Date & Time	**Thursday, June 13 | 9:00am – 9:30am ET**
Outlet	**Canadian Press**
Journalist	**Tara Deschamps, Business Reporter**
	Tara is a season reporter covering technology, retail and cannabis. At the moment, she is super focused on AI and her articles have significantly contributed to the dialogue on AI in Canada.
	She has previously worked at the Toronto Star and Globe and Mail. She has also contributed to the New York Times, the Guardian, Star Metro News and Maclean's.
	Recent articles *(Below links for outlets that don't require a subscription to access it)*:
	Anthropic brings its safety-first AI chatbot Claude to Canada –Yahoo. Also appeared in Toronto Star and more (June 5, 2024)
	AI could boost Canada's lagging productivity, Microsoft Canada's president says – CityNews. Also appeared in The Globe and Mail and more (April 25, 2024)
	Canada's AI reputation at risk if it doesn't speed up adoption: tech community – Financial Post (February 22, 2024)
	As ChatGPT marks one-year anniversary, here's how Canadian companies are using AI – Toronto Star (Nov 30, 2023)
Spokesperson	**Manav Gupta, VP and CTO, IBM Canada**
	- *Your role is to position IBM as a leader in AI in the Canadian market*
	- *Highlight our approach to open innovation and the value for open*
Discussion Topic	- State of AI in Canada, specifically exploring whether we have the right infrastructure to support it, what the future of AI in the country looks like and how our regulations are doing.
	- AI Alliance and the work that has be done since its formation late 2023.
Format	Virtual (via webex) - https://ibm.webex.com/meet/ruhee
	Ruhee to staff the meeting.

Soundbites

*"We believe **the future of AI is open** – no matter what some say."*

*"The goal is to create a transformative path of sustained business value while reimagining what's possible with their most valuable asset, their data. **Don't be an AI user — be an AI value creator**."*

*"Once a business's data is in a format that can be added to a model, they can deploy, scale, and create value with their own AI applications. **It's not really magic — it's just math, human ingenuity, and a lot of computing power."***

*"It's an exciting time for the future of computing. But no one company will be able to shape the future on their own**. Innovation happens best when everyone has the same playing field to start from**. That's partly why IBM helped create the AI Alliance."*

Suggested Talking Points

1. **AI Landscape in Canada**
   - Important to set the stage on what's going on in tech today and how important this moment is.
   - Businesses are overwhelmed, underprepared and unsure how to profit from AI.
   - Enterprises need AI that is accurate, scalable and adaptable.
   - The power of foundation models will push us into a new era of AI for business.
   - Canada has a strong foundation in AI research and talent and is expected to see tens of thousands of AI-related jobs to emerge in the next 5 years.
   - Canadian organizations are well positioned to unlock new productivity across the country.
     - Gen AI could add almost 2% to Canada's GDP (Conference Board of Canada, Feb'24).
   - This is a **critical moment for Canadian organizations – the models we invest today** could make or break our leadership position in generative AI.
   - We are working with some of Canada's largest retailers, financial institutions, and tech companies to evaluate and choose AI models for their organization – and there are key drivers in these discussions. *Simply put it's about scale and speed to market.*
   - There is a need to accelerate AI adoption to stay competitive and productive vs. industry and global peers.
   - However, this acceleration is often outpacing the in-house capabilities of IT teams and in-house platforms.
   - The benefit of 'open-source' AI models is about scale – as a business, you can access vast bodies of work and analysis from a collective vs. solely relying on your own team

2. **AI Adoption: Early adopters lead the way; Canada steadily catching up**
   - We are at the table with clients, partnering to build AI roadmaps with our watsonx platform.
   - We also keep our finger on the pulse of what's driving adoption, and the barriers to entry.
   - On a global stage, growth of Enterprise adoption of AI has been driven by early adopters.
   - Key Canadian Highlights from Global AI Adoption Index released earlier this year show that AI adoption is growing in Canada, with an increase in AI deployment at large organizations.
     - The study also highlight that **Canadian companies are using open-source technology (35%) & technology providers (35%)**
   IBM is deeply committed to open-source and its benefits
   - IBM has a long and strong commitment to open source.
   - For example – watsonx allows businesses/our clients to use open-source models and we are actively contributing to open-source communities.
   - Our ultimate goal is to spur AI progress and to make models safer and open-source can help do this.

