

Tessera's \$60M Round, GPT-5.5 in ChatGPT, and the Expansion of Agent Infrastructure

VC Tech Radar

2026-05-06

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By VC Tech Radar • May 6, 2026

a16z's \$60M investment in Tessera was the clearest deal signal, while the rest of the set showed a deepening market for agent infrastructure, control layers, and cost optimization. Also notable: GPT-5.5's ChatGPT rollout, Anthropic's latest alignment research, and Brian Chesky's case that enterprise AI still dominates this cycle.

1) Funding & Deals

- **Tessera Labs: \$60M Series A led by a16z.** The company is targeting one of enterprise IT's most painful cost centers—ERP transformations, starting with SAP upgrades—with what it describes as the world's first AI-native system integrator, aiming to deliver in weeks what used to take years. Founder Kabir Nagrecha earned a UC San Diego CS PhD at 20 and, within 18 months of founding, says Tessera signed multimillion-dollar ACV contracts with large enterprise CIOs and built a 30+ person team. [1, 2]

2) Emerging Teams

- **graphify-ts: a developer tool where the benchmark is part of the product.** The fully local, MIT-licensed Node/TypeScript server replaces 8–10 sequential `Read/Grep` calls with one `retrieve` call; on a 1,268-file repo, the builder reports 9→3 tool turns, 615K→233K input tokens, and 96→35 seconds, plus a 7.25x smaller PR-review prompt. The standout signal is the committed `verify.sh`: the founder explicitly argues reproducible benchmarks, not feature claims, are the moat. [3]
- **NyxID: security and connectivity infrastructure for agent deployment.** The open-source gateway keeps raw API keys server-side,

gives each agent a scoped token, lets cloud agents reach localhost services via outbound WebSocket, and turns OpenAPI specs into MCP tools. Security details include per-agent audit logs, rate limits, allowlists, and layered token TTL/rotation—pointing toward a control layer for agents that need real-world permissions. [4, 5]

- **Oriane: video-native AI infrastructure.** The product is pitched as a “vision layer” that lets AI analyze spoken words, logos, and on-screen context rather than relying only on captions and metadata, with modules for untagged brand detection, event-level search, and feeding video data into external LLMs. Product Hunt CEO Rajiv personally hunted the launch, a useful early distribution signal. [6]
- **ArclIntelligence: unusually high-agency solo founder signal.** A 19-year-old founder from Bihar says he built a fully trained 5.82B multimodal model alone—no team, no investors, no CS degree—with text, image, document, audio, and video understanding, a 2,097,152-token context window, and 93.45 OmniDocBench V1.5 in private testing. He says he spent about \$11,560 from personal savings and compute grants and is raising \$35k to finish the pipeline and open-source weights and code. [7]
- **Klaimee: insurance for AI agents.** YC describes the company as an insurance layer for autonomous AI deployments, meant to bridge risk gaps that cyber and E&O policies exclude today; founders are Ines Boutem and Juls Caton. This is notable because it targets enterprise adoption friction around agent risk, not just model capability. [8]

3) AI & Tech Breakthroughs

- **OpenAI moved GPT-5.5 instant into ChatGPT.** The rollout was framed around factuality, “crushing hacks,” and better baseline intelligence, with OpenAI describing the model as much smarter and significantly less likely to hallucinate. Related posts characterized it as a substantial upgrade in intelligence, image perception, and factuality, with plainer writing; Sam Altman highlighted the combined gains in speed, intelligence, personality, and memory/personalization. [9, 10, 11, 12]
- **Anthropic’s Model Spec Midtraining (MSM) is a notable alignment idea.** The method adds a pre-fine-tuning stage where the model reads synthetic documents discussing its own Model Spec, with the goal of teaching principles rather than only behaviors. The headline result in the summary: models trained on identical fine-tuning data generalized to different values depending on the MSM spec; the same summary says the results are promising but still limited to synthetic or controlled settings. [13]
- **TritonSigmoid shows real kernel-level progress for variable-length biological data.** The open-source, padding-aware sigmoid

attention kernel was built for single-cell foundation models with 200 to 16,000+ token sequences; the authors report up to 515 TFLOPS on H100 versus 361 for FlashAttention-2 and 440 for FlashSigmoid, plus lower validation loss, 25% better cell-type separation, and stable training where softmax diverged. The implementation keeps static shapes for `torch.compile` by padding to max length and skipping fully padded blocks. [14, 15]

4) Market Signals

- **Enterprise AI is still the default startup trade.** Brian Chesky said YC’s last batch had 159 enterprise companies out of 175 and argued the current market skews away from consumer because founders and investors worry about ChatGPT competition, weak consumer monetization, mature distribution, and the relative ease of enterprise GTM. His forward view is the important signal: he expects a consumer AI renaissance in the next 12–24 months. [16]
- **Agent demand is already creating serious scale tests.** Replit Agent generated half a million projects in a single day; one user alone consumed \$10k in workloads, and the company says the system handled roughly 4x normal load with tens of thousands of agents running in parallel. That is a meaningful usage signal for agent-native product demand. [17, 18]
- **Inference economics remain open.** Harrison Chase said LLMs are getting expensive and argued this is why the market needs OSS models. Separately, a founder-led routing platform said it beat OpenRouter’s lowest DeepSeek v3.2 price by 27% on one test run after steering traffic into predictable datacenter idle windows, suggesting supply-side optimization is becoming its own wedge. [19, 20, 21]
- **Geography and policy are still part of the moat conversation.** Elad Gil argued that breaking into AI still means moving to the Bay Area cluster, which he said holds 91% of private tech market cap and 91% of global AI market cap; Marc Andreessen publicly co-signed. Andreessen separately called Anthropic’s “federal AI moat” “concerning,” a compact signal that government-favored competitive dynamics are now part of investor discussion. [22, 23, 24]
- **Multi-agent orchestration is becoming a real product category.** Cofounder 2 pitched itself as infrastructure for the “one person billion dollar company,” orchestrating agents across engineering, sales, marketing, ops, and design. Jerry Liu highlighted AI-native UI/UX and multi-agent coordination as the important innovation surface for tasks that do not fit a chat-only interface. [25, 26]

5) Worth Your Time

- **Brian Chesky on why AI is still mostly enterprise.** How Brian Chesky Is Redesigning Airbnb for the AI Era is the cleanest macro conversation in the set on why YC skewed enterprise and why he thinks consumer AI comes next. [16]

“Last batch 159 were Enterprise... The next wave of AI is going to be



consumer AI.” [16]

How Brian Chesky Is Redesigning Airbnb for the AI Era (15:34)

- **Anthropic’s MSM paper.** Read it here if you want the strongest alignment rabbit hole in the set, especially around whether values can generalize beyond fine-tuned behavior. [13, 27]
- **TritonSigmoid paper + code.** Paper and code are worth a scan if you track GPU kernel innovation tied to real downstream model stability. [14]
- **CB Insights AI 100 2026.** Full list is useful for infrastructure screening; LlamaIndex appeared in the AI Infrastructure category and framed its product as a document understanding API for AI agents. [28, 29]
- **graphify-ts repo.** GitHub is worth opening because the founder’s main point is methodological: the `verify.sh` proof matters as much as the feature. [3]

Sources

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2. X post by @a16z

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16. How Brian Chesky Is Redesigning Airbnb for the AI Era
17. X post by @amasad
18. X post by @pirroh
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20. X post by @Vtrivedy10
21. r/SaaS post by u/bingusDev
22. X post by @tferriss
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