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NVIDIA is reportedly considering an unprecedented financing backstop for OpenAI infrastructure as AI products extend into multi-step work. The digest also tracks a new wave of open models built for agent workflows and competing views on how safety, international collaboration, and open access fit together.

NVIDIA reportedly considers a vast OpenAI data-center financing backstop

A post citing *The Wall Street Journal* said NVIDIA is in talks to provide a **$250 billion financial backstop** for an OpenAI data center in Ohio, with the facility potentially costing **$500 billion** in total. [1] Gary Marcus questioned whether the project could proceed without NVIDIA's support. [2]

Why it matters: If confirmed, the arrangement would put a major chip supplier directly behind financing for infrastructure on an unusually large scale—not simply supplying the hardware.

AI products push further into multi-step work

Sam Altman said ChatGPT completed a single mobile request to use his chat history, generate trip options for eight friends, create a coordination website, make reservations after agreement, and draft a Gmail message. Greg Brockman amplified the example as an invitation to "put chatgpt to work." [3, 4]

Elsewhere, xAI added a `/deep-research` command to Grok Build, described as using bounded parallel agents to cross-check evidence and write cited reports. [5] Sakana AI also released a Claude Code-compatible interface for Fugu-Ultra

v1.1, allowing terminal users to orchestrate a pool of frontier models rather than rely on one model for coding tasks. [6]

Why it matters: The emphasis is shifting from isolated answers toward workflows that coordinate research, software work, and actions across several steps.

Open models diversify around agent execution and efficiency

inclusionAI released **Ling-3.0-flash**, an API-only sparse-MoE model aimed at low-latency agent-graph roles such as loops, routers, and single-step executors. It has 124B total parameters but 5.1B active parameters, a 256K context window, a claimed time-to-first-token below 100ms, and toggleable thinking; the company says it trained the model for long-horizon tool calling. [7] It is available through OpenRouter free until August 3. [7]

The broader open-weight release cycle also included Poolside's **Laguna S 2.1**—a 118B sparse MoE with 8B active parameters and a 1M-token context window—and Upstage's 250B-A15B hybrid-MoE **Solar Open 2**. [8] Sebastian Raschka also highlighted smaller or more specialized releases, including Cisco's 1B-parameter Antares for terminal-based cybersecurity and a LoRA adapter for coding agents. [8]

Why it matters: The releases illustrate a practical split in open-model development: very large sparse models for long context and capability, alongside targeted, efficient models designed to sit inside agent systems.

Safety and openness remain intertwined in the global AI debate

In a video message, Yoshua Bengio said frontier models are advancing in planning and reasoning while expanding into robotics, making safe and trustworthy AI increasingly important amid an intensifying global AI race. [9] He said Japan's robotics, manufacturing, and engineering strengths position it to lead work on trustworthy AI, and advocated a Japan–Canada partnership as a safety- and cooperation-focused "third pole" in the AI ecosystem. [9]

Sakana AI, meanwhile, signed the "Open Weights and American AI Leadership" letter, which argues that open-weight models expand access, promote competition and user control, and improve safety. [10]

Why it matters: Safety is being framed through both governance and technical access: Bengio emphasizes trusted international cooperation, while the open-weights letter argues that broader model availability can itself support a healthier and safer ecosystem.

Sources

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3. X post by @sama
4. X post by @gdb
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