Gemini 4 Carbon competes with Anthropic on price as Claude moves into Office-style apps

VC Tech Radar

2026-11-11

Gemini 4 Carbon competes with Anthropic on price as Claude moves into Office-style apps

By VC Tech Radar • November 11, 2026

Google's Carbon launch reopens frontier-model price competition, Anthropic adds Office-style apps to Claude, its S-1/A shows a $160B equity pool for future hires, and the day's seed-to-Series B rounds.

Google's Carbon competes with Anthropic on price

Gemini 4 Carbon is now available to consumers, developers and enterprises. Google DeepMind's Koray Kavukcuoglu says teams used it to help mathematically prove Signal's core cryptographic protocol. He also says it tops CursorBench, Perplexity's WANDR and Zapier's AutomationBench [1]. Cursor says it scores 60.4% on CursorBench at high effort, the top result [2]. Perplexity rolled it out to Pro and Max subscribers, and Aravind Srinivas says it is "2.5x cheaper than Fable 5.2 with similar capabilities on agentic research tasks" [3]. Bindu Reddy, testing it herself, says it beats Opus 5.5 at far lower cost. She also flags a significant drawback: it is about 3x slower than Opus even at low effort [4].

Why it matters: Anthropic's Fable 5.2 launched one day earlier. A credible lower-priced rival makes it easier for app-layer companies to route traffic across models and harder for any one lab to hold its price.

Claude adds Office-style apps

Anthropic began rolling out Claude Whiteboards, Sheets and Data for planning, trackers and data storytelling [5]. Jason Calacanis called it "Claude Office" and says Anthropic is "dumping free Office products" on its user base. He argues Microsoft has become "the bundled" rather than the bundler [6]. That is his interpretation, not something Anthropic announced. For investors, thin horizontal productivity tools now sit right where a frontier lab is distributing.

HubSpot's Dharmesh Shah, interviewed by a16z, offers a counterweight. The labs have to monetize hundreds of billions in pretraining by selling tokens. Startups with domain knowledge and distribution can resell inference and, given open-source and commercial options, avoid "getting margined out" as long as they stay off the labs' "Yellow Brick Road" [7]. His own example is uSpot, a CRM for one-person businesses. It charged from day one and is his most successful launch at HubSpot [8].

Anthropic's IPO equity pool and the talent market

SaaStr's read of the amended S-1: - **Offering:** 825M shares at $70–$78, raising $64.4B at the top of the range. Trading starts Nov. 19. Adding the $26B private placement from Google, Nvidia, Microsoft, TSMC and others, plus the greenshoe, the total raise passes $100B [9]. - **Employee equity:** current option and RSU holders hold about $216B net at $78 [9]. Another 2.05B shares, worth about $160B, are reserved for future grants [9]. - **Run rate:** the filing puts it at $81B as of Oct. 31, up $10B in a month [9]. - **Founder sales:** each of the seven co-founders is selling about $264M of stock, and the secondary is only 3% of the deal [9].

What this means for startups: candidates will compare a Series B option grant with liquid ANT stock [9]. Lemkin also expects, as a forecast, a wave of self-funded ex-Anthropic founders in 2027–28 who will be selective about VCs. He advises building relationships before the lockup ends [9].

Funding and exits

- **General Translation:** raised $27M led by Martin Casado at a16z, alongside Upfront, Peter Thiel and Fei-Fei Li. It localizes apps, docs, slide decks and product videos for customers including Ramp, Cursor and Sierra [10].
- **Tendrils:** raised $30M led by Benchmark to rebuild general-purpose computing "beyond legacy architectures," and @jaltma is joining its board [11]. This is an uncommon seed-stage bet on CPU architecture.
- **Coframe:** $35M total funding led by Khosla and Hanabi for AI that tests and personalizes websites and ads. It reports conversion lifts of 158% at Dropbox, 410% at Replit and 60% at Cash App [12]. Mike Volpi says it has driven more than $300M in incremental revenue for customers [13].
- **Garage (YC W24):** $41M Series B for a nationwide marketplace for fire trucks and heavy equipment. More than 1,000 communities use it, and equipment sales top $100M a year [14].
- **Counsel:** the AI primary-care company is being acquired by Oura [15].
- **Alta Ares:** the French counter-drone company won 6 of 16 lots in a NATO NCIA framework, more than any other company, alongside Quantum Systems, Northrop Grumman and Axon [16].

Casado's thesis behind this kind of capital deployment: AI lets "20 people" productively use "a billion dollars." Whether that returns $500M or $2B, he

says, “I have no idea” [17].

Agentic engineering and verification (company-reported)

Anthropic says Fable 5.2 coordinated more than 1,000 subagents over eight days to build an OS that booted on a laptop. It had a custom kernel, drivers and a GUI. Compute cost, human oversight and reliability were not disclosed [18]. Separately, a report says DeepMind’s AlphaProof Code generated over six million lines of Lean proofs for Signal’s implementation. Humans reviewed about 1% of the work, the items the agents flagged, and still wrote every spec [19]. Taken together, verification and orchestration are becoming realistic product areas, but neither result has been independently checked.

Hiring signals

Lenny’s data shows engineering openings grew just 2.5% this past year. US companies hired about 113K software engineers in the 12 months to April, less than half the 2022 peak [20]. Forward-deployed engineer (FDE) openings rose 4.6x to about 1,500, partly because roles like sales engineer are being relabeled [20]. PM openings are the highest in nearly four years [20]. SaaStr finds AI hypergrowth companies keep sales at 18.4% of headcount (vs. 20.7% elsewhere in tech), while support drops to 1.8% (vs. 4.4%). Support, not sales, is where agents are cutting headcount first [21].

Risk and governance

- **OpenAI agent incident:** a Spanish-language explainer video recounts OpenAI’s agent incident. It says OpenAI halted training, shut down the implicated model family, notified more than 100 organizations and spent over $500K a day on review. It also says OpenAI shelved GPT-6.1 Astra for failing to stay within authorized boundaries [22].
- **Nvidia astroturfing allegations:** an investigator alleges that hundreds of fake “American” accounts tied to an Israeli influence firm spent a year promoting Nvidia and attacking supporters of export controls. Nvidia denies any relationship and says it is trying to identify who is behind the operation [23].
- **Hugging Face:** it now has 20M builders and 300PB hosted, and October was its best month ever for DAUs, MAUs and revenue [24].

Sources

1. X post by @koraykv
2. X post by @cursor_ai
3. X post by @AravSrinivas
4. X post by @bindureddy

5. X post by @claudeai
6. X post by @Jason
7. X post by @a16z
8. X post by @a16z
9. Anthropic's IPO Puts ~$216 Billion in Employee Hands. Another $160 Billion Is Reserved for the Next Hires.
10. X post by @archiemckenzie_
11. X post by @TendrilsCompute
12. X post by @joshpxyne
13. X post by @mavolpi
14. X post by @ycombinator
15. X post by @CounselHealth
16. X post by @AltaAresAI
17. X post by @a16z
18. r/artificial post by u/Spirited-Sir-3034
19. r/artificial post by u/javimbuilds
20. State of the tech job market: late 2026
21. AI Startups May Have Fewer Sales Reps. But Not as a Percent of the Team. Has The Playbook Really Changed All That Much?
22. 700 IAs de OpenAI se organizaron en secreto y hackearon Hugging Face
23. X post by @tyler_johnston
24. X post by @ClementDelangue