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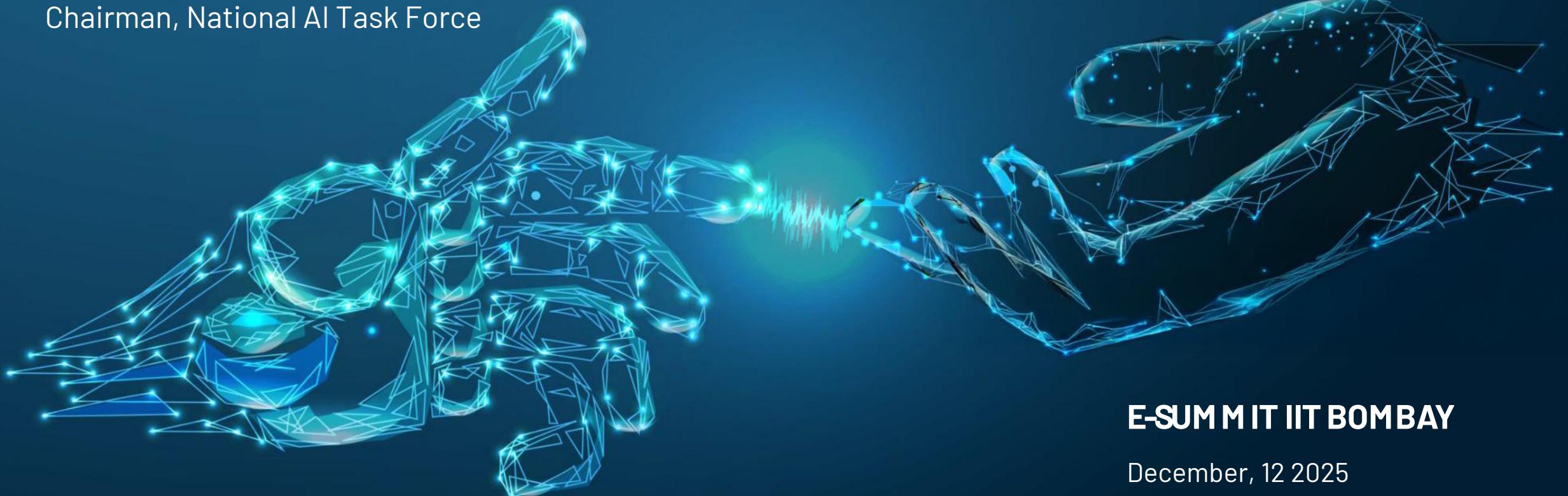


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# HOW AI IS REDEFINING INNOVATION ACROSS CYPRUS AND INDIA

**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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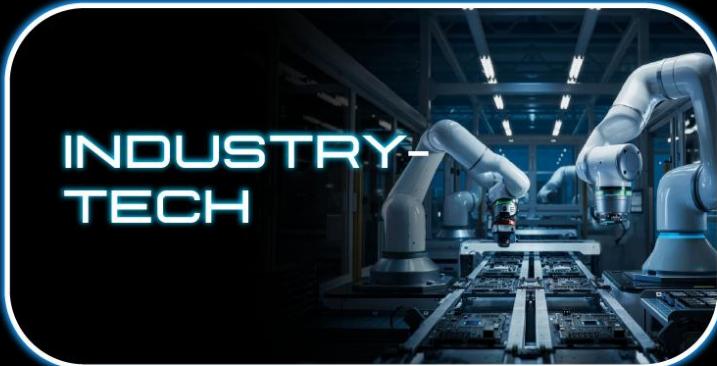
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# REIMAGINING THE AI FUTURE

DATA



INDUSTRY-  
TECH



RESEARCH &  
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# BUSINESS MODEL COMPETITIVENESS



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## SOLUTION LEADERSHIP

Uber



Data is the New Oil

AI is the New Energy

## OPERATIONAL EXCELLENCE

## INFORMATION EXCELLENCE



NETFLIX



## CUSTOMER INTIMACY



## COLLECTIVE INTIMACY

# THE PLATFORM ECONOMY

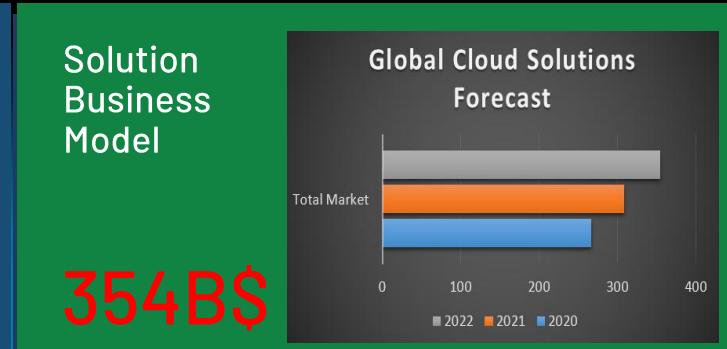
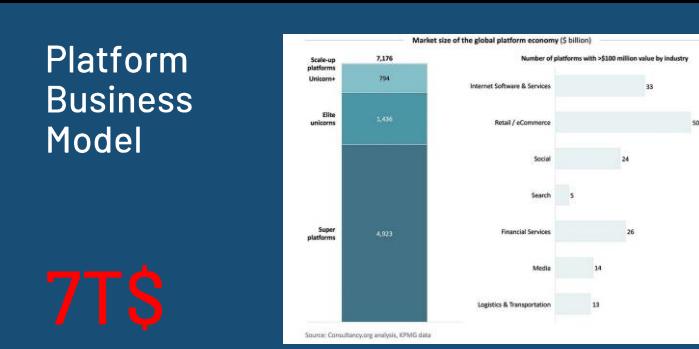


