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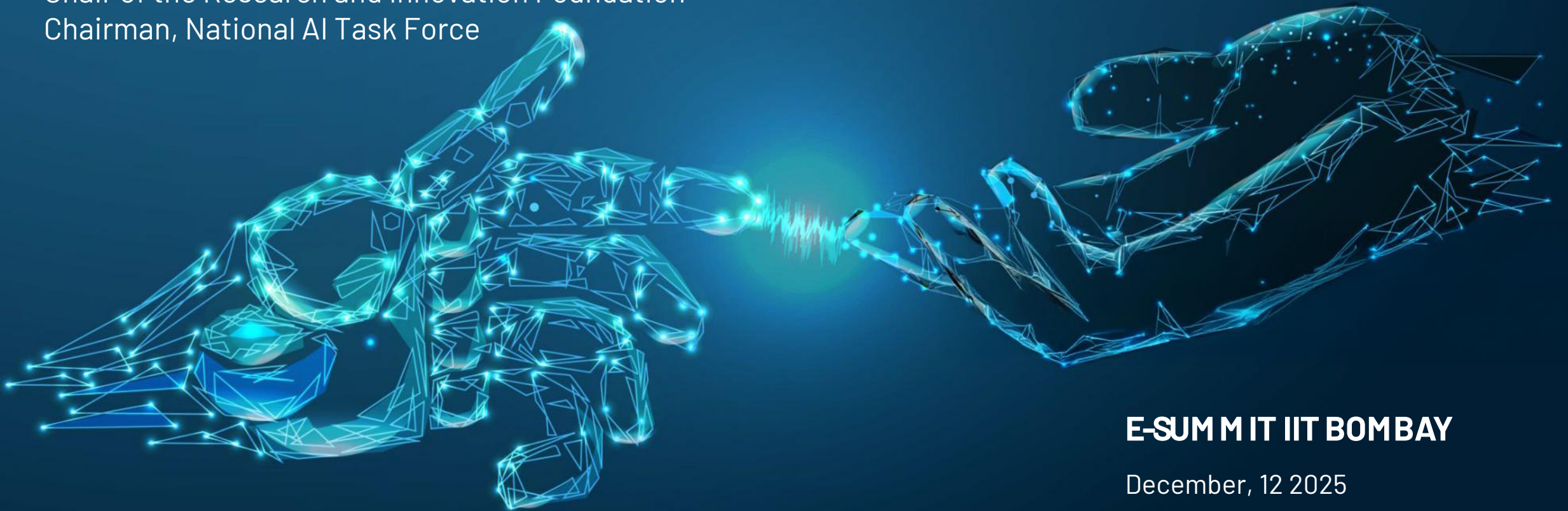


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HOW AI IS REDEFINING INNOVATION ACROSS CYPRUS AND INDIA

Demetris Skourides

Chief Scientist of the Republic of Cyprus
Chair of the Research and Innovation Foundation
Chairman, National AI Task Force



E-SUMMIT IIT BOMBAY

December, 12 2025



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Disclaimer

The content is not intended to influence strategy, implementation nor reflects an approved strategic direction for national ai adopting. Best practices reflect lessons learned and explored from worlds most advanced nations who have implemented smart government initiatives.



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REIMAGINING THE AI FUTURE

DATA



INDUSTRY-
TECH



RESEARCH &
INNOVATION



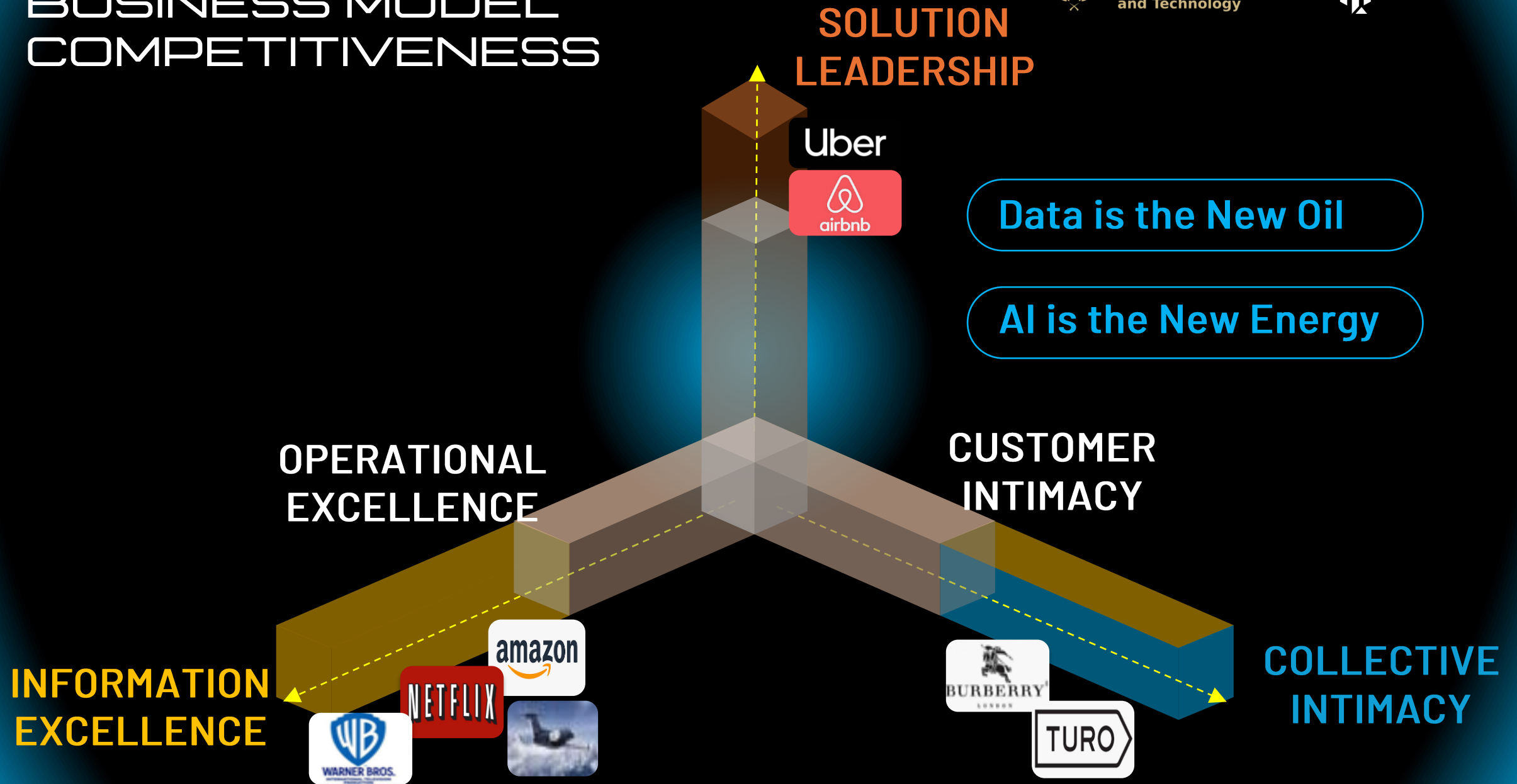
BUSINESS MODEL COMPETITIVENESS



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THE PLATFORM ECONOMY



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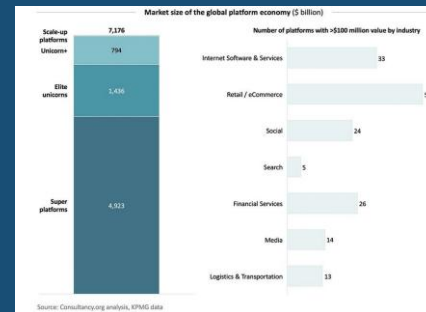


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Inclusiveness of transaction

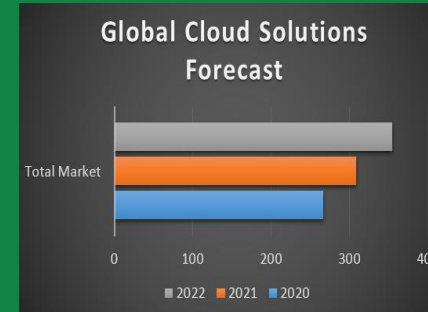
Platform
Business
Model

7T\$



Solution
Business
Model

354B\$



Product Business Model



Project Business Models

Customization of Offering

WHAT WILL IT DO FOR US?