3. **The Future of AI**
   - Three fundamental questions are currently shaping the trajectory of AI:
     - Should AI be **open** or **closed**?
     - Should AI be dominated by a **single** model or **multiple** models?
     - Should AI operate **with** or **without guardrails**?

- **AI should be open.** We firmly believe in the power of open collaboration. The best work gets done in the open-source community and open systems allow for a diverse set of solutions. This mitigates the risks of echo chambers and prevents vendor lock-in issues.
  - Public scrutiny leads to more robust security as a wider community can fortify AI systems. And open AI democratizes access, ensuring that its benefits are accessible to the many, not the few.
- **AI should be hybrid.** We believe multiple models will thrive. There will not be one model that will rule them all. It's about multiple models, each applied to a specific use case. Different models can be optimized for specific tasks, enhancing performance and efficiency.
  - The cloud is hybrid and AI should be hybrid as well. A hybrid-by-design approach allows you to manage multi-model AI across complex, multi-cloud environments.
- **AI should be trusted.** Without responsible deployment, AI can have negative real-world consequences - especially in sensitive, safety-critical areas.
  - Responsible and trusted AI requires governance tools, regulatory standards, and built-in safeguards to ensure that models don't run adrift. This helps ensure that AI operates safely and ultimately boosts public trust in AI technologies.

IBM's contributions to the open-source ecosystem
- **Granite Models**: Open sourcing our Granite Large Language Models (LLMs)
- **InstructLab**, open-source method enabling modification of a pre-trained LLMs.
- **Global AI Alliance**: Formed with Meta in 2023. Group of organizations across industry, startup, academia, research and government driving open innovation and open science in AI.
- **Indemnification**: IBM provides an IP indemnity (contractual protection) for our foundation models, enabling clients to be more confident AI creators by using their data, which is the source of competitive advantage in generative AI.
- **Providing access to our platform**: Expanding access to platform (watsonx) and forming new collabs w/ orgs incl. Adobe, AWS, Meta, Mistral, Microsoft, Palo Alto, etc.

4. **AI Regulation and Governance**
   - As with any other powerful technology, AI comes with the potential for both misuse and risk.
   - If AI is not deployed responsibly, it could have real-world consequences - especially in sensitive, safety-critical areas.
   - This is a serious challenge we must overcome, and it is precisely why we urge policy leaders to enact smart regulation now.
   - At IBM, we believe smart regulation should be based on three core tenets:
     #1. Regulate AI risk, not AI algorithms. Different AI applications represent different levels of risk - from a lower-risk use like an online shopping chatbot to potentially higher-risk uses like loan approvals or access to credit. IBM believes regulation must account for the context in which AI is used and must ensure that the high-risk uses of AI are regulated more closely.
     #2. Build policy which supports open AI innovation: AI should be built by and for the many, not the few. An open AI ecosystem is good for healthy competition, innovation, skilling, and security. It guarantees AI models are shaped by many diverse, inclusive voices.
     #3. Make AI creators and deployers accountable, not immune to liability: While governments play an important role, others must also bear a responsibility. Legislation should consider the different roles of AI creators and deployers and hold them accountable

in the context in which they develop or deploy AI. Let's find the right balance between innovation and accountability.

