

AI House Davos to launch during World Economic Forum 2024

- *Joint initiative by Merantix, ETH AI Center, Swisscom, UTokyo Institute for AI and Beyond, and Hewlett Packard Enterprise (HPE)*
- *With AI likely a key theme of WEF '24, AI House Davos will bring together academics, industry leaders, government officials, investors, and entrepreneurs*

25.09.23 - DAVOS: Merantix, ETH AI Center, Swisscom, UTokyo Institute for AI and Beyond, and Hewlett Packard Enterprise today announce the launch of the [AI House Davos](#) during the World Economic Forum (WEF) Annual Meeting, 15th-19th January 2024. The Swiss Foreign Ministry will be the hosting country partner of this year's edition.

By bringing together academics, industry leaders, civil society, government officials, investors, and entrepreneurs, the AI House will facilitate in-depth discussions and collaborative efforts to ensure that the requisite safeguarding of AI is made accessible and prioritized by all. The AI House will provide a dedicated platform to foster an inclusive multidisciplinary and multi-stakeholder approach to addressing critical challenges facing the Artificial Intelligence (AI) industry, including responsible scaling, integration, and regulation.

As the key topic of global conversation, debate, and legislation throughout 2023, AI will certainly be a key topic of discussion during the WEF Annual Meeting. The AI House and its partners will attract the most relevant stakeholders from academia, government, industry, finance, civil society and the entrepreneurial world to provide a global forum to discuss the benefits AI can bring to humankind and world economies, and to provide a catalyst for responsible and sustainable innovation.

The AI House is a global, multi-stakeholder platform, with partners and subsidiary sponsors including European Commission, European Innovation Council, European AI Forum, Automation Anywhere, EPFL, TÜV AI Lab, and more. Forbes, Handelsblatt, and Devex will join as media partners.

Dr. Rasmus Rothe, CTO and Co-Founder of Merantix, comments: *"As the defining technology of our time, AI requires a multidisciplinary approach to scale it responsibly, and bringing stakeholders together to discuss how we can do so will enable deep collaboration between academics, regulators, and broader civil society. AI House Davos will act as a bedrock for these conversations, combining collective expertise in order to further advance the uptake, application, and integration of AI worldwide."*

PD Dr. Alexander Ilic, Founder and Executive Director of ETH AI Center, comments: *"The progress made within the AI ecosystem over the past few months alone has been phenomenal. We are on the cusp of a technological revolution, the likes of which have not been seen since the internet, and as such it is imperative that the right foundations are laid to allow AI to flourish safely, responsibly, and with purpose. We want Switzerland to be a leader in these conversations, which is why we're so excited that ETH Zürich is partnering with Merantix, Swisscom, University of Tokyo and Hewlett Packard Enterprise on this venture."*

Laure Willemin, Executive Vice President of Data, Analytics & AI at Swisscom, comments: *"Putting the Human at the Center of all AI solutions will be the key topic of all discussions at the Davos AI House. As one of Switzerland's leading telecoms and IT companies, we are focused on developing human-centric, explainable, sustainable and secure AI solutions to improve*

customer experience, optimize network performance and drive digital transformation across various industries.”

Teruo Fujii, President of The University of Tokyo (Founding Director, Institute for AI and Beyond), comments: *“AI is transforming human society, including education, science, and industry. To further contribute to the development of AI research and the realization of a better world, the Institute for AI and Beyond, a collaborative initiative launched by the University of Tokyo and SoftBank, is advancing AI research and pioneering new sciences and businesses while solving AI-related social problems. The Davos AI House will be the suitable platform for us to have discussions with multiple stakeholders on different aspects including the topics related to the G7 Hiroshima AI process.”*

Justin Hotard, Executive Vice President and General Manager for High Performance Computing, AI & Labs at Hewlett Packard Enterprise, comments: *“AI presents an incredible opportunity to innovate for the benefit of society at a scale and pace we have never seen before. AI will enable us to speed up drug discovery, mitigate climate change and optimize renewable energy generation – among many other significant outcomes. We must work together to harness this powerful technology responsibly, sustainably and ethically. The AI House Davos will bring together stakeholders in the public and private sectors to accelerate the scale and deployment of AI in ways that keep humanity at the forefront.”*

Martin Vetterli, President at EPFL, comments: *“We want to help create a Generative AI that is good for society. The AI House in Davos allows top researchers in the field to meet industry leaders, NGO, government officials, etc. We can develop a common vision and make sure such an exciting technological innovation as Generative AI is used for good. We are just at the beginning. The current situation is very similar to when other technologies became mature: do we want to create value, solve problems and contribute to well-being or to allow negative and destructive applications?”*

Ambassador Benedikt Wechsler, Head of Division for Digitalisation at State Secretariat Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (Switzerland), comments: *“Switzerland is a global leader in AI research. Discussions on governance formats have intensified worldwide in recent months. International Geneva is well positioned to play an important role in this issue with its broad ecosystems of international standardization organizations, important UN organizations. But without the tech companies driving the AI revolution and the scientific expertise, such considerations are mostly unrealistic. This is why Swiss diplomacy is using the AI House at WEF 2024 as an important platform for discussion.”*

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About Merantix

Merantix is the world’s largest Artificial Intelligence investment platform, which builds and invests in AI ventures to tackle the most pressing issues of our times. The platform consists of a research & development arm, Merantix Momentum; a co-development and largest co-working space for AI in Europe, Merantix AI Campus; and the AI venture building and investment arm, Merantix. Backed by tech investors such as Transpose Platform, W.K. Kellogg Foundation, SoftBank and various European family offices, Merantix has over 200 employees working on AI across all industries.

About ETH AI Center

ETH AI Center is the central hub for research in artificial intelligence at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Zürich (ETH Zürich). It brings together researchers of AI foundations, applications, and implications across all departments. With more than 110 professors, ETH AI Center connects some 1600 researchers from all disciplines into a tightly knit community, fostering research excellence, industry innovation, and AI entrepreneurship to promote trustworthy, accessible, and inclusive AI systems.

About Swisscom

Swisscom, Switzerland's leading telecoms company and one of its leading IT companies, is headquartered in Ittigen, close to the capital city Berne. Outside Switzerland, Swisscom has a presence on the Italian market in the guise of Fastweb. 2022 over 19,000 employees generated sales of CHF 11,112 million. It is 51% Confederation-owned and is one of Switzerland's most sustainable and innovative companies. More than 350 employees build Data Analytics and AI solutions across all Swisscom activities, like advanced chatbots for improved Customer Experience and Service or improved self-healing capabilities of the network for superior stability.

About the Institute for AI and Beyond

The Institute for AI and Beyond was established as a center of excellence by the Beyond AI Joint Project, a collaborative initiative launched by the University of Tokyo and SoftBank, bringing together the leading talents and knowledge of the world. The Institute promotes basic research (mid- and long-term research) that aims to create new academic fields by integrating fundamental technology research of AI and other fields with applied research (high-cycle research) that aims to apply AI to various social and industrial issues. For more information, visit: beyondai.jp

About HPE

Hewlett Packard Enterprise (NYSE: HPE) is the global edge-to-cloud company that helps organizations accelerate outcomes by unlocking value from all of their data, everywhere. Built on decades of reimagining the future and innovating to advance the way people live and work, HPE delivers unique, open and intelligent technology solutions as a service. With offerings spanning Cloud Services, Compute, High Performance Computing & AI, Intelligent Edge, Software, and Storage, HPE provides a consistent experience across all clouds and edges, helping customers develop new business models, engage in new ways, and increase operational performance. For more information, visit: www.hpe.com