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VC Tech Radar

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Jev's funding points to a market for cheaper, bounded model calls, while CMS is aligning payment with measurable chronic-care outcomes and an evidence pathway for qualifying technologies. Runway's interactive-world preview and agent-driven CPU pressure show that control and compute remain practical constraints.

Funding & Deals

Jev — $40M seed for task-specific inference. 20VC's segment reports the round but does not name a lead. Its panel describes Jev as an LLM-backed classifier returning true/false, rankings, or scores rather than prose. One panelist says a prompt-tuned social-matching task answered in milliseconds at roughly one-hundredth of Anthropic's price. The bet is cheaper calls for bounded decisions, not a general-model replacement; the same discussion warns that each use case needs extensive QA. [1]

Solcoa — $75M seed led by @BainCapVC. The announcement says the team moved from a chemistry demo line to a full production facility in Alameda within a year and announced a 500-tonne rare-earth metallization plant in Nevada. Its investor frames the thesis as building a viable domestic U.S. rare-earth source. [2, 3]

Emerging Teams

Maximem Synap is building a persistent-memory SDK for agents. The small Bangalore/SF team says developers found its GitHub SDK, signed up, and paid before it had a landing page or marketing site. The product types memories as facts or preferences, resolves entities, and scopes memory per

customer. The launch post reports paid uptake but gives no user or revenue count, so this is an early pull signal rather than evidence of scale. [4]

AI & Tech Breakthroughs

Runway's GWM Worlds 2 pushes video models into real-time interaction. Runway says its research preview generates continuous 720p video at 24 fps with 48 kHz audio, steered by text actions and camera motion; it positions the work for robotics and embodied-agent simulation. But WorldPrompt is a prompt format, not a programming language with scripting or state control. Runway says long-term memory remains imperfect and free-form use may need an external harness to track world state and generate actions. For simulation bets, state and controllability—not just visual fidelity—remain the diligence questions. [5, 6]

Perplexity is productizing fast retrieval for agents. The company says its Rust-based Photon retrieval-and-ranking service powers Fast Search in its Search API and is the default search in Hermes Agent for Nous Portal subscribers; it reports 160 ms p50 and 230 ms p95 latency. These are company-reported figures, but the launch signals that retrieval speed is becoming a distinct agent-stack layer. [7, 8]

Market Signals

CMS is tying chronic-care payments to measured outcomes. Its Access model pays for outcomes rather than activities or the technology itself; the CMS interview reports 160 companies in the model, with 40 already enrolling patients. CMS describes alignment by other payers as a path from Original Medicare's 30 million beneficiaries to a potential 300 million—not current reach. FDA's Tempo pilot lets qualifying technologies that would ordinarily require premarket authorization or clearance be used within Access while in-market evidence is collected; examples include AI voice CBT for depression and AI-supported hypertension medication titration under oversight. For digital-health investors, the commercial test is outcomes and care-delivery economics, not the AI label. [9]

Agentic workloads are tightening CPU capacity as well as GPU supply. The Pragmatic Engineer reports that CPU spot pricing has disappeared, reservations may require months of notice, and server fulfillment has stretched to about six months from one to two weeks, with prices 10–20% higher. It attributes demand to reinforcement learning and agents running CPU-heavy tools, and reports that AI data-center CPU-to-GPU ratios have shifted from 1:8 to 1:4, with 1:1 a possibility. Agent infrastructure diligence should now include CPU and DRAM availability, not only GPUs. [10]

Stripe's AI-company data point to early global reach. Stripe says its top AI cohort's year-over-year growth rose from 120% in 2025 to 175% in 2026; its

data also show AI companies reaching 42 countries in year one and 120 by year three, with 48% of top AI companies' revenue coming from outside their home market. These are Stripe cohort figures, not a sector-wide baseline, but they make localization, local payments, and tax compliance useful early go-to-market diligence points. [11]

Worth Your Time

Watch — 20VC's Jev discussion. A useful account of the trade-off between lower-cost classification and the QA burden of routing. [1]

Meta's Muse Hits #1 | Menlo Sounds the AI Bubble Alarm | Keith Rabois vs Airwallex: Who is Right? (22:32)

Read — Latent.Space's WorldPrompt breakdown. It distinguishes promptable video from a controllable world and explains the problems of memory and accumulated generation errors. [6]

Sources

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