IBM driving trusted, responsible use of AI

- **AI Alliance**– co-founded with Meta; committed to collaborating to advance safe, responsible AI rooted in open innovation.
- **Canadian Federal Government's Voluntary AI Code in Canada** – we amongst the early tech company supports of this initiative
- **Active voice with governments around the world**: providing our expertise to support governments to chart a common path for the ethical advancement of AI for many years.
- **IBM AI Ethics Board** – a centralized governance within IBM to ensure we have ethical, responsible and trustworthy AI throughout our organization. Includes a review and decision-making process for IBM ethics policies, practices, research, products and services (including our own gen AI platform – watsonx).

Canadian Government & IBM on AI

- **Canada's Voluntary AI Code:** In Dec 2023 IBM committed to the Government of Canada's Voluntary AI Code in support of the ongoing development of a robust, responsible AI ecosystem in Canada alongside Open Text, Cohere, CGI and others. This is a stop gap for the Fed Gov until the AI and Data Act (AIDA) is established later this year.
- **Budget 2024:** Announced April 16th, includes targeted AI support over $2.4 billion, including to launch a new AI Compute Access Fund and Canadian Sovereign Compute Strategy, and to support AI adoption across our entire economy. Supportive of additional investment; waiting for detailed strategies to support these commitments.
  - *IBM Reactive Statement* - Canada has a unique and promising opportunity to lead in AI on a global stage, and it's terrific that the Federal Government is committing to support us in securing this leadership position.

Reactive Only: IBM Canada Layoffs

- We are continuing to grow our team in Canada – particularly investing in roles that are aligned to growth areas of our business.
- We regularly evaluate the evolving needs of our customers and adjust our teams to ensure our skills and expertise with the requirements of our clients, partners, and our growth strategy.

IBM's Continued Investment in Canada
- IBM is incredibly proud to continue to build on our rich history in Canada
- No secret that Canada is an AI hub with world-leading AI researchers and talent.
- Some predict an expectation of tens of thousands of AI-related jobs in next 5 years
- We see a significant opportunity to partner with businesses in Canada to improve productivity and accelerate digital transformation across the country's most valuable industries.
- We continue to strengthen our capacity and our technology offerings in market:
  - **IBM expanding AI expertise at our IBM's Software Lab in Markham, Ontario:** this week we announced new 'Tech Expert Lab' where we will build capacity and competency in generative AI, data & AI, automation, hybrid cloud, sustainability, and cybersecurity (Canada's largest Software Development Lab and IBM's third largest)

- **IBM Cloud Multizone Region in Montreal to open in first half of 2025:** Also [announced this spring](#), this facility will help clients address evolving regulatory and data sovereignty laws while scaling innovative technology such Generative AI.
- **IBM Quantum System One in Bromont, Quebec:** Unveiled last year, the first IBM quantum computer in Canada. With Canadian partners we are focused on leveraging this System One to solve complex challenges in Canada including sustainability.
- **Cyber Range with University of Ottawa**: opened last year; a space where IBM experts offer training exercises to help businesses and government organizations across the country better prepare for and strengthen defences against real-world cyber threats.

Additional info about IBM Canada

- IBM has been present in Canada for 107 years, in all fields ranging today from IT commercial services, R&D, to manufacturing.
- 400+ business/ecosystem partners across Canada that provide industry and domain expertise
- $461M R&D investment in 2022, focused on IBM Canada software lab and Bromont plant.
- With teams from coast to coast, IBM is recognized as one of Canada's best employers for many years running.

watsonx examples Canada

- IBM's watsonx platform has momentum in Canada
  - Over 100 client briefings completed and many moving into pilots
  - Use cases in HR/talent, customer service and code creation for application modernization are already delivering remarkable productivity gains and time to value
- IBM is working with clients throughout Canada, bringing them onto the watsonx platform.
  - **Cascades (pronounced CAH-SCAHD):** Quebec-based, Canadian paper manufacturing company. Implemented watsonx assistant solution to improve communication and knowledge sharing for 24/7 operations teams. Solution has been successful in providing real-time access to employee knowledge and improving overall efficiency.

AI Alliance general FAQ

What is the AI Alliance?

