

# HUD, Reactor, and AMP Point to AI's Next Infrastructure Layer

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*By VC Tech Radar • June 19, 2026*

New funding clustered around data and world-model infrastructure, while AMP, open weights, and test-time compute offered the strongest signals on where early AI investing and technical leverage may move next.

### 1) Funding & Deals

- **HUD — \$16M total, Series A led by Dalton Caldwell.** HUD is building a platform for high-quality post-training datasets plus a toolset and marketplace for RL environments. The company says more than 50 businesses already use it to build RL environments, sell them to AI labs, or train their own models. Backers named include Standard Capital, Y Combinator, Exceptional Capital, Liquid2 Ventures, 22VC, and angels including Dylan Patel, tszsl, Ivan Burazin, and Theo. [1, 2]

“HUD : ScaleAI :: Airbnb : Hilton” [3]

- **Reactor — Lightspeed is leading the Series A around real-time video and world-model infrastructure.** Reactor is building an infrastructure platform for real-time video and world models across interactive generative media, robotics, embodied AI, and hybrid movie/game experiences. The company says the capital will go to GPUs and cloud compute, team expansion, and R&D to improve model efficiency at scale. [4]

### 2) Emerging Teams

- **AMP is the strongest new compute-market design in the set.** Anjney Midha—previously at Discord’s developer platform and an investor in Anthropic, Mistral, Black Forest Labs, and Periodic—is building an

independent compute grid intended to make FLOPs flow like megawatts across clouds and silicon. The target is 1.2GW of base-load capacity plus roughly 6GW of spike capacity over four years. The technical bench includes ex-Google scheduler builders Seb and Mihai. [5]

- **Reactor’s founders are unusually on-thesis for world-model infrastructure.** Alberto Tayutti previously built Luma AI’s core 3D and video foundation-model stack, while Bryce Schmidchen came from the early Apple Vision Pro / VisionOS effort and specializes in low-power, sub-10ms real-time systems. Early pull is coming from real-time media, educational apps, video editing, targeted advertising, and robotics. [4]
- **LabGeni has a concrete enterprise-biotech validation signal.** The Airstreet portfolio company partnered with LG Chem to develop tumor-targeting antibodies using its AI-driven platform. [6]
- **Chion is a bottom-up data tooling concept worth tracking.** The solo founder connects read-only Postgres, compiles analyst-verified SQL into a portable skill library, and exports those skills to Claude, Codex, Cursor, or any LLM via MCP. The wedge is reliability: reuse trusted queries instead of generating fresh SQL in meetings. [7]

### 3) AI & Tech Breakthroughs

- **Rare-disease diagnosis is becoming a concrete test-time-compute use case.** Published evidence now suggests reasoning models can help with rare undiagnosed diseases in some of the hardest pediatric cases. [8]
- **Poolside pushed further into open weights.** The company released Laguna M.1, its most capable model, with 256K context; both base and post-trained checkpoints are on Hugging Face under Apache 2.0. [9]  
“Open weights are now our default” [10]
- **World models are looking like a separate infra category, not an LLM add-on.** Reactor argues that real-time, stateful, interactive generation changes the full stack—from inference and GPU/cloud orchestration to streaming, networking, APIs, and developer experience—and sees a new open-source world-model wave that rhymes with the LLM infra buildout. [4]
- **Model composition is becoming more explicit at the agent layer.** Bindu Reddy outlined different pairings for backend coding, search, video, image, massively parallel work, and expert coding, suggesting model routing and combination are becoming product primitives rather than hidden implementation detail. [11]

#### 4) Market Signals

- **Startup-native AI is still the dominant investor posture.** Foundation Capital says the best AI products it is seeing come from Bay Area founders and early-stage startups, not from established companies, and explicitly says this moment favors startups building from scratch. [12]
- **Efficiency is becoming doctrine on both the compute and product sides.** Anjney calls the frontier-systems mindset “output maxing” rather than brute-force scaling, while Foundation Capital is pushing founders toward 12-24 hour loops from customer conversation to shipped feature. [5, 12]
- **The next infra layer is forming around bottlenecks in memory, heterogeneous compute, and agent governance.** Foundation Capital is watching KV-cache efficiency, CUDA-virtualization-style layers for mixed chip environments, and telemetry/governance tools for billions of agents. AMP is attacking the same scarcity problem via scheduling and utilization across multi-cloud, multi-silicon supply. [12, 5]
- **Test-time compute may create another demand kink in inference.** A 20VC discussion argued that frontier models keep improving as more compute is applied at inference time, with no clear wall yet identified; the rare-disease diagnosis result above is one example of that thesis showing up in a real application. [13, 8]

#### 5) Worth Your Time

- **Latent Space: The Professor of Outputmaxxing — Anjney Midha, AMP** — useful for understanding compute pooling, utilization discipline, and why an ISO-style control layer could emerge in AI infrastructure. [5]
- **HUD founder interview** — useful for a primary-source walkthrough of HUD’s RL-environment marketplace thesis. [1, 14]
- **Laguna M.1 collection** — useful if you are tracking the strength of the open-weights camp and Poolside’s Apache 2.0 posture. [9, 10]
- **Reactor on why world models require a new stack** [4]



*Why Real-Time Video May Be AI's Next Big Opportunity | Alberto Taiuti and Bryce Schmidtchen, Reactor (7:23)*

- **Foundation Capital on compressing founder cycle time [12]**



*The great reorg is just getting started | Azeem Azhar, Founder of Exponential View (49:08)*

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## Sources

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