With love, from Switzerland

Teaser: Imanol's team just launched Apertus, the most powerful open-source language model ever released by a public institution.

[IMAGE: switzerland.png]

On August 30, 2025, the **Swiss AI Initiative**—a collaboration between **EPFL**, **ETH Zurich**, and the **Swiss National Supercomputing Centre (CSCS)**—released **Apertus**, the country's first large-scale open language model. Built with Swiss values in mind—**transparency, multilingualism, and public service**—Apertus is a fully open-source foundation model, released in two sizes (8B and 70B parameters) under the permissive Apache 2.0 license.

It is now one of the most powerful multilingual LLMs ever released by a public institution—and it's available to everyone through the Public AI Inference Utility.

- [Chat with Apertus now](#)
- [Visit apertus.ai](#)
- [Press release](#)

Public AI is proud to be the official international deployment partner for Apertus.

Openness by design

The name "Apertus" comes from Latin, meaning *open*. That's not just branding—it's the core design principle.

Everything about the model is transparent and reproducible:

- The **training architecture**, datasets, and recipes

- The **model weights**, including intermediate checkpoints

- The **source code**, logs, and deployment guides

Unlike models that offer partial access, Apertus is **fully inspectable and modifiable**, giving developers, researchers, and institutions complete visibility into how the model was built and how it behaves. This approach sets a new bar for **trustworthiness and reproducibility** in AI systems.

"Apertus is built for the public good," says **Imanol Schlag**, technical lead at ETH Zurich. "It's the first of its kind to embody **multilingualism, transparency, and compliance** as foundational design principles."

Multilingual and inclusive

Apertus was trained on **15 trillion tokens** across more than **1,000 languages**, with **40% of the training data in non-English languages**. That includes Swiss languages like **Romansh** and **Swiss German**, as well as many others historically underrepresented in mainstream LLMs.

This is a significant step forward in linguistic diversity. Apertus isn't just another English-first foundation model—it's a global public good designed to serve users and communities across linguistic boundaries.

Transparency meets compliance

Alongside the release, the Apertus team has shared documentation addressing legal and ethical considerations. The training corpus is made from **publicly available data only**, and filtered to:

- Respect opt-out requests from websites (even retroactively)

- Remove personal data and undesired content

- Comply with **Swiss data protection law**, **Swiss copyright law**, and the **EU AI Act**

The result is a model that's not just powerful—it's **accountable**, too.

"With this release, we aim to provide a blueprint for how a trustworthy, sovereign, and inclusive AI model can be developed," says **Martin Jaggi**, Professor of Machine Learning at EPFL.

Research-grade, industry-ready

Apertus is designed for both **research and real-world applications**. The 70B model delivers cutting-edge performance and is ideal for deployment at scale. The 8B version offers fast performance and lower resource requirements, suitable for fine-tuning or local use.

Under the **Apache 2.0 license**, both models can be used for:

- Research and education

- Commercial applications

- Translation, summarization, chatbots, tutoring systems, and more

Swisscom is already offering Apertus through its sovereign Swiss AI platform, with dedicated access for **Swiss {ai} Weeks** hackathon participants. Business customers can deploy it through Swisscom infrastructure today.

A foundation for innovation

Apertus isn't just a model drop—it's the **beginning of a new institutional approach to AI**. The Swiss AI Initiative sees Apertus as a foundation on which developers, researchers, and public institutions can build together.

"This is not a conventional case of tech transfer from lab to product," says **Thomas Schulthess**, Director of CSCS. "Apertus is a driver of innovation—designed to strengthen AI expertise across research, society, and industry."

The development was powered by over **10 million GPU hours** on the new **Alps** supercomputer at CSCS, and funded by the **ETH Board**, with support from partners including Swisscom.

Try Apertus now

If you're in Switzerland, you can try Apertus through Swisscom or during Swiss {ai} Weeks events.

If you're outside Switzerland—or just curious—Public AI is making Apertus available globally through the **Public AI Inference Utility**.

> "Apertus is the leading public AI model today," says **Joshua Tan**, Lead Maintainer of the Utility. "It's our best proof yet that AI can be a form of public infrastructure—like highways, water, or electricity."

Chat with Apertus →

Run your own instance →

Where it goes next

This is just the beginning.

The Swiss AI Initiative has committed to regular updates of Apertus, and to exploring domain-specific models in areas like **law**, **climate**, **health**, and **education**. Future releases will expand capabilities while maintaining the same core values: **openness, compliance, and public purpose**.

The Public AI Inference Utility will continue to bring Apertus to the world. We extend an open invitation to other countries, public institutions, and research communities to join us in shaping the next chapter. Apertus proves that large-scale, transparent, multilingual AI—developed for the public interest—is possible. Let's build on this momentum. Whether you're designing national AI strategies, managing public compute infrastructure, or stewarding open science, we welcome collaborators to work with us on future Apertus-scale efforts that reflect shared democratic values and serve global public needs.

"This release isn't a final step—it's a beginning. We're building toward a long-term commitment to sovereign, open AI foundations that serve the public good, worldwide." - Antoine Bosselut, Co-Lead of the Swiss AI Initiative

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Explore Apertus

- Main site: **apertus.ai**

- Documentation + Models: **Hugging Face: Apertus**

- Try online: **chat.publicai.co**

The age of public AI has a flagship model. Its name is **Apertus**.

Let's build with it.