The AI Alliance is an international community leading technology developers, researchers and adopters collaborating together to advance open, safe, and responsible AI. We aim to create and continually advance an open technology foundation for AI that will accelerate progress, improve safety, security and trust, and maximize benefits to business and society.

Members of the AI Alliance believe that open innovation is essential to develop and achieve safe and responsible AI that benefit society rather than benefit a select few big players.
The AI Alliance is focused on accelerating and disseminating open innovation across the AI technology landscape to improve foundational capabilities, safety, security and trust in AI, and to responsibly maximize benefits to people and society everywhere.

What has the AI Alliance been up to since launching in December 2023?

- Established steering committee and 7 member-driven working groups:
  - Skills, education and academic research
  - AI trust, safety and evaluation

- Tools for AI developers
- Diverse hardware enablement
- Open foundation models and data
- Advocacy
- AI for materials and chemistry
- Grew from 50 founding members and collaborators to an active, international community of 100 leading organizations across industry, startup, academia, research and government coming together to support open innovation and open science in AI. Most recent new members to join include:
  - GMI Cloud, Media Tek Research, Neureality, Northwesterns' Center for Advancing Safety of Machine Intelligence, OpenMined, ontocord ai, Panasonic,Tokyo Institute of Tech, University of Bayreuth,
- Responded to the U.S. NTIA request for comment on "Dual Use Foundation Artificial Intelligence Models with Widely Available Model Weights."
- Launched Trusted Evals proposal to gather new perspectives on the AI evaluation domain.
- Hosted meetups convening the global AI open community to discuss the latest AI technical advancements and the importance of an open approach to AI innovation
- Identified and initiated AI Alliance core and affiliated projects:
  - **Core Projects** –Projects that address substantial cross-community challenges and are identified or established by an AI Alliance working group as an essential opportunity for members to collaborate, contribute, and make an impact on the future of AI.
  - **Affiliated Projects** – Projects that one or more AI Alliance members identify as aligned to the organization's mission and exist as part of the broader AI Alliance ecosystem.

What is the AI Alliance mission?
The AI Alliance brings together a critical mass of compute, data, tools, and talent to accelerate open innovation in AI. The AI Alliance seeks to:
- Build and support open technologies across software, models and tools.
- Enable developers and scientists to understand, experiment, and adopt open technologies.
- Advocate for open innovation with organizational and societal leaders, policy and regulatory bodies, and the public.

What is the intent of the AI Alliance?
The AI Alliance is designed to create opportunities everywhere through a diverse range of institutions that can shape the evolution of AI in ways that better reflect the needs and the complexity of our societies. This stands in contrast to a vision that aims to relegate AI innovation and value creation to a small number of companies with a closed, proprietary vision for the AI industry.

The AI Alliance is focused on fostering an open community and enabling developers and researchers to accelerate responsible innovation in AI while ensuring scientific rigor, trust, safety,

security, diversity and economic competitiveness. By bringing together leading developers, scientists, academic institutions, companies, and other innovators, we will pool resources and knowledge to address safety concerns while providing a platform for sharing and developing solutions that fit the needs of researchers, developers, and adopters around the world.

Who is currently part of the AI Alliance?

Since launching in December 2023, AI Alliance membership has grown from 50 founding members and collaborators to an active, international community of 100 leading organizations across industry, startup, academia, research and government coming together to support open innovation and open science in AI.

The AI Alliance consists of a broad range of organizations that are working across aspects of AI education, research, development and deployment, and governance.

We are:
- The creators of the tooling driving AI benchmarking, trust and validation metrics and best practices, and application creation such as MLPerf, Hugging Face, LangChain, LlamaIndex, and open-source AI toolkits for underlined explainability, privacy, adversarial robustness, and fairness evaluation.
- The universities and science agencies that educate and support generation after generation of AI scientists and engineers and push the frontiers of AI research through open science.
- The builders of the hardware and infrastructure that supports AI training and applications – from the needed GPUs to custom AI accelerators and cloud platforms;
- The champions of frameworks that drive platform software including PyTorch, Transformers, Diffusers, Kubernetes, Ray, Hugging Face Text generation inference and Parameter Efficient Fine Tuning.
- The creators of some of today's most used open models including Llama2, Stable Diffusion, StarCoder, Bloom, and many others.

