Grok 4.5 Breaks Into the Frontier as OpenAI Ships GPT-Live

AI High Signal Digest

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xAI's Grok 4.5 posted strong frontier agent benchmarks and aggressive pricing, while OpenAI rolled out GPT-Live and retracted its support for SWE-Bench Pro as a leading coding benchmark. Also inside: Cognition's SWE-1.7, major developer launches, and new infrastructure funding moves.

Top Stories

Why it matters: today's biggest shifts were in frontier model price-performance, voice interfaces, and trust in coding benchmarks.

- **Grok 4.5 arrived with frontier-level agent results.** xAI says it is its first model trained specifically for coding and agents with Cursor [1]. Artificial Analysis ranks it #4 on the Intelligence Index and says it is on par with GPT-5.5 on the Coding Agent Index at much lower cost; pricing is $2/$6 per 1M input/output tokens with a 500k context window [2]. It also took the #1 spot on AutomationBench-AA at 51%, ahead of Claude Fable 5 and Claude Opus 4.8, at roughly a quarter of their cost per task [3].
- **OpenAI rolled out GPT-Live in ChatGPT.** OpenAI introduced GPT-Live as a new generation of voice models; the system is full-duplex, so it can listen and speak at the same time, and it can delegate harder work to a frontier model in the background while keeping the conversation going [4, 5, 6]. It is now fully rolled out to Go, Plus, and Pro users, with free rollout in progress and API access coming soon [7, 8].
- **OpenAI also challenged a benchmark many labs use to market coding models.** After auditing SWE-Bench Pro, the company said 30%

of tasks are broken, the eval is saturated at roughly a 70% noise ceiling, and it is retracting its prior recommendation to use the benchmark as a leading coding eval [9, 10].

Research & Innovation

Why it matters: the most useful technical progress today was about cheaper coding performance, better model auditing, and more realistic views of agent failure.

- **Cognition's SWE-1.7 pushed the cost/performance curve forward for coding.** Cognition says the model is within a few points of the strongest frontier models at a fraction of the cost and runs at 1000 tok/s [11]. Built on RL pipeline improvements over a Kimi K2.7 base, it scores 42.3% on FrontierCode at $1.97 per task [12].
- **D2D proposed a compact way to surface hidden bias.** The method is designed to find biases in fine-tuned models even when the auditor does not know the target topic, by distilling the difference from a base model into a 4M-parameter "Cartridge" that preserves the most coherent signal [13].
- **A new Oxford-led survey mapped persistent agent failure modes.** Synthesizing 27 papers across 19 benchmarks, it groups failures into six clusters, including tool-use errors, planning failures, long-horizon degradation, coordination breakdowns, safety failures, and measurement problems, and argues that failures compound nonlinearly with task length [14].

Products & Launches

Why it matters: launches are increasingly about turning models into usable workflows for developers, media teams, and edge applications.

- **Runway Dev** launched as a new AI media platform for professional developers and enterprise teams, bundling zero-day model releases, pre-built endpoints, workflows as APIs, and real-time characters [15, 16].
- **Moondream 3.1** landed on Cloudflare Workers AI, bringing image querying, captions, and object coordinates to edge inference with sub-second request times, including network round-trip time [17, 18].
- **VS Code and GitHub Copilot** shipped a new set of agent features, including browser agent tools for web app validation, an Agents window for parallel workflows, bring-your-own-key support, and better cost/model visibility [19, 20].

Industry Moves

Why it matters: capital and infrastructure continue to move toward open-model tooling and agent-native cloud stacks.

- **Prime Intellect raised a $130M Series A** to build its Open Superintelligence Stack, led by Radical Ventures with NVIDIA, Intel Capital, and Dell Capital; the company says the stack lets users train, deploy, and continuously improve their own models [21].
- **Modal raised a $355M Series C** around an agent-native cloud pitch built on sandboxes, elastic inference, GPU snapshotting, and support for up to 100,000 RL rollouts [22, 23].
- **Together Compute introduced Provisioned Throughput** for frontier open models, offering reserved inference capacity, token-based pricing, a 99% uptime SLA, and initial support for MiniMax M3 and GLM-5.2 [24].

Policy & Regulation

Why it matters: concrete government actions are now shaping who gets access to large-scale training capacity.

- **China approved purchases of 200,000 NVIDIA H200 chips** by DeepSeek, ByteDance, Alibaba, and others for training [25]. A separate estimate put the implied spend at about $5B using $25,000 per GPU [26].

Quick Takes

Why it matters: a few smaller updates still sharpened the picture on model quality, open-weight progress, and multimodal tooling.

- GPT-5.6 Sol, Terra, and Luna were added to the Codex codebase, where Sol is described as OpenAI's "most capable model yet" [27].
- Google's Nano Banana 2 Lite debuted at #5 on Artificial Analysis's text-to-image leaderboard, generates 1K images in about 3.4 seconds, and costs half as much as Nano Banana 2 [28].
- Z.ai's GLM-5.2 scored 152 on the Epoch Capabilities Index, the highest among open-weight models Epoch has evaluated [29].
- MOSS-Transcribe-Diarize-0.9B open-sourced a single-pass model for up to ~90 minutes of multi-speaker transcription with timestamps and speaker labels [30, 31].

Sources

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