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Inclusiveness of transaction



Customization of Offering



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

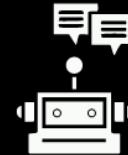


Constant and Immediate Availability

Improve the Work Process  
for Human Agents



Provides Actionable Data  
and Predictions



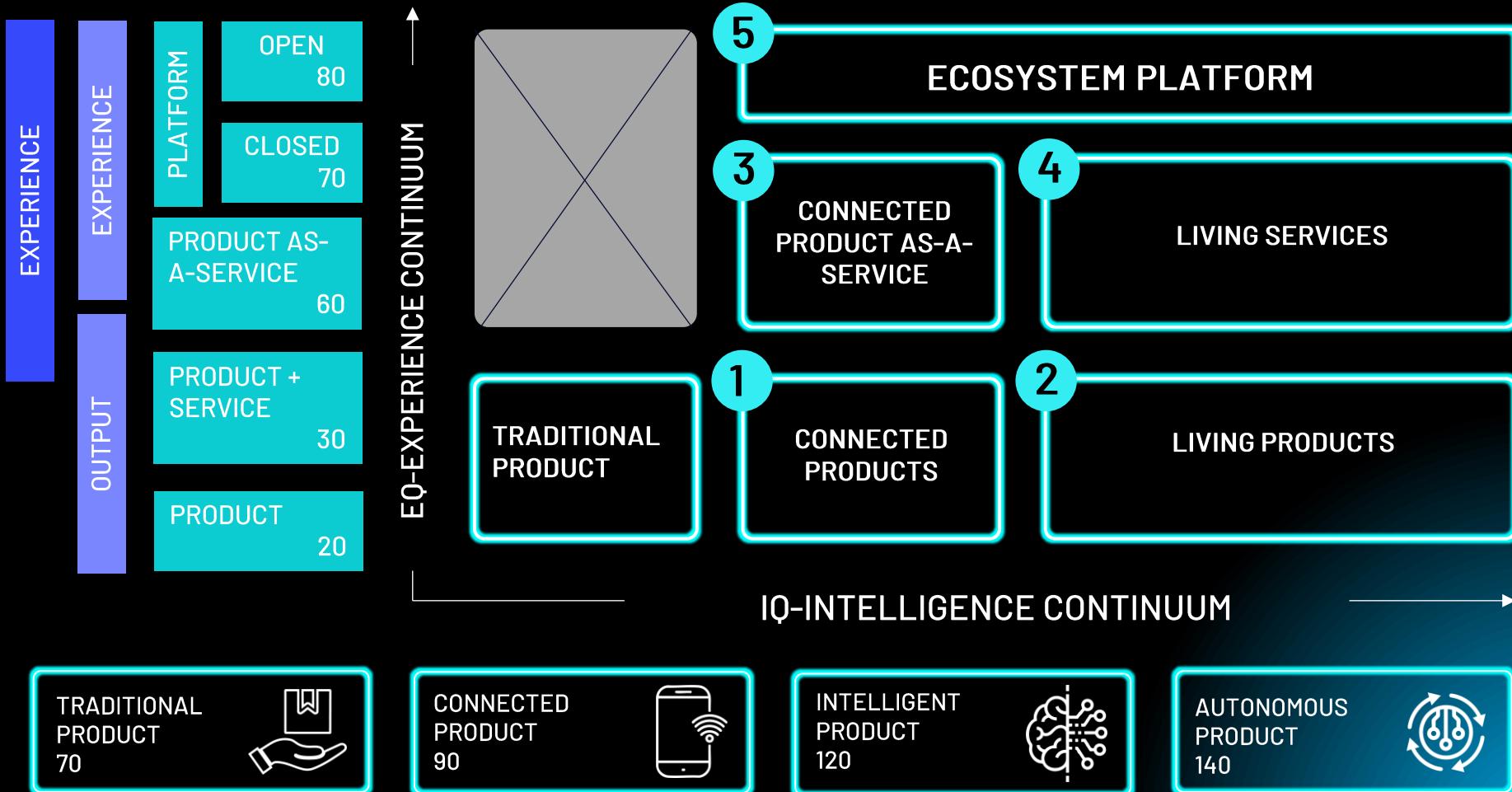
The Bottom Line:  
The Argument for AI  
in Business



## 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





# 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

**€32.5B**      **86.8%**

GDP (2024)      Services  
With 3.4% real growth      €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**





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# CYPRUS NATIONAL AI TASKFORCE