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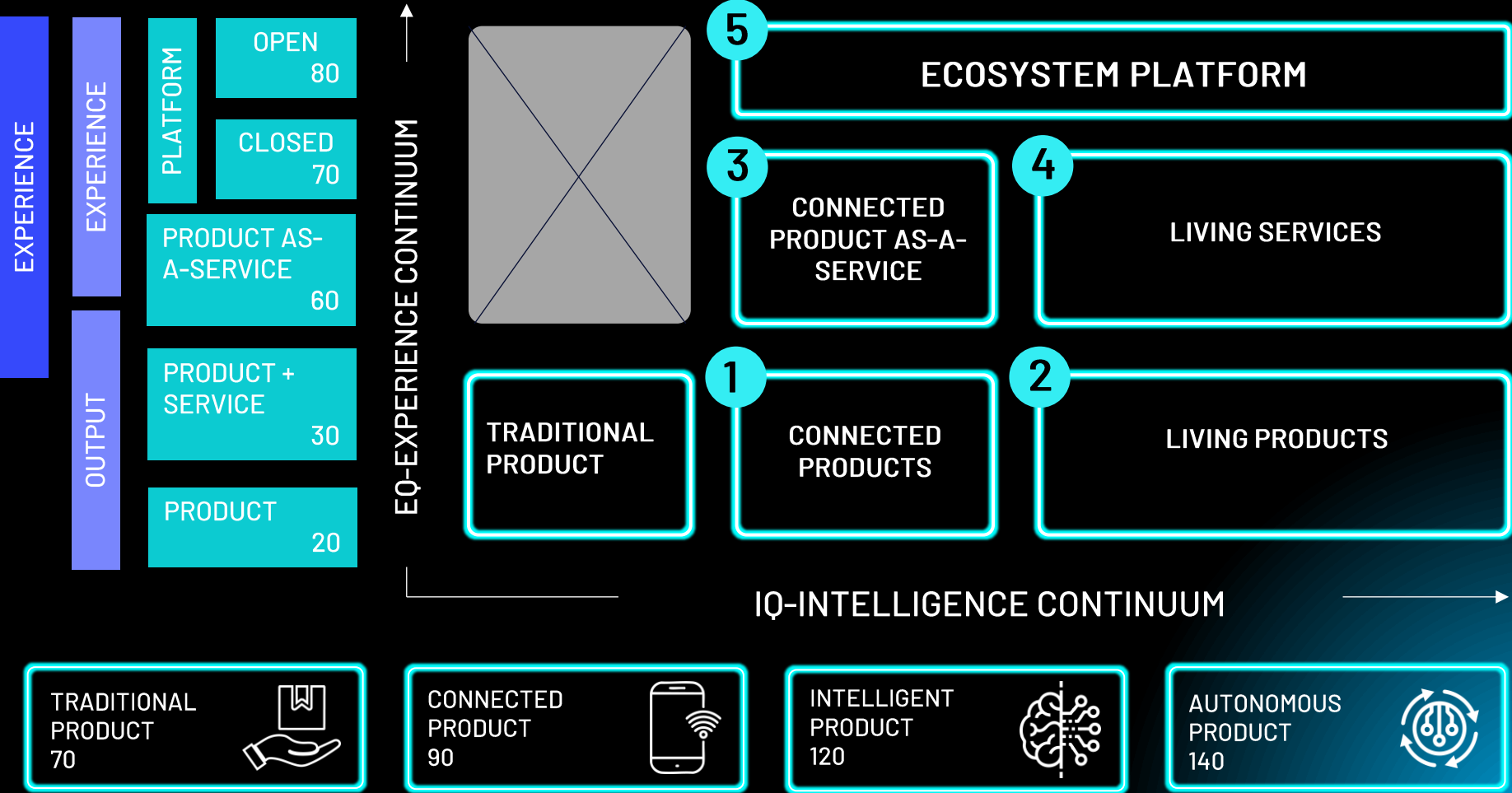
Do We Need AI to Truly Transform the Customer Experience for the Better?



THE PRODUCT REINVENTION GRID

Experience Quotient (EQ)
measures the degree of sophistication achieved in terms of services levels.

Intelligence Quotient (IQ)
measures product's degree of technical sophistication





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CYPRUS AI VISION 2030

Strategic AI Hub

Transform Cyprus into a balanced AI hub within the EU, leveraging existing strengths while addressing infrastructure constraints

Economic Impact

Create 5,000+ high-skilled AI positions, following successful models from Estonia, Singapore, and Malta

Strategic Approach

Develop selective domestic AI capabilities where strategically essential, leverage existing computational assets, focus on high-value specialization, and maintain meaningful participation in AI value chains

CYPRUS NATIONAL RESEARCH AND INNOVATION STRATEGY 2024-2026



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World Class Institutions & Infrastructures



Unleashing R&D in Business, Fuel Business Success

People as Drivers of Growth



Becoming a Leader in Research & Innovation

CURRENT ECONOMIC FOUNDATION



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€32.5B

GDP (2024)

With 3.4% real growth

86.8%

Services

€27.21B - Highest in EU

11.4%

ICT

€3.09B - 2nd in EU27, 347% growth
(2015-2024)

Sector	GDP Contribution	Value
Financial Services	10.1%	€2.8B
Professional Services	7.3%	€2.02B
Maritime	~7%	€1.034B
Manufacturing	4-5.2%	€1.42B

Employment: 516,127 persons, 4.5% unemployment (15-year low)

Digital Infrastructure: 100% coverage, 77.1% fiber-to-home



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AI CHANGES EVERYTHING

"AI is democratizing access to knowledge, insight, and in many cases expertise disrupting the traditional learning curve and creating new opportunities, and risks we have not considered preparing for before." **Demetris Skourides, Chief Scientist of Republic of Cyprus and Chairman of AI National Taskforce**

"AI is democratizing access to specialized knowledge and expertise. In the past, gaining proficiency in a particular field often required expensive education or mentorship from industry insiders." **Mark Pittman Forbes Technology Council**