Partners and collaborators here: https://thealliance.ai/members

Can an organization join the AI Alliance? How?

The Alliance will continue to welcome new members who share our commitment to values and principles that will advance safe and responsible AI rooted in open innovation. Members of the AI Alliance are committed to:
- Bringing together a critical mass of compute, data, tools, and talent to accelerate open innovation in AI to build and support open technologies across software, models and tools;
- Enable students, developers and scientists to understand, experiment, and adopt open technologies; and
- Advocate for the value of open innovation with organizational and societal leaders, policy and regulatory bodies, and the public.

Our program is purposefully designed to enable flexible levels of collaboration and contribution to maximize the participation and impact of organizations and individuals globally. Members of the AI Alliance must meet these 4 criteria categories:
- Alignment with the AI Alliance's values and its mission to cultivate safe and open science and innovation

- Commitment to undertake significant projects aligned with the mission of the AI Alliance
- Contribution to the diversity of perspectives within the AI Alliance
- Activity and reputation within the wider communities of AI builders, advocates, and educators

Why does the world need the AI Alliance?

It is a pivotal time in AI. Foundation models and generative AI have introduced substantial new opportunities for improving how we work, live and interact with one another. This incredible innovation is possible because of decades of open innovation: the collaboration among ecosystems of developers, scientists, academics and business leaders to build, validate, and adopt the latest AI technologies that advance science, business and society.

This open ecosystem has also been a catalyst for driving an AI agenda underpinned by some of society's most fundamentally important principles: trust, ethics, resiliency and responsibility. The AI of today and tomorrow must continuously improve upon levels of governance and safety – and this can only be done through the collective power of an open, healthy AI community that promotes the exchange of ideas and collaboration on decisions and outputs.

Recently, however, the large amount of computational and data resources required to build foundation models; the scarcity of scientific and engineering talent; the need to demonstrate AI is useful and trusted; and the popularized concerns around the risks of AI have threatened to relegate AI innovation to a small number of companies with a closed, proprietary vision for the AI industry.

How does the AI Alliance work?

The AI Alliance is focused on accelerating and disseminating open innovation across the AI technology landscape to improve foundational capabilities, ensure safety, security and trust in AI, and responsibly maximize benefits to people and society everywhere. In addition to bringing together leading developers, scientists, academics, students, and business leaders in the field of artificial intelligence, the AI Alliance partners with important existing initiatives from governments, non-profit and civil society organizations who are doing valuable and aligned work in the AI space.

Through member-driven working groups, Alliance members start or enhance projects across six focus areas:

- Skills and Education: Supporting global AI skill-building, education, and exploratory research.
  Our members partner with the academic community, empowering researchers and students to engage with vital research in AI models, algorithms, and platforms. We are also creating educational materials and resources to inform the public and policymakers about the advantages and risks of AI, offering solutions and advocating for precise, well-informed AI regulations.

- Trusted AI: Creating benchmarks, tools, and methodologies to evaluate and ensure safe, trusted, secure, and high-quality AI.
  We deploy and create benchmarks, tools, and resources to facilitate the responsible global development and use of AI systems. This includes establishing a catalog of vetted tools for safety, security, and trust. We will support these tools' advocacy and integration within the developer community for model and application development. Our members are also

working to establish benchmarks and evaluation standards for the release of open models and their integration into applications.

- Tools: Building the most capable tools for AI model builders and GenAI application developers
  We build and promote open-source tools for model training, tuning, and inference, such as PyTorch. We are also collaborating to simplify, automate, and optimize the deployment and execution of large-scale AI workloads on Kubernetes.

