chips to drive down the cost of compute and make it abundant will, in turn, create tens of

thousands of skilled-trade jobs; boost local economies; and modernize our energy grid in the near term—ultimately supporting the kind of breakthroughs and innovations that strengthen national competitiveness and create lasting growth.

Even in moderate forecasts, top economists estimate that AI could increase productivity by a few percentage points; some project double-digit growth. These gains should soon start coming into view: ChatGPT is the fastest-scaling technology the world has ever seen, reaching 1 million users within five days of launch. Today, more than 500 million people are using our freely available tools weekly to produce, ideate, and discover. To scale these productivity gains, OpenAI is working to get AI directly and safely into as many people's hands as quickly as possible—in addition to, rather than only through enterprise clients, which would concentrate the gains.

As importantly, we see the expansion of Stargate at home as an opportunity to open up domestic energy investment for the AI era by, 1) using the US government's AI needs to pull forward the energy investments that must go hand-in-hand; 2) supporting energy infrastructure and locally designed economic development initiatives; and 3) bringing communities in, giving local communities stakes in the success of AI infrastructure and energy projects beyond the generated economics.

At OpenAI, just as we believe in putting AI directly in people's hands to quickly scale its benefits and surface its challenges, we believe that engaging on issues means not just identifying challenges but raising ideas and insights to start considering solutions. We offer the below ideas as food for thought.



Ideas

American AI Leadership Reserve

Successful nations turn resources into competitive advantages. Securing America's leadership in AI demands a proactive approach inspired by strategic resource-based initiatives of the past, like the Strategic Petroleum Reserve or the Department of Energy's Exascale Computing Initiative. Now could be the time to establish an American AI Leadership Reserve, contractually securing long-term access to the compute needed to sustain America's pole position on AI development.

Similar to how Stargate projects rely on multi-decade power purchase agreements to secure power, an American AI Leadership Reserve would send a strong market signal—including to pools of hundreds of billions of dollars in foreign capital—that boosts confidence in American infrastructure projects. In turn, this would speed up the build-out of near-term and next generation energy infrastructure needed to power sustained innovation here in the US.

AI Economic Zones

We have previously proposed that local, state, and the federal government work together with industry to create AI Economic Zones. These zones could:

- Incentivize the building, and speed up the permitting of new AI infrastructure, including new nuclear reactors, solar arrays, power plants, substations, and transmission lines.
- Support development of a local AI-ready workforce through literacy programs and apprenticeships, in partnership with local institutions.
- As the US considers its approach to international talent, provide a pathway to steer highly skilled talent to identified communities to help stimulate their economic growth.
- Support construction of local community infrastructure, e.g., emergency response systems, schools, community centers.
- Contribute positively to the surrounding communities, creating pathways for them to share in the growth.

At the project level, AI Economic Zones could streamline the building of new energy infrastructure by:

- Modernizing approval processes to apply to today's nuclear facilities, including small modular reactors, fusion, and other emerging technologies.
- Speeding up approvals under the National Environmental Policy Act, such as through national security waivers.
- Prioritizing tax incentives, matching investments, and credit enhancements to encourage private-sector investment.

AI Economic Zones can be a springboard to update old frameworks and trial new partnership models that create wins for both the sector and the communities they're operating in.

A Shared Prosperity Model for the Intelligence Age

AI's outputs are informed by society's inputs. Since everyone contributes to AI's outputs, everyone should benefit from them, as well. The phrase "data is the new oil" took off as search and social media companies grew their businesses by monetizing their users' information. AI is our opportunity, and arguably our mandate, to think differently about how we can make sure everyone benefits from the outputs for contributing to the inputs.

As Sam has written, we may not define a new framework for the Intelligence Age all at once, but we can implement changes that, when we look back a few decades from now, we will see have amounted to substantial progress: AI-driven healthcare benefits that improve quality of life and lifespans, scientific breakthroughs that conquer diseases—and all made quickly and widely available.

Stargate Academies: Multi-track OpenAI Academies, our AI literacy program already used by 1.3 million Americans, could be stood up in Stargate hubs to provide in-person and virtual training ranging from introductory courses in AI use for local residents, to specialized courses for the local workforce on Stargate site construction, to K-12 teacher training with a focus on educator-led innovation. For trades working onsite, this could include tailored tracks focused, for example, on AI-integrated electrical systems, predictive maintenance using AI tools, smart grid diagnostics, and safe installation of advanced compute and power infrastructure—ensuring that workers help shape, and directly benefit from the intelligent systems they're powering.

Innovation Partnerships: OpenAI, together with private- and public-sector partners, is creating opportunities for universities, research labs, governments and start-ups to access core components of the AI ecosystem, such as compute, models and talent. New public-private partnerships will democratize access to AI by giving communities hosting Stargate projects access to critical enablers of innovation, accelerating their ability to deploy models in their particular, highest-value ways—such as by helping local start-ups develop, test and scale new products and helping local researchers push the boundaries of knowledge right in their own backyards. OpenAI will provide innovation support—compute grants and technical expertise—to approved organizations in exchange for R&D incentives or matching grants from federal and state governments. In some states, this model will build upon existing voucher programs, which have been very effective in supercharging industry-academic-startup collaborations that had previously been deemed too expensive or too complex to undertake.

AI Trusts: Working with local government and other institutions, we could explore new models by which surrounding communities hosting Stargate projects can directly share in the projects' financial upsides, either through state or university-led investments or through locally governed AI trusts. These endowments would account for lessons learned from collaborations like the Alaska Permanent Fund, through which oil revenues are shared with Alaskans. For example, to optimize for efficiency and deter politicization, AI trusts could be time-limited rather than exist in perpetuity.

We welcome the opportunity to discuss the enclosed ideas, and any further ideas they might inspire, with those working toward sustained American leadership in AI.

About OpenAI

OpenAI wants to ensure that as AI advances, it benefits everyone. We're building AI to help people solve hard problems because by helping with the hard problems, AI can benefit the most people possible—through more scientific discoveries, better healthcare and education, and improved productivity. We're off to a strong start, creating freely available intelligence being used by more than 500 million people around the world, including 3 million developers. We believe AI will scale human ingenuity and drive unprecedented economic growth and new freedoms that help people accomplish what we can't even imagine today.