CYPRUS NATIONAL AI TASKFORCE



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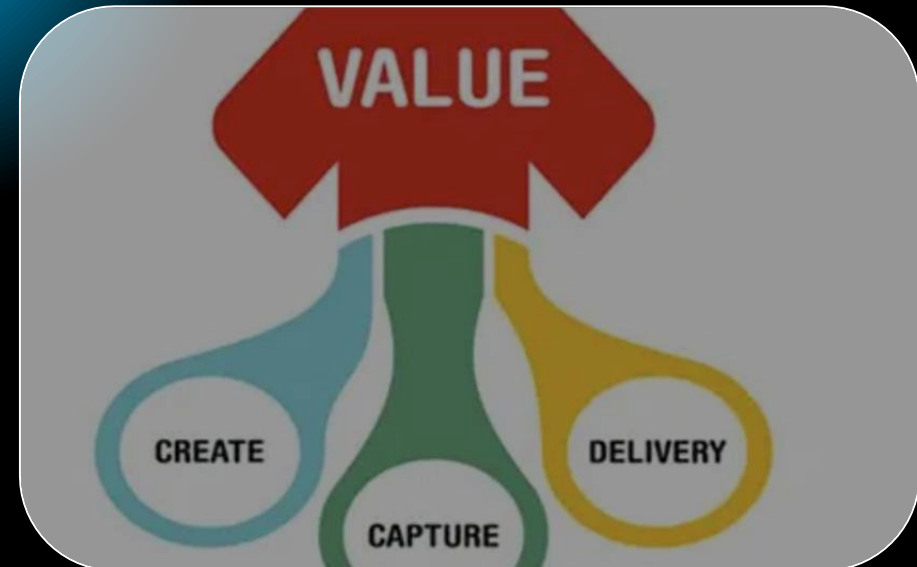
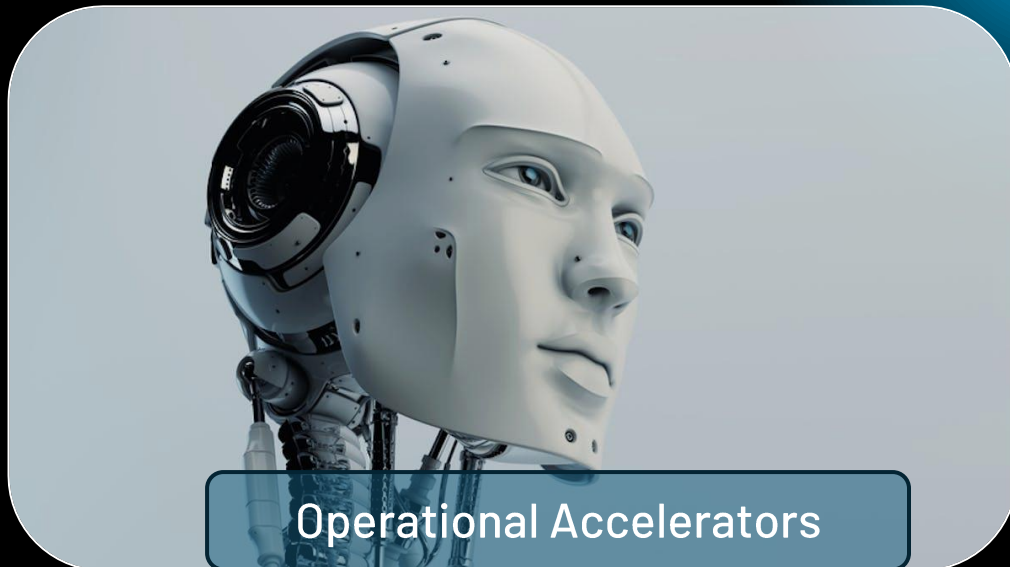
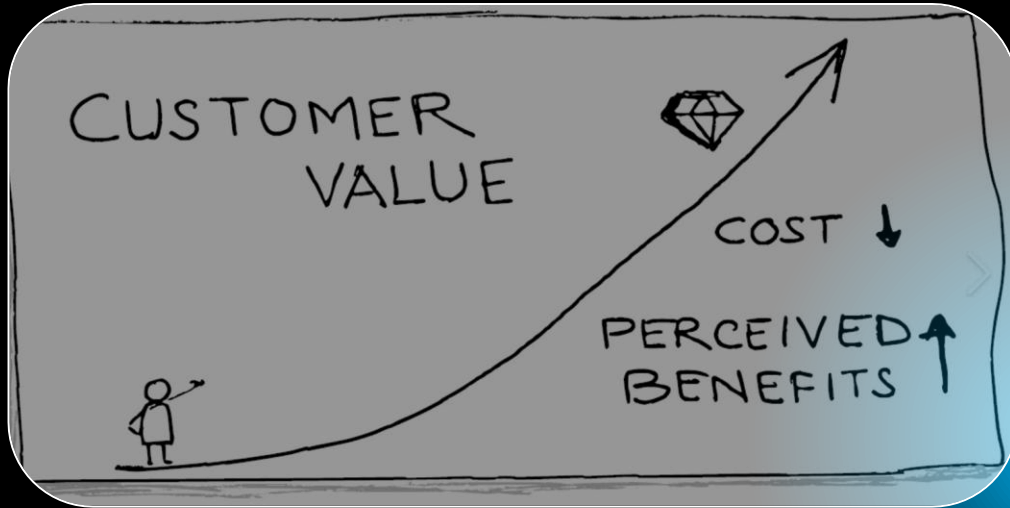
CYPRUS 2030



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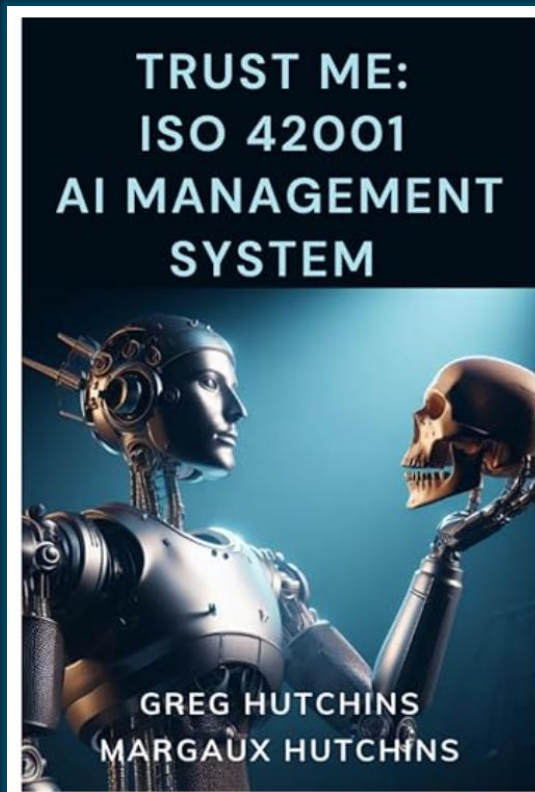
IMPLEMENTING EU AI ACT



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- TRANSPARENCY
- RESPONSIBLE AI
- SECURITY
- CONSISTENCY





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AI IN RESEARCH



NEXT GEN
FOUNDATIONS



AUTONOMOUS
TECHNOLOGY



AI IN
HEALTHCARE/VHT



SECURITY / SPACE
& DEFENCE

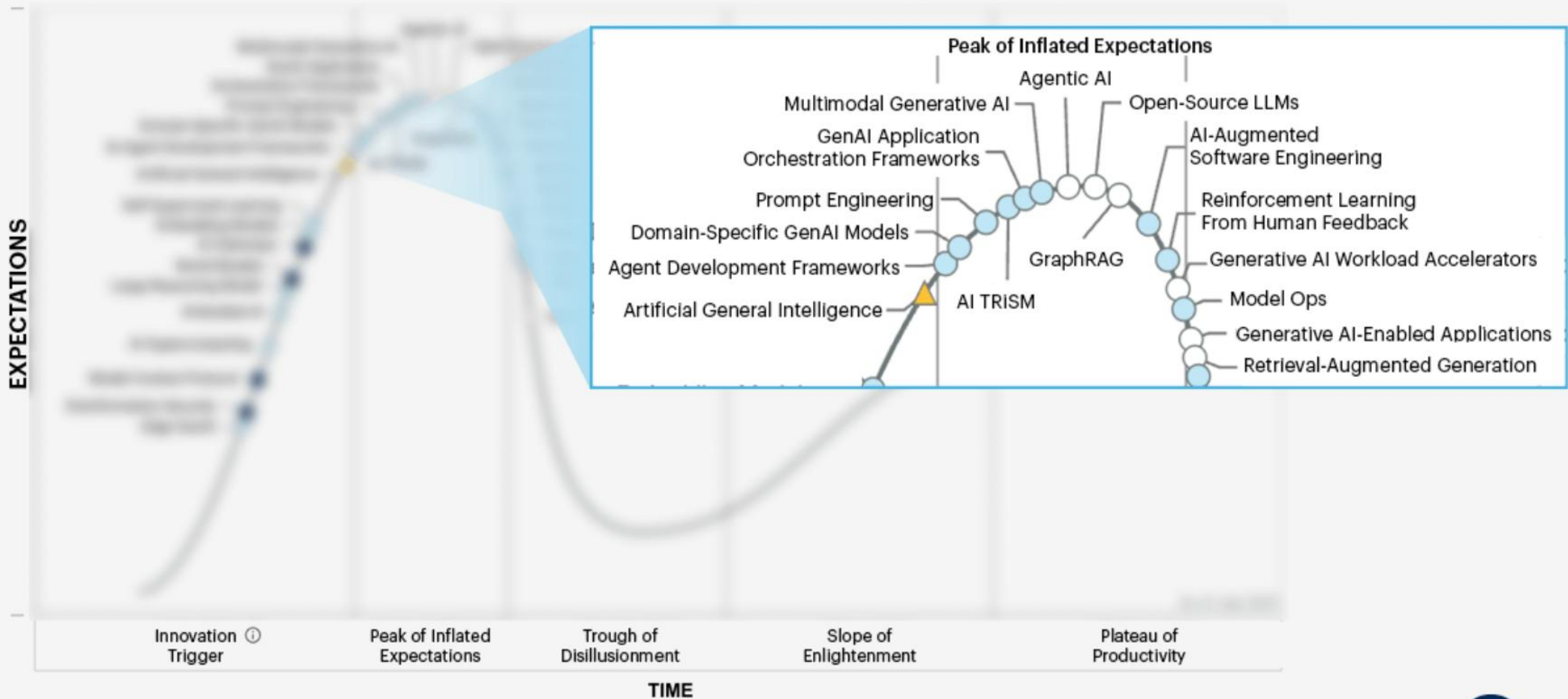


ENERGY ENVIRONMENT & RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT

HYPER CYCLE FOR GENERATIVE AI, 2025

Plateau will be reached:

- < 2 yrs.
- 2-5 yrs.
- 5-10 yrs.
- >10 yrs.