- Hardware: Fostering a vibrant AI hardware accelerator ecosystem through enabling software technology
  We collaborate on the benchmarking, optimization, and adaptation of AI workloads to accelerate innovation in a diverse set of hardware. Our work focuses on scalability, platform adaptation, and advanced power, energy, and carbon modeling. Benchmarks and metrics developed for model inference, fine-tuning, and energy consumption of large-scale AI workloads will be contributed to the open-source community

- Foundation Models: Enabling an ecosystem of open foundation models, including those with multilingual and multi-modal capabilities
  We are responsibly enhancing the ecosystem of open foundation models. We are embracing multilingual and multimodal models, as well as science models tackling broad societal issues like climate change and education. To aid AI model builders and application developers, we're collaborating to develop and promote open-source tools for model training, tuning, and inference. We are also launching programs to foster the open development of AI in safe and beneficial ways, and hosting events to explore AI use cases

- Advocacy: Supporting regulatory policies that create healthy, sustainable, and open ecosystems for AI
  A thriving and competitive open innovation ecosystem for AI must be a priority for industry, civil society, and academia — policymakers should take note. Though these ecosystems are largely decentralized and self-directed, there's room for policy to aid their growth. Our work will help policymakers and governments recognize and support open innovation ecosystems for AI. We're also bridging gaps between policy and industry, fostering responsible and ethical AI practices to benefit societies around the world.

What type of projects does the Alliance work on together or contribute to?
AI Alliance projects must align with the organization's focus areas of work and meet the following objectives to:

- Deploy benchmarks, tools, and other resources that enable the responsible development and use of AI systems at global scale, including the creation of a catalog of vetted safety, security and trust tools. Support the advocacy and enablement of these tools with the developer community for model and application development.
- Develop and align on meaningful benchmarks and evaluation standards for open model releases and model deployment into applications.

- Responsibly advance the ecosystem of open foundation models with diverse modalities, including highly capable multilingual, multi-modal, and science models that can help address society-wide challenges in climate, human health, and beyond.
- Foster a vibrant AI hardware accelerator ecosystem by boosting contributions and adoption of essential enabling software technology.
- Support global AI skills building, education, and exploratory research. Engage the academic community to support researchers and students to learn and contribute to essential AI model and tool research projects.
- Develop educational content and resources to inform the public discourse and policymakers on benefits, risks, solutions and precision regulation for AI.
- Encourage open development of AI in safe and beneficial ways, and host events to explore AI use cases and showcase how Alliance members are using open technology in AI responsibly and for good.

AI Alliance Tough Q&A

INTERNAL, IBM-ONLY: THIS DOCUMENT WILL INFORM INTERNAL RESPONSES FROM IBM EXECUTIVES PRIMARILY TO MEDIA AND ANALYSTS

About the Alliance

Q: Is the Alliance run by Meta and IBM?
The Alliance is a joint, equal initiative across all member organizations.

Q: What makes this unique / different from other AI and open source foundations, alliances, and projects?
The AI Alliance members represent a global collective involved in nearly every aspect of AI — from education, research and science, to development, deployment and governance. We feel this expertise brought to the Alliance by each member allows us to be uniquely positioned to help establish new AI frameworks rooted that prioritize open innovation and open science.

Q: How does the AI Alliance differ from the Frontier Model Forum formed by OpenAI and others?
We are not here to comment on efforts by other organizations. Rather, we're focused on ensuring the AI Alliance, through its diverse ecosystem of members, drives a forward-looking AI agenda underpinned by some of society's most fundamentally important principles: scientific rigor, accountability and responsibility.

Q. Are there organizations that have requested to join and been rejected?

Since launching in December 2023, the AI Alliance has received an influx of requests to join and collaborate in advancing safe, responsible, open AI technologies. The Alliance will continue to welcome new members who share our commitment to values and principles that will advance safe and responsible AI rooted in open innovation.

