FutureSim Debuts, Mistral Targets 1GW Capacity, and Malta Rolls Out ChatGPT Plus

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A new forecasting benchmark gives frontier agents a tougher continual-learning test, Mistral lays out an independence-first compute buildout, and Malta ties nationwide ChatGPT Plus access to AI literacy. The brief also covers new work on benchmark validity, long-context efficiency, tool use, and agent products from Pinecone, OpenAI, and xAI.

Top Stories

Why it matters: today's biggest developments touched evaluation, infrastructure, and labor impact.

- **FutureSim introduced a tougher benchmark for agentic forecasting.** It was designed to address the lack of realistic continual-learning evaluations by replaying the web day by day from Jan. 1, 2026, with date-gated access to about 244,000 real news articles and forecasts on events resolving over the next 90 days [1, 2]. In native harnesses, GPT-5.5 led at 25% accuracy, ahead of Opus 4.6 at 20%, DeepSeek V4 Pro at 13%, GLM 5.1 at 10%, and Qwen3.6 Plus at 5%; on some parallel Polymarket questions, GPT-5.5 sometimes beat the crowd aggregate, including Super Bowl LX [2]. The benchmark is meant to test adaptation, memory across 1,000+ tool calls, search, and inference scaling, and one observer described future-prediction benchmarks as scalable and hard to saturate [2, 3].
- **Mistral laid out an independence-first compute strategy.** CEO Arthur Mensch said the company rejects acquisition offers because its mission is to remain independent [4]. Notes from the same discussion put Mistral above €1B in R&D spend this year and targeting 1GW of datacenter capacity by 2029, with current clusters at 40MW in France

and 25MW in Sweden and another 80MW planned in France next year [4].

- **Anthropic CEO Dario Amodei warned that AI could bring very high GDP growth alongside very high unemployment and inequality, potentially reaching a 10% unemployment rate** [5].

Research & Innovation

Why it matters: the most useful papers today were about whether agents are being measured and optimized correctly.

- ***The Evaluation Trap* argues many AI evals test proxy behaviors rather than underlying capabilities.** The paper says most benchmarks bake in implicit theories, and that many agent leaderboards are not measuring what people think they are [6].
- **Meta's SP-KV targets long-context efficiency.** The method uses a small utility predictor to decide which older key-value pairs to keep while preserving a local sliding window, reducing KV cache size by about 3x-10x and improving decoding speed and memory bandwidth [7].
- **A new interpretability paper isolates a tool-use failure mode.** Researchers found models often recognize they should call a tool but fail to do so, with mismatch rates of 26%-54% concentrated in the cognition-to-action transition [8]. The authors say late-layer representations rotate the signal away from the final action, which may help explain stubborn tool-use prompting ceilings [8].

Products & Launches

Why it matters: the main product updates aimed at cheaper retrieval, faster coding workflows, and broader agent access.

- **Pinecone launched Nexus, a knowledge-engine layer for agents.** It claims up to 90% lower token use by compiling task-optimized artifacts before query time instead of sending raw files to agents, then indexing those artifacts for semantic, sparse, and full-text search [9].
- **OpenAI shipped a meaningful Codex UX and performance pass.** Updates include customizable shortcuts, Git actions back in review flow, cleaner thread and local server panels, roughly 75% less re-rendering on thread switches, and 10x-50x faster Git operations in large repos [10, 11, 12, 13, 14].
- **xAI widened Hermes Agent distribution.** X Premium+ and SuperGrok subscribers can now access Grok, X Search, image and video generation, and voice, with X Search available to agents using Grok OAuth login [15, 16].

Industry Moves

Why it matters: these updates point to where labs are trying to extend distribution and control surfaces.

- **Posts this week described OpenAI expanding Codex into a multi-device control plane.** A reported *Locked Use* setting would let Codex invoke Computer Use on other machines from a main device, creating a personal Codex network across Macs, workstations, and older PCs [17].
- **Claude Mythos appeared in Google Cloud Console, but the launch path is unclear.** One post noted the preview label is gone and compared the pattern to Opus 4.7's pre-release appearance, while another argued Anthropic's prior statements about Mythos risk make a public release unlikely [18, 19].

Policy & Regulation

Why it matters: this is a country-scale public AI access program tied to mandatory literacy training.

- **Malta became the first country to offer ChatGPT Plus free to every citizen for one year.** Access requires completing an AI literacy course built by the University of Malta rather than OpenAI, framing the program around basic AI education with tool access as the incentive [20].

Quick Takes

Why it matters: these smaller updates still show progress in robotics, open-source tooling, and model compression.

- Figure said its F.03 humanoids reached **Day 4** of nonstop 24/7 autonomous operation until failure [21, 22].
- Eric Jang said a strong AlphaGo-style system can now be trained from scratch for **a few thousand dollars** of rented compute, with tutorial, code, and a playable bot released publicly [23].
- Antirez released per-layer quantized **DeepSeek V4** models on Hugging Face, using Q8 for attention, shared experts, and output layers and 2-bit quantization elsewhere to protect quality-critical weights [24].
- **Khala 1.0**, a music model from Beijing's Central Conservatory of Music, launched with paper, code, weights, and demo all open-sourced [25].

Sources

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2. X post by @arvindh__a
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