A regional hub for technology & innovation

500+ Startups &
Scaleups

140+ Tech Cos

20+ Universities,
CoEs & Research
Institutes

4.000+
Entrepreneurs

60+ VC
investors
15+ Incubators &
Accelerators

€352.5M + €40M

VC money

Grants

*invested in CY startups &
scaleups in the past 5
years*



FUTUREPROOFING CYPRUS



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INFRASTRUCTURE

High-Speed Fiber Connectivity

- 100% Coverage by 2025

5G Connectivity

- 100% Coverage Since 2022

E-GOVERNMENT

Strong Dynamic in Digitalization of Public Services

- For Citizens at 74.0, with Annual Growth rate 16.3%)
- For Businesses at 86.1

DIGITAL SKILLS

ICT Specialists

- 5.4% of Cypriot Population in Employment
- 17,4% Annual Growth (Above EU Average of 4.3%)

BUSINESSES

Digital Ecosystems and Innovative Enterprises

- SMEs Basic Digital Intensity at 67,3%
- Adoption Rate of Advanced Technologies at 58%
- Higher than EU Average (54.6%)



Cyprus Performance at a Glance



Ranked 4th in Emerging
Europe, 11th Globally
Greenfield FDI Performance
index 2023



Ranked no.17 in European
Innovation Scoreboard



78% increase in
Startups since 2024



Ranked no 25 on Global
Innovation Index



No 2 in Gaming Globally



Ernst & Young Report on global Foreign
Direct Investment (FDI) trends:
Cyprus ranks as the 2nd country globally
in terms of per capita FDI.



Cyprus climbed
2 positions in the 2024 IMD
World Competitiveness Yearbook,
due to increased FDI.

CYPRUS INNOVATION ECOSYSTEM



CYPRUS TECH SECTOR



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6.2%

GROWTH OF ICT SECTOR
(2023-2024) ALIGNING WITH
OVERALL ECONOMY GROWTH
OF 6.4%

SOURCE: KPMG REPORT



16%

DIRECT CONTRIBUTION TO
GVA IN 2024

SOURCE: KPMG REPORT



1st in EU27

CYPRUS EXPERIENCED A
347% GROWTH IN GVA ICT,
FROM 2014 TO 2023

SOURCE: KPMG REPORT



12%

GROWTH ICT EMPLOYMENT IN
CYPRUS BETWEEN 2015-2024

SOURCE: KPMG REPORT



2nd in EU27

ON ICT CONTRIBUTION TO
GVA CY €29,7 BILLION VS EU
AV €3,4 BILLION

SOURCE: KPMG REPORT



129%

INCREASE IN OVERALL FDI IN
CYPRUS IN 2023, WITH THE TECH
SECTOR LEADING THE WAY

SOURCE DEP MINISTRY OF INNOVATION



CYPRUS R&D SMART SPECIALIZATION SECTORIAL FOCUS

Focus

- Digital Technologies
- Advanced materials
- Dual Use Technologies
- Agrifood
- Maritime & Shipping
- Renewable Energy

Emerging Ecosystems

- Space

Enablers

- Health
- Environment



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CENTRES OF EXCELLENCE: AI FOCUS



KOIOS

Monitoring, Control, Security &
Management of Critical Infrastructures



CYENS

Visual Sciences, Human Factors & Design,
Communications and Artificial Intelligence



CMMI

Marine technology, marine sciences,
marine social sciences



BIOBANK

Biobanking & Biomedical Research,
Genetic Diseases, Molecular Medicine



ERATOSTHENIS

Earth Observation, space technology
and Geospatial Information



EMME-CARE

Climate & Environmental Research with
a regional focus



PHAETHON

Intelligent, efficient and sustainable
energy solutions

CYPRUS: A GROWING MAGNET FOR GLOBAL INVESTMENT



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April 2025 onwards: Key Technology & Innovation Entrants



PLUGANDPLAY





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INTERNATIONALIZATION SUCCESS STORIES: CYPRUS AS A GATEWAY TO THE WORLD

Demetris Skourides

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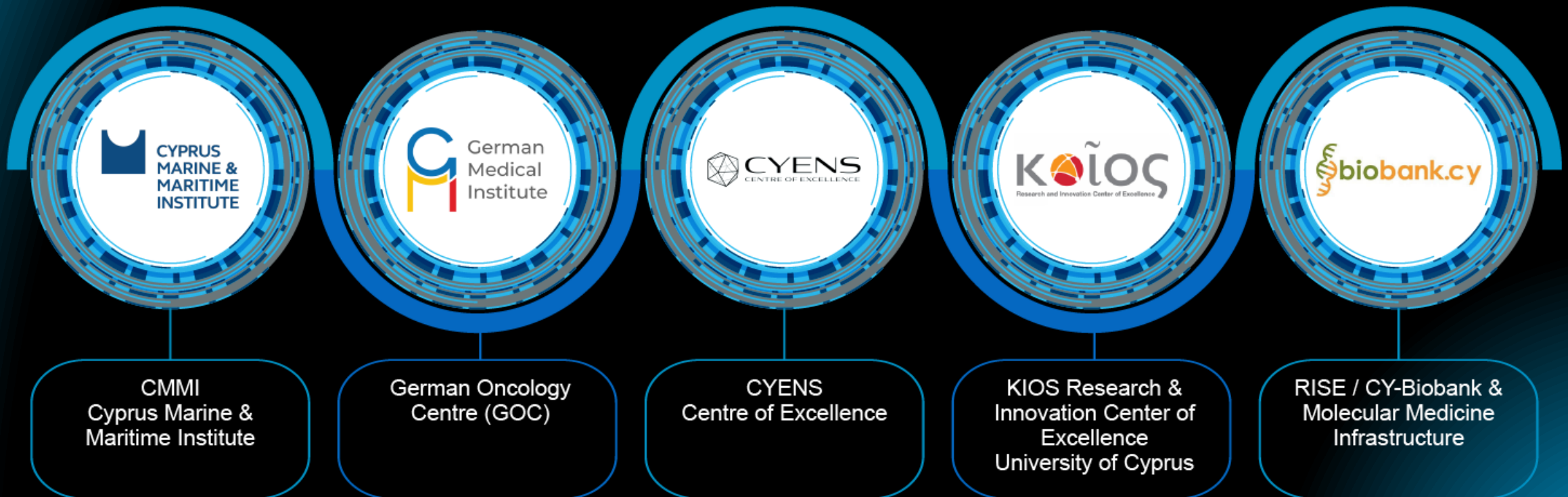


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5 LARGE-SCALE STRATEGIC RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURES OF CYPRUS



Imagine What the Ocean Can Become. This Is What We're Building.