We are gathering info and meeting with potential members to explain the value of joining and setting expectations. Member requests are evaluated based on alignment with membership criteria. Member requests not in the pipeline already are being deferred until after the February 8 announcement.

There are existing discussions with some of the largest AI companies in this space about joining. Clearly, we do not want to jeopardize these conversations by not including someone in next week's announcement.

Q. What about organizations from China and Russia, can they join?

Effectively accelerating and disseminating open innovation across the AI technology landscape will require convening a diverse set of global institutions with a critical mass of compute, data, tools, and talent. The Alliance will continue to welcome new members who share our commitment to values and principles that will advance safe and responsible AI rooted in open innovation.

While there have been many requests to join AI Alliance from organizations around the globe. Not all of these organizations are directly aligned with the membership criteria and for this reason will likely not be invited to join. We expect that most organizations in China will not meet the member criteria.

Q. Is any Alliance member able to join any working group, or are there criteria for inclusion?

Individuals from AI Alliance member organization may join any of the six Focus Area working groups. We have been encouraging folks to join the Focus Area working group of greatest relevance to their organization's interests.

About Open-Source

Q: Why is open-source technology the focus of this? How do you define open source AI? Is it safe?

Open-source innovation is the only way we can **develop and achieve responsible foundation models** that broadly benefit society rather than a select few big players in the tech industry. Open source communities accelerate innovation by empowering members to harness collective insights and build on a vast prior body of work. Contributors can build on a vast prior body of work and to harness the collective, not just the talent at one company.

Open-source AI maximizes the visibility of this technology, making auditing for safety and risks widely accessible to experts worldwide, thereby providing greater safety from potential AI harm. To date, some of the most exciting progress in AI has been driven by open research and development: from data and developer frameworks, to models and model cards, to conferences and papers with code. This approach benefits everyone – industry, academia, and society.

Open AI innovation:
- **Democratizes access** to the most foundational and broadly applicable advances;
- **Harnesses** the innovative talent of the global community;
- **Ensures accountability** among individuals and companies;

- **Instills trust** from transparency by demystifying technical innovation for both the public and policymakers; and
- **Better enables robust testing** and validation through broad-based community approaches.

Overall, open-source AI greatly assists in commercialization, adoption, and value generation for both technology providers and consumers.

Q: How are closed source developments impacting AI progress?
The enormous amount of computational and data resources required to build foundation models, the scarcity of scientific and engineering talent that knows how to work with them and make them useful and trusted, and public hyperbole around the risks of AI has threatened to relegate AI innovation to a small number of very wealthy proprietary players.

Furthermore, concerns about AI safety have motivated some to propose regulations that would needlessly inhibit open innovation. However the best way to advance AI safety is with open innovation and transparency so we can ensure we are targeting the right risks and developing solutions that all can benefit from.

Q: How does the AI Alliance plan to address this 'open vs. closed' AI challenge?
The AI Alliance seeks to restore the balance in the ecosystem between open and proprietary work by bringing a critical mass of resources to democratize the creation, deployment, and management of AI technology, especially open foundation models.

To foster innovation and promote trustworthy, accountable AI, the AI Alliance adheres to standards designed to build and release foundation models that are transparent, explainable, and adhere to rigorous standards.

Q: In being a member of the AI Alliance, are these organizations committing to open-sourcing all of their AI technologies?
All AI Alliance members are committed to principles of responsibility and safety regarding how they build and use AI technologies. Each AI Alliance member will decide which of their technologies to offer as fully open source with no usage restrictions, which technologies to offer as available for use with limitations, with or without open source, and which technologies to keep proprietary.

About AI Regulation

Q: Does the AI Alliance have a perspective on AI regulation, both in the U.S. and abroad?
The stakes are high. AI will, and already is, delivering enormous economic and social benefits. Regulations that shape how AI can be developed and used will be a focus of the AI Alliance to ensure the role openness can play in maximizing and delivering these benefits is protected.

