

Elon Musk to attend Rishi Sunak's AI safety summit in Bletchley Park

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Elon Musk will attend Rishi Sunak's AI safety summit this week in Bletchley Park, government sources have confirmed, with the two men to host a live conversation on the billionaire's social media site X on Thursday. The technology multibillionaire will be one of the highest-profile attendees at the two-day summit hosted by the prime minister to discuss the dangers of advanced artificial intelligence. Musk's attendance will be a boost for the profile of the summit, which many world leaders have decided not to attend. Downing Street has insisted Sunak is not being snubbed by other world leaders, despite few being expected to attend. No 10 said the government was pleased with the responses to invitations to the summit, which Sunak announced earlier this year in an attempt to put the UK at the forefront of international AI regulation. But the prime minister is likely to be joined by relatively few of his international counterparts, with many sending more junior ministers or officials instead. Among those who have chosen not to attend are Emmanuel Macron, the French president, and Joe Biden, the US president, who is instead sending the vice-president, Kamala Harris. Justin Trudeau, the Canadian prime minister, is sending his science minister, François-Philippe Champagne, although may attend the second day virtually, sources have said. Olaf Scholz, the German chancellor, is widely expected not to attend either. The most prominent politicians currently expected to be at the summit are Ursula von der Leyen, the president of the European Commission, and Giorgia Meloni, the Italian prime minister. Speaking two days before the summit starts, a Downing Street spokesperson said: "We remain confident that we have brought together the right group of world experts in the AI space – leading businesses and indeed world leaders and representatives who will be able to take on this vital issue. "This is the first AI safety summit of its kind. I think it is a significant achievement that for the first time, people from across the world and indeed from across the range of world leaders, and indeed AI experts, are coming together to look at these frontier risks." Sunak later posted on X: "In conversation with @elonmusk After the AI Safety Summit Thursday night on X." Sources confirmed Musk would attend the summit in person and the two would hold their X conversation face-to-face. Earlier this year Musk launched his own AI business called X.ai, but his company lags well behind more established AI developers such as Google's DeepMind and OpenAI. Those in attendance at Bletchley Park on Wednesday will join two days of discussions about the existential risks that many in the industry believe AI poses to humanity. Sunak announced the conference this summer after becoming concerned that advanced AI models were being developed without any oversight from global regulators. Some in the industry believe that if models become significantly more intelligent than people they may decide to eliminate humans entirely. With just days to go until the start of the summit, however, the attendance list is still being worked on. Sunak confirmed last week his officials had invited

China to attend the summit, saying: "It is right to try and engage with the world's leading AI powers." But with Beijing still not having confirmed who, if anyone, from the Chinese government will travel to the summit, UK officials have reportedly decided to upgrade the invitation and address it directly to Xi Jinping, the president. Xi is not expected to attend, but British diplomats believe that inviting him personally will indicate how keen they are for China to send high-level officials. Sunak's spokesperson said on Monday: "I'm not going to get into the ins and outs of the invite list. I think we've always sought to have the right level of representation, of course ... It's important to invite China given they too are world leaders in AI." As officials prepared for the summit, ministers have launched a flurry of new initiatives on AI. Suella Braverman, the home secretary, held a meeting with technology companies including Tik Tok and Snapchat to discuss how to tackle AI-generated child sexual abuse images, which Braverman called "an online scourge". The technology companies signed a pledge to tackle the issue. Elsewhere, ministers pledged an extra £2m for researchers to develop AI tools for teachers as well as £16m to collect more health data for diagnostic AI. Chris Philp, the policing minister, wrote to police leaders asking them to make greater use of facial recognition tools, while Steve Barclay, the health secretary, held a roundtable with NHS trusts to talk about AI in healthcare.