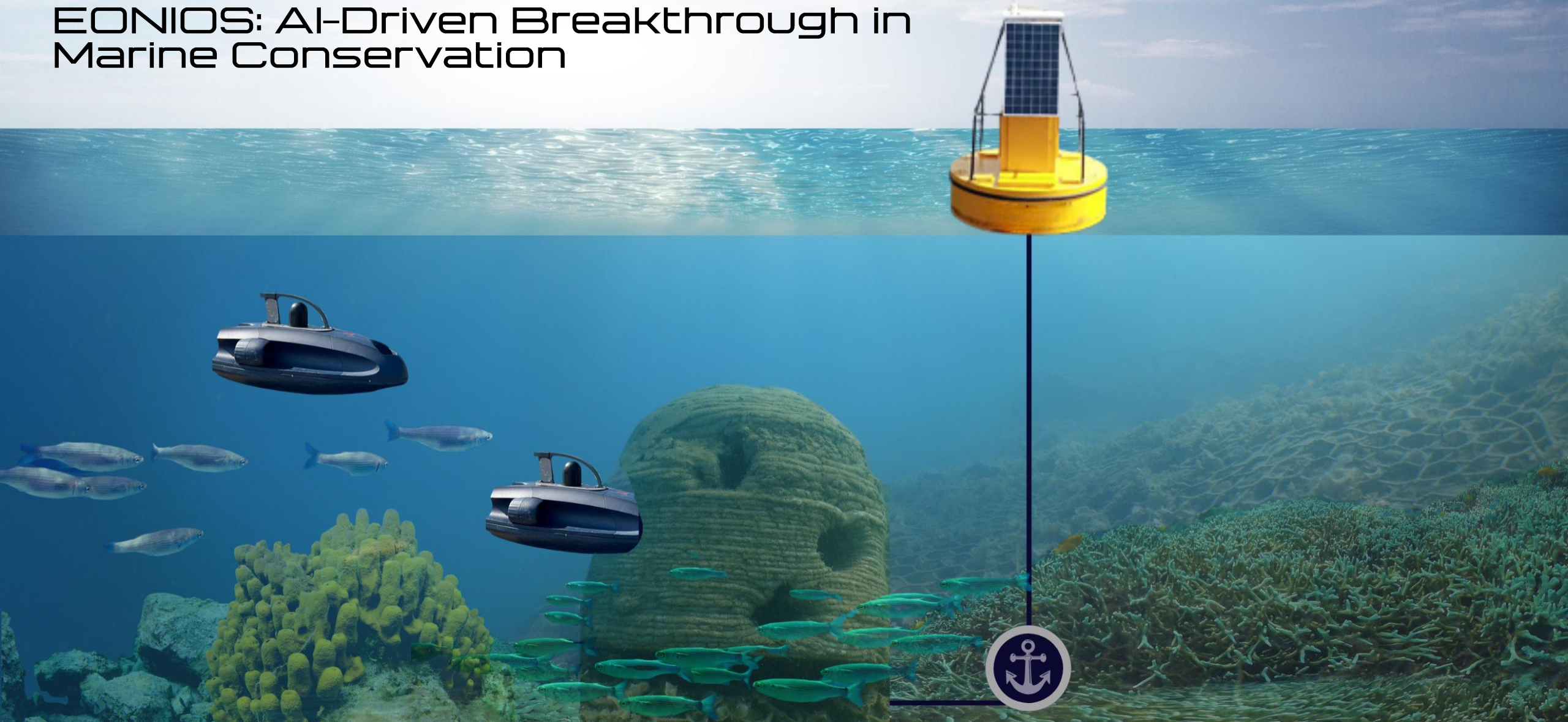
EONIOS: AI-Driven Breakthrough in Marine Conservation



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AGORA 3.0 – GMI, THE CYPRUS INSTITUTE,
UNIVERSITY OF CYPRUS

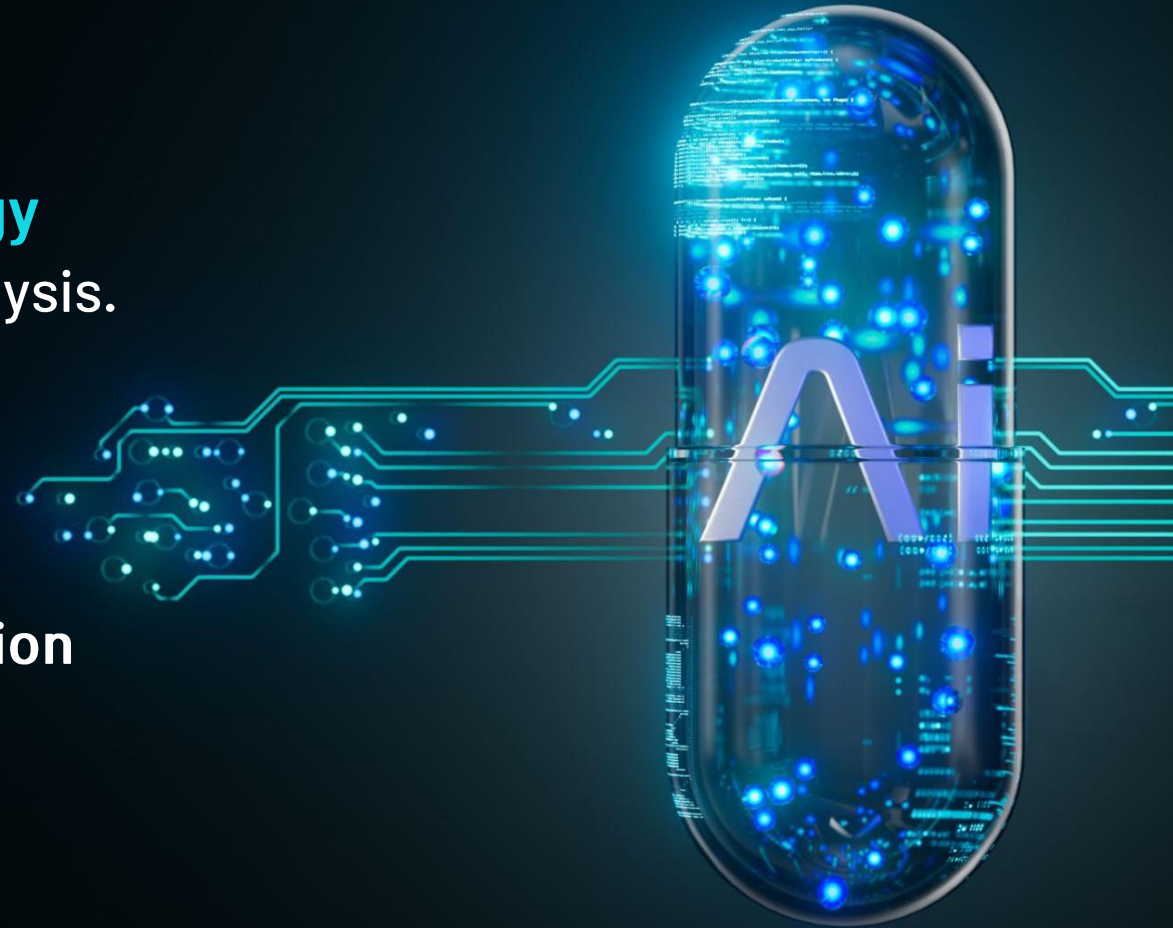
agor3.0

AGORA 3.0 – AI-Driven Personalized Oncology

Uses AI to enhance radiological and biomarker analysis.

Harm Reduction

- Improves diagnosis accuracy
- Prevents overtreatment through personalization
- Optimizes treatment decisions and outcomes
- Minimizes side effects and healthcare costs



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AI FOR SPACE WEATHER: CYPRUS' LEAP INTO NEXT-GENERATION SPACE INTELLIGENCE

