

Avoca's \$125M Raise, Arena's \$100M Run Rate, and New Bets in Privacy and Efficiency

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This brief covers Avoca's disclosed financing, Arena's rapid evaluation-product monetization, and a cluster of early-stage signals across coding-agent orchestration, low-resource AI, privacy-preserving models, robotics data tooling, and AI infrastructure. Macro takeaways center on AI revenue versus capex, China's hiring profile, and the power/cooling/networking stack.

1) Funding & Deals

- **Avoca (W23)**. YC says Avoca is building what it calls an AI workforce for the physical economy, starting with home services. The company says it has reached eight figures in revenue, raised over \$125 million at a \$1 billion valuation, and found early product-market fit by helping businesses turn missed calls into revenue [1].

2) Emerging Teams

- **Arena / Agent Arena**. Arena says it reached a \$100M annual revenue run rate eight months after launching its evaluation product after starting as a UC Berkeley research project. It also says Agent Arena evaluates long-running agents on tool use, feedback adaptation, error recovery, and human-set goals [2].
- **AgentRail**. AgentRail packages issue intake, routing, PR submission, CI feedback, and shipping into a compact API for AI coding agents. The founder says the product came out of running Claude Code and Codex on real projects, and that it is local-first and source-available [3].

- **Trijna Labs.** In a Reddit post, Trijna Labs said it stretched a 17B-parameter system onto a 4GB RAM Intel i5 machine with no GPUs by ingesting raw bytes natively and growing in real time rather than using standard transformers. The team is looking for incubators, hardware partners, and open-source contributors in India [4].
- **AlphaLens.** An engineering student who does quant research on WorldQuant BRAIN built AlphaLens, a free no-login tool that converts natural-language trading ideas into BRAIN-compatible expressions with Sharpe estimates, turnover, neutralization suggestions, plus a paper summarizer and factor explainer. The founder says the project is still at idea stage and is looking for feedback on positioning [5].

3) AI & Tech Breakthroughs

- **Privacy-preserving inference releases.** Rampart is a 14.7MB model that redacts personal information directly in the browser before data is sent to any server [6]. Praxis separately released two 3B models, praxis-spanfinder-3b and praxis-relevance-3b, aimed at keeping personal information private from Claude or ChatGPT, with code on GitHub and models on Hugging Face [7].
- **Robotics data creation.** Macrodata Labs says it can use VLMs to mine subtasks at scale for robotics training at 19x lower cost than human annotators [8].
- **Hybrid agent harnesses.** Devin Fusion uses a sidekick agent that runs in parallel with a frontier agent; the frontier agent delegates work, monitors progress, and retains planning and final review. Jerry Liu highlighted the same design as a way to combine model routing and sub-agent delegation while preserving cache hits on accumulated context [9, 10].
- **Alternative architectures.** In Reddit materials, GoldWorm is described as a native Rust cognitive engine that routes language through the 302-neuron *C. elegans* connectome, separates action from learning, and uses an EchoReservoir plus Hebbian association matrix for associative memory without external training loops [11].

4) Market Signals

- **AI revenue versus capex.** Exponential View says AI quarterly revenues now exceed quarterly AI capex depreciation expense, but remain below cumulative historic depreciation [12].
- **Infra focus: power, cooling, networking, and chip design.** In Lightspeed's Lightwork discussion, the firm highlighted Basepower's residential-battery virtual power plants to reduce grid load, Periodic's AI-driven search for cooling and power-efficient materials, Next Hop's

network switches that are 10-15% more power efficient, Unconventional's brain-inspired chips targeting 100-1000x power efficiency, and Recursive's use of AI to compress chip-design timelines from 2-3 years to months [13].

- **Global competition signals.** Exponential View notes that Chinese AI labs hire talent averaging 1.6 years of experience versus 5.5 years for comparable US roles, and that SK Hynix's market value surpassed Samsung Electronics for the first time [12].
- **Policy signal on open-source AI.** Clement Delangue argued for the US government to train and release open-source AI models rather than regulate them [14].

Tired: The US government regulating open-source AI models

Wired: The US government training and releasing open-source AI models [14]

5) Worth Your Time

- **Lightspeed's Lightwork episode** — a useful overview of current AI infra bottlenecks across power, cooling, networking, and chip design [13].



Midjourney Medical, ChatGPT Loses Its Lead & Google DeepMind's Big Exits / Lightwork (47:38)

- **Exponential View: Data to start your week** — compact macro

context on AI revenue versus capex, China AI hiring, and semiconductor leadership shifts [12].

- **Arena thread** — direct look at Arena’s \$100M run-rate claim and its framing of agent benchmarking for long-running agents [2].
 - **Trijna demo** and **TrijnaLabs.tech** — the team’s own materials behind the 4GB RAM / Intel i5 claim and partner call [4].
 - **praxis-cloak on GitHub** and **praxis-nation on Hugging Face** — direct access to the two 3B privacy models [7].
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Sources

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12. Data to start your week
13. Midjourney Medical, ChatGPT Loses Its Lead & Google DeepMind’s Big Exits | Lightwork
14. X post by @ClementDelangue