At IBM, we believe a precision regulation approach strikes the right balance between protecting society from potential harm and allowing innovation to flourish. Specifically, we believe in supporting open AI innovation. A vibrant and open AI ecosystem is good for competition, innovation, skilling, and security. It guarantees that AI models are shaped by diverse, inclusive voices. And ultimately, the goal of governments should be to protect people at the point of risk –

where technology touches their lives. That's why regulating how AI is used and its impacts, not its lines of code, is critical within global governance around AI.

Q: How does IBM and the AI Alliance's position square with that of the UK and other governments that do not necessarily support open source?
Many policymakers are very focused on the potential national security and safety risks of AI. As they are considering rulemaking to address these concerns, we're advocating for policies that correctly recognize that openness is a benefit to national security and safety, not a threat.

We're in the middle of an AI rising tide that can – and should – lift all boats. Smart regulation, coupled with corporate accountability, can and should allow businesses and society to reap the benefits of AI while addressing the potential for misuse and risk.

What we've recommended in the U.S. is consistent with what we've recommended in the EU when it comes to risk-based regulatory approaches and protecting open-source innovation:

We've been clear about supporting open AI innovation, not AI licensing regimes. A vibrant and open AI ecosystem is good for competition, innovation, skilling, and security. It guarantees that AI models are shaped by diverse, inclusive voices.

We've also been clear that we need a risk-based approach. The EU AI Act, on course to become the most sweeping and sophisticated AI law in the world, has the potential to serve as a global blueprint for smart, responsible, and effective AI regulation globally.

Value of open messaging:
AI Alliance: Benefits of an Open AI Ecosystem Talking Points

Open and transparent innovation is essential to empower a broad spectrum of AI researchers, builders, and adopters with the information and tools needed to harness these advancements in ways that prioritize safety, diversity, economic opportunity and benefits to all.

A thriving ecosystem of widely available foundation model weights is necessary to promote innovation, economic growth, and AI safety.

For general information about AI Alliance, please visit: https://thealliance.ai

Innovation

- Open innovation is the only way we can develop and achieve responsible AI technologies that broadly benefit society rather than a select few big players.
- An open ecosystem ensures that the resources needed to innovate around AI are available to all, which promotes competition and enables developers and creators to continuously improve upon the technology's levels of governance and safety.
- Open communities accelerate innovation by empowering developers, researchers, and creators to build on a vast body of work and harness collective insights, not just the talent at one organization.

- Overall, open innovation in AI offers unique performance and security benefits for AI technologies that will catalyze scientific discovery, free expression, and free enterprise.

Economic Growth
- We are witnessing a critical moment for AI, and the stakes are high. AI is projected to unlock an astounding $16 trillion in value by 2030, which will help fuel economic growth, boost GDP, and offer a competitive edge to the individuals, governments and organizations who effectively leverage its capabilities. But we can only get there if we leverage open innovation.
- The enormous amount of computational and data resources required to build foundation models and the scarcity of scientific and engineering talent that knows how to work with them and make them useful and trusted has threatened to relegate AI innovation to a small number of proprietary players. An open AI ecosystem bolsters economic growth by democratizing access to productivity-enhancing technologies that allow entrepreneurs and small- and medium-sized enterprises to innovate around AI without steep upfront costs.
- More competition among companies means that more stakeholders can identify opportunities to improve AI technologies, and pursue valuable AI applications that can lead to economic benefits.

AI Safety
- Concerns about AI safety have motivated some to propose regulations that would needlessly inhibit open innovation. However, the best way to advance AI safety is with open innovation and transparency so we can ensure we're targeting the right risks and developing solutions that broadly benefit society.
- Open innovation maximizes the visibility of AI technology by making auditing for safety and risks widely accessible to experts worldwide, which provides greater safety from potential harm.
- By enabling open, community-driven AI risk management frameworks, developers, researchers, and creators alike are able to build actionable AI safety solutions that benefit all users.