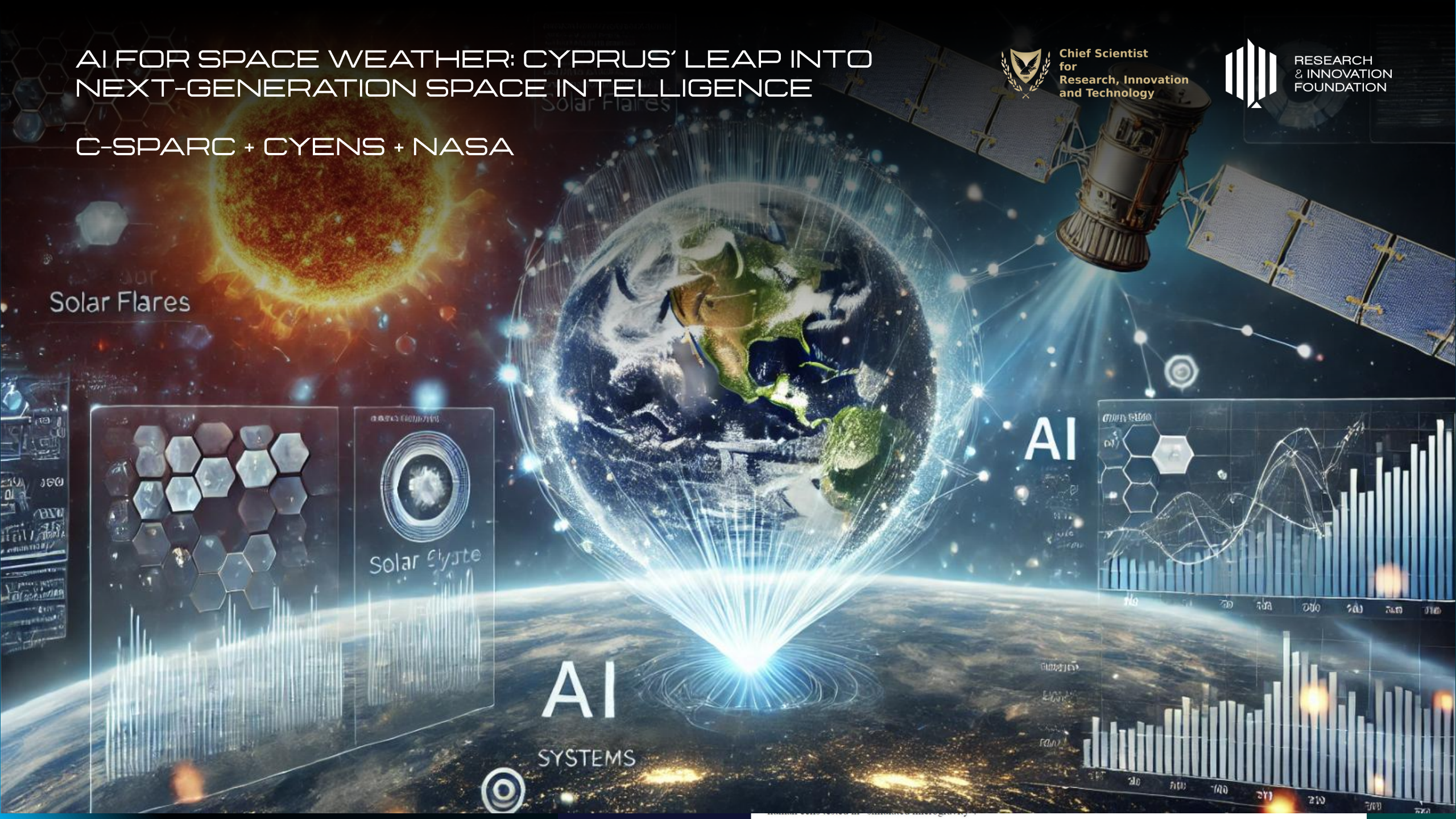
C-SPARC + CYENS + NASA



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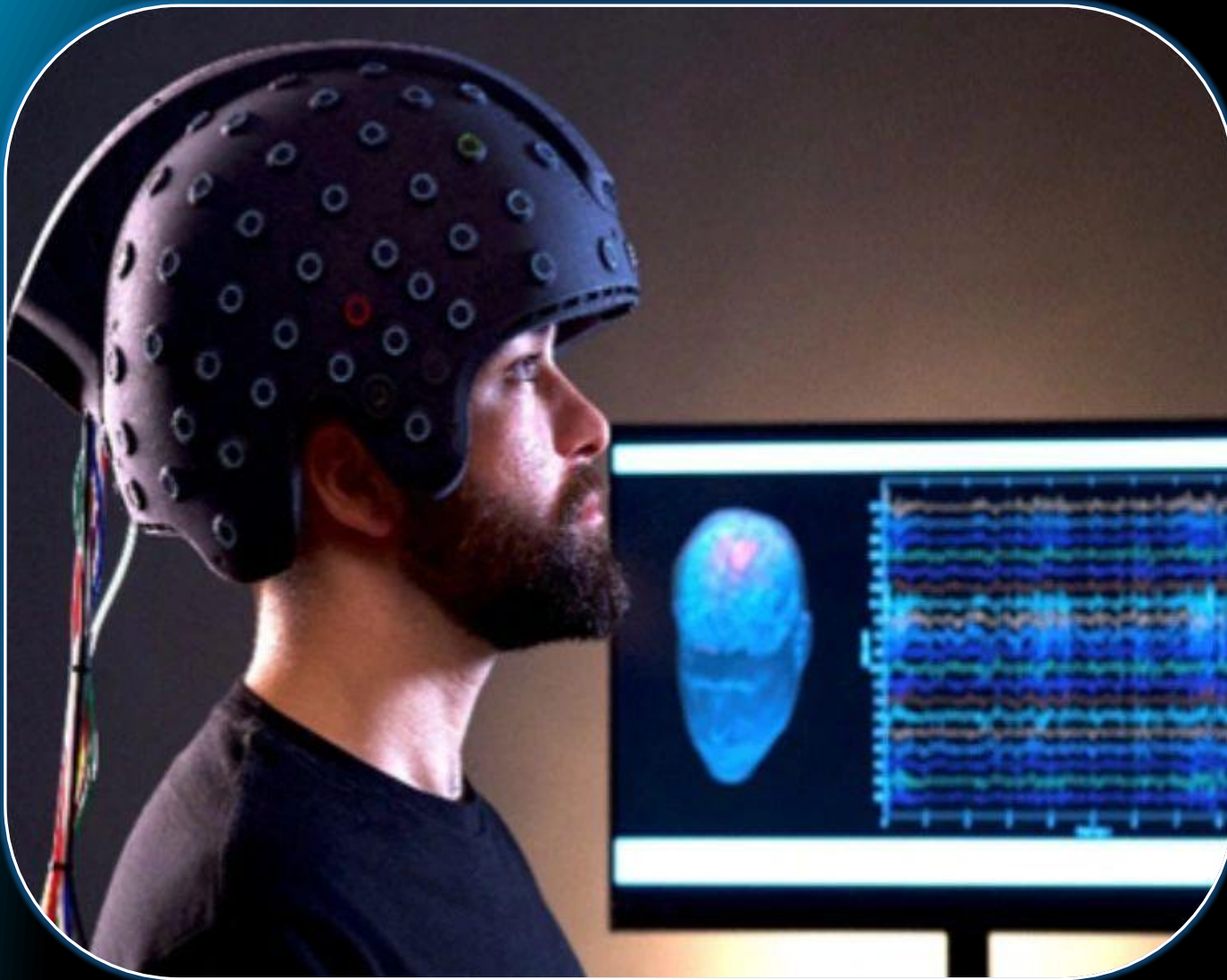
AI
SYSTEMS



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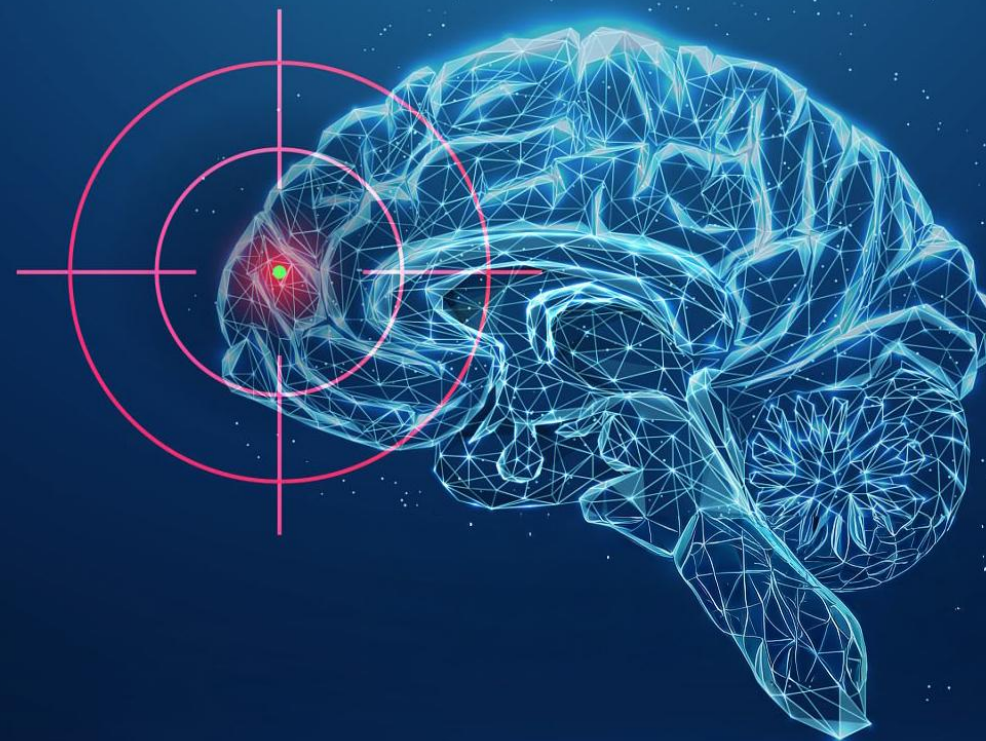


S0Z0 Brain Center:
A national powerhouse
in brain research and
innovation.

