## Science and innovation Frontier

### Exclusive | OpenAI in Talks for Huge Investment Round Valuing It Up to $340 Billion

Jan 30 (Reuters) - SoftBank Group (9984.T), opens new tab is in talks to lead a funding round of up to $40 billion in artificial intelligence developer OpenAI at a valuation of $300 billion, including the new funds, sources said, in what could be a record single funding round for a private company. The funding comes as Chinese startup DeepSeek has launched an inexpensive AI model that has caught worldwide attention and challenged expectations of what it costs to develop and deploy AI.

### Bezos vs. Bezos: Amazon sues WA state over Washington Post request for Kuiper records

The company that Jeff Bezos founded has gone to court to keep the newspaper he owns from finding out too much about the inner workings of its business. Amazon is suing Washington state to limit the release of public records to The Washington Post from a series of state Department of Labor and Industries investigations of an Amazon Project Kuiper satellite facility in the Seattle area. The lawsuit, filed this week in King County Superior Court in Seattle, says the newspaper on Nov. 26 requested “copies of inspection records, investigation notes, interview notes, complaints,” and other documents related to four investigations at the Redmond, Wash., facility between August and October 2024.

## Policy Overview

### Trump Lashes Out At Jerome Powell After Fed Doesn’t Cut Interest Rates

President Donald Trump blasted Federal Reserve chairman Jerome Powell Wednesday for not stopping inflation, saying “the Fed has done a terrible job on Bank Regulation” and criticizing its priorities—just hours after the Fed announced it would pause interest rate cuts.In the Truth Social post just after 4:15 p.m. EST, Trump criticized “Jay Powell and the Fed” and claimed he will have to stop inflation by “unleashing American Energy production,” and “reigniting American Manufacturing.”“If the Fed had spent less time on DEI, gender ideology, “green” energy, and fake climate change, Inflation would never have been a problem,” Trump said in the post.Trump’s rant came hours after the Federal Reserve announced it would keep interest rates at the same level set last month—at 4.25% to 4.5%—despite cutting rates several times last year, leaving borrowing costs relatively high after the Fed hiked rates in 2022 and 2023 in a bid to quell sky-high inflation.

## Industry report

### Mark Zuckerberg teases a 2025 return to ‘OG Facebook’

Meta CEO Mark Zuckerberg teased a “return to OG Facebook” as part of his key goals for 2025 in Wednesday’s Q4 earnings call with investors. While the company was short on details as to what specific changes lay in store, it’s clear that Meta is in desperate need of younger Facebook users to sustain itself for the next generation. Asked about his plans for the “OG Facebook,” Zuckerberg replied that it was one of Meta’s focus areas for the year ahead and something the company planned to both invest in and spend time on. “I think there are a lot of opportunities to make [Facebook] way more culturally influential than it is today,” he noted.

## Enterprise Dynamics

### Microsoft now hosts AI model accused of copying OpenAI data

Fresh on the heels of a controversy in which ChatGPT-maker OpenAI accused the Chinese company behind DeepSeek R1 of using its AI model outputs against its terms of service, OpenAI's largest investor, Microsoft, announced on Wednesday that it will now host DeepSeek R1 on its Azure cloud service. DeepSeek R1 has been the talk of the AI world for the past week because it is a freely available simulated reasoning model that reportedly matches OpenAI's o1 in performance—while allegedly being trained for a fraction of the cost.

## Regional Highlights

### ECB cuts rate to 2.75% as Eurozone economy stagnates

Please use the sharing tools found via the share button at the top or side of articles. Copying articles to share with others is a breach ofFT.com T&Cs and Copyright Policy. Email licensing@ft.com to buy additional rights. Subscribers may share up to 10 or 20 articles per month using the gift article service. More information can be found here. The European Central Bank has warned of “headwinds” to the Eurozone’s stagnating economy as it cut its benchmark interest rate by a quarter-point to 2.75 per cent. Thursday’s unanimous decision, which takes the ECB’s deposit rate to its lowest level since early 2023, came hours after Eurostat reported that the Eurozone economy had not grown at all in the fourth quarter of 2024. ECB president Christine Lagarde cautioned that the economy was “set to remain weak in the near term”, adding that surveys pointed to a continued contraction in manufacturing even as services grow. “Consumer confidence is fragile,” she said.

## no tags