THE GLOBAL REFERENCE CENTER FOR NEUROMODULATION TREATMENTS



- 150+ Licensed Doctors from 20+ countries
- 70%+ improvement rate in patient outcomes
- Proprietary FNON Treatment Protocol
- AI diagnostics & patient reporting system
- 4,500+ patients treated successfully



Non-invasive Brain Stimulation for
Neurological, Chronic and Mental Health Conditions

CLEARSKIES. A CYPRUS DEEP-TECH CYBERSECURITY SUCCESS STORY.



ClearSkies™, developed in Cyprus by Odyssey, is an AI-native Threat Detection, Investigation & Response (TDIR) platform used internationally and recognised among leading SIEM technologies.

- **Faster, more accurate threat detection** through AI-driven analytics and automated correlation of behaviours and IOCs.
- **Significant response-time reduction**, with MTTR cut by 40–70% and containment achieved in under an hour.
- **Lower analyst workload** due to fewer false positives and automated triage.
- **Improved visibility and context** across logs and threat intelligence for better decision-making.
- **Enterprise-ready and trusted**, backed by ISO 27001, SOC 2, and PCI-QSA certifications.
- **Validated by the industry**, including Gartner SIEM Magic Quadrant recognition in **2021 and 2024**.



ENERGYINTEL TES. A HOME-GROWN ENERGY INNOVATION CHANGING THE GAME.

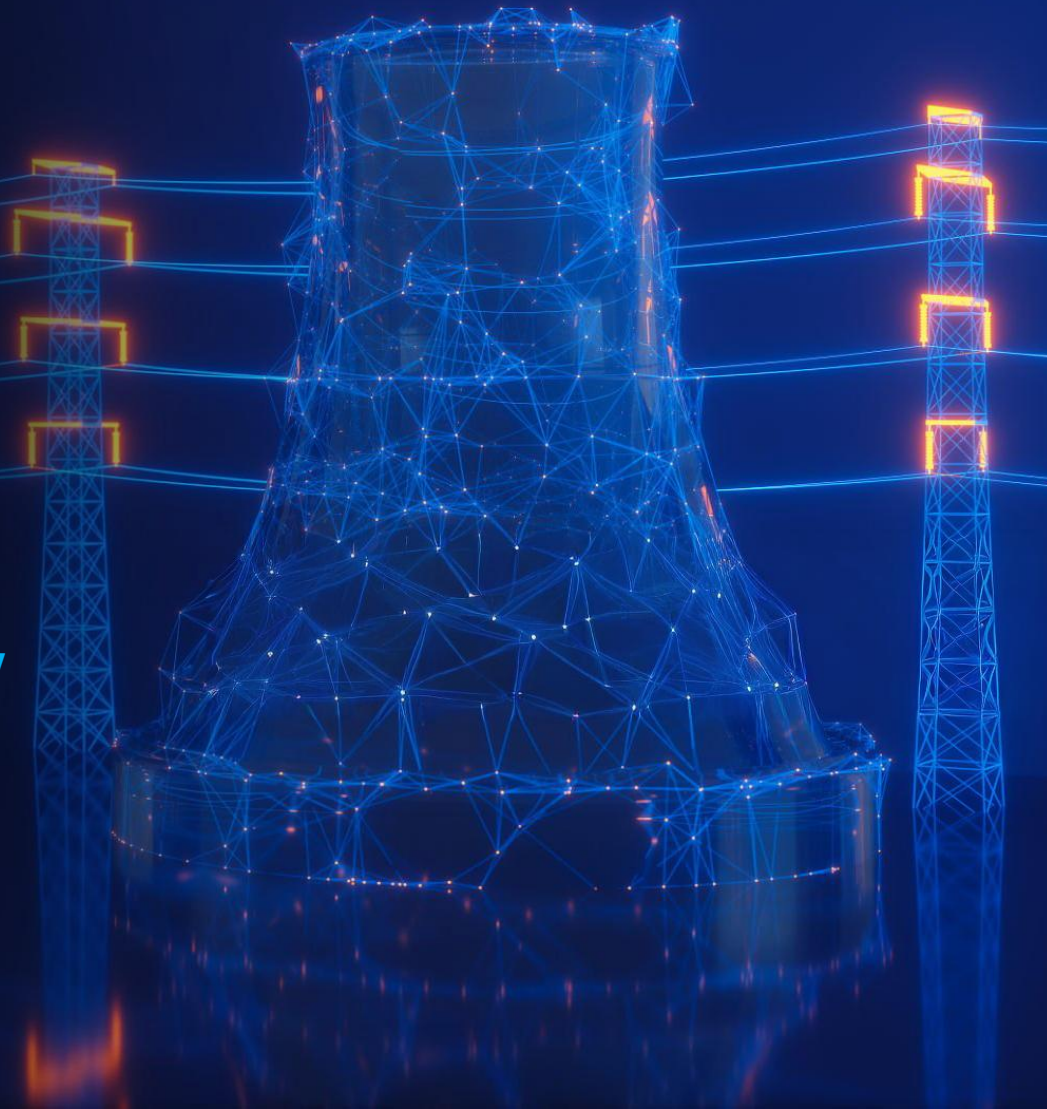


Cyprus engineered a Thermal Energy Storage (TES) system capable of extending solar energy into the night, reliably and affordably.

Why This Is a Breakthrough

- **Designed and built in Cyprus.** A national deep-tech achievement.
- Supported by **DISRUPT**, RIF's flagship programme for high-impact innovation.
- **95% operational availability** over 10 months in real-world deployment.
- Enables **true 24/7 clean energy**, reducing dependence on fossil backup.
- Positions Cyprus not as a follower, but **as a creator of export-ready energy technology.**
- Demonstrates that a small nation can deliver **frontier energy innovation** with global relevance.

Cyprus didn't wait for the future of energy. Cyprus built it.



SWARMLY AERO + SIGNALGENERIX



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RF HUNTER showcases a home-grown Cypriot dual-use defence capability, merging advanced RF intelligence with unmanned systems to deliver modern, mission-ready surveillance and situational-awareness solutions.



GAIA AI & TECH ECOSYSTEM: PARTICIPANT STATISTICS & HORIZONS MAPPING



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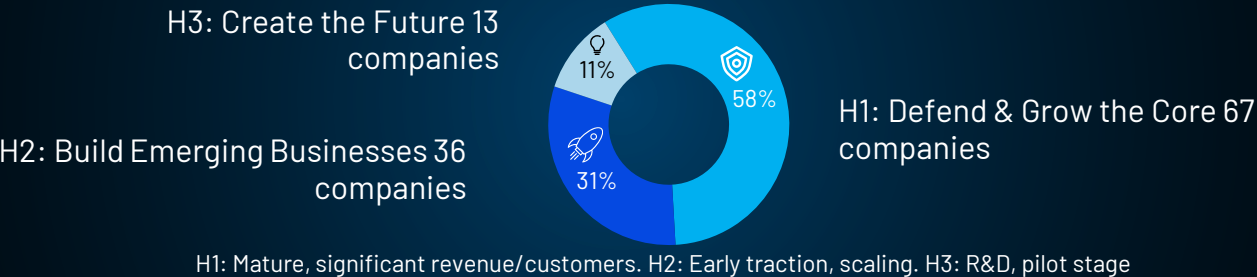


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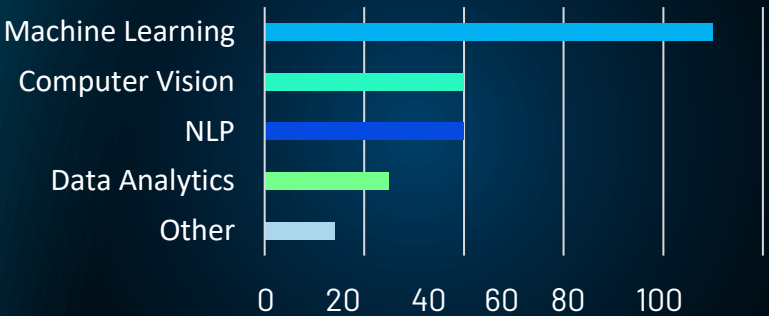
TOTAL PARTICIPANTS (GAIA Dataset)

209
Companies Listed

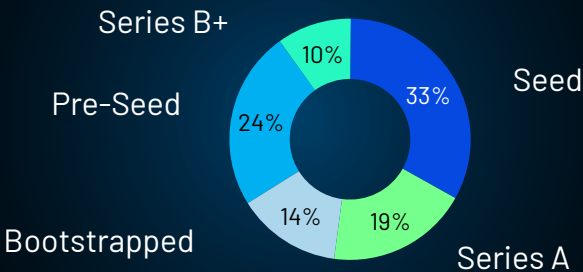
McKinsey Three Horizons Mapping (Cyprus AI & Tech 2025)



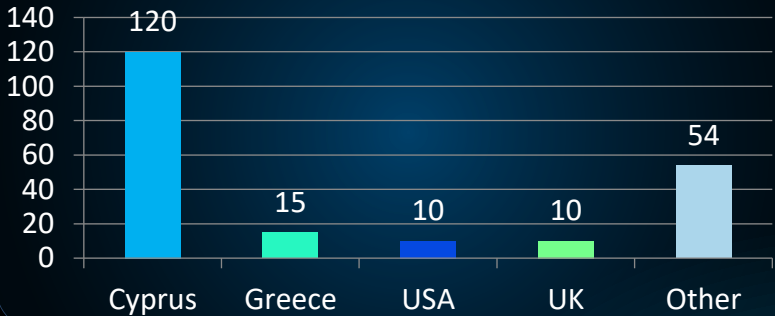
TOP AI FOCUS AREAS



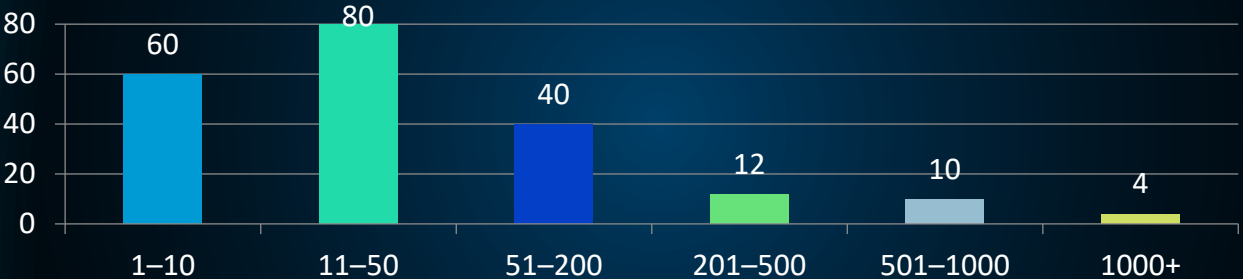
FUNDING STAGE DISTRIBUTION



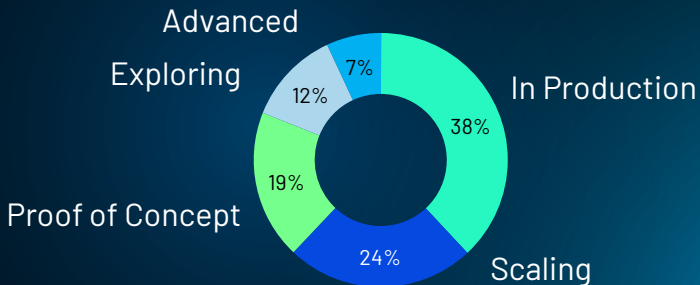
TOP HQ LOCATIONS




COMPANY SIZE (Employees)



AI MATURITY LEVEL



An aerial photograph of a coastal city, likely Nicosia, Cyprus. The central focus is a modern, curved skyscraper with a glass facade and multiple balconies, situated on a hillside overlooking the sea. The surrounding area includes residential buildings, parking lots, and a road. The sea is visible on the right side of the image.

WHY CYPRUS IS THE NEXT STARTUP LAUNCHPAD



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The national engine powering Cyprus's transformation into a leading innovation hub, funding bold ideas, accelerating deep-tech, and enabling startups to scale from Cyprus to the world.

- **Catalyst for innovation**, supporting founders, researchers, and entrepreneurs.
- **Millions in funding programmes** across AI, health, sustainability, engineering, and emerging technologies.
- **Strong Research ecosystem** with Universities, Research Institutes and Centres of Excellence.
- **Bridge to Europe**, enabling access to Horizon Europe, EIC, and major EU research networks.
- **Mentoring, incubation & commercialisation support** to help ideas reach the market.
- **Delivering the national vision**, making Cyprus a rising node in the global innovation landscape..

CREATING TOMMOROW'S R&I ECOSYSTEMS



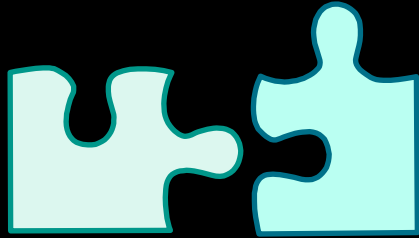
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COOPERATION & KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER €34M (2021-2027)

Co-Develop
€600k



Research in
Enterprises
€200k

INTERNATIONALISATION 34M (2021-2027)



1. Key Digital Technologies



2. Clean Energy Transition



3. Driving Urban Transition

4. Sustainable Blue Development

5. Agroecology

6. Rare Diseases

7. Eurostars/Innovative SMEs

INNOVATION E34M (2021-2027)

Pre-Seed
€120K

Seed
€500K

Innovate
€1M

Disrupt
€1.5M
+VC 1M

RESEARCH €30M (2021-2027)



FLAGSHIP RIF FUNDING PROGRAMMES



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Programme		Description
STEP		Supports businesses to set up facilities and production lines for new innovative products/services.
AI IN GOVERNMENT		Funds projects applying AI to improve public services and citizen-centric solutions.
DISRUPT Min € 1M VC for € 1.5 RIF		Blended Finance Program blending VC Money with RIF Money (Min €2.5M) Growth funding for businesses to scale innovations and expand internationally.
BOOST Min € 200k Investor Money & RIF 50% of Private Money		Blended Finance Proogram blending RIF Money with Investor Money Growth funding for businesses to scale innovations and expand internationally.

Cyprus is Emerging as One of Europe's Most Compelling Innovation Hubs. A Strategic, Business-Friendly, Tech-driven Island Connecting the EU, Middle East, and Africa.



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EU Jurisdiction + Regional Gateway

Access 500M+ EU consumers, with strategic reach into MENA markets.

Startup-Friendly Tax Environment

12.5% corporate tax, world-leading IP Box (80% reduction), strong incentives.

Rich R&I Ecosystem

Centres of Excellence like CYENS, KIOS, CMMI delivering top-tier AI, cybersecurity, robotics, and marine-tech innovation.

Growing Tech Community

Fintech, gaming, AI, maritime tech, and cybersecurity companies scaling from Cyprus.

High Quality of Life to Attract Talent

Safe, sunny, English-speaking environment with top infrastructure.

Strong government & institutional support for innovation, entrepreneurship, and R&D growth

TALENT & RELOCATION ADVANTAGES

- **Digital Nomad Visa**
Enables non-EU remote workers and founders to relocate easily and legally.
- **International Talent Magnet**
Competitive cost of living, strong education, and global connectivity.

FOUNDER & STARTUP SUPPORT

- **EU & National Funding**
RIF programmes, Horizon Europe, innovation grants, and R&D subsidies.
- **Collaboration with Research Centres**
Access to AI labs, robotics facilities, digital media labs, and deep-tech infrastructure.
- **Emerging Venture Ecosystem**
More accelerators, angel networks, and sector-specific programmes each year.



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A startup ecosystem is rising in Cyprus.
The next success story could be yours.

Are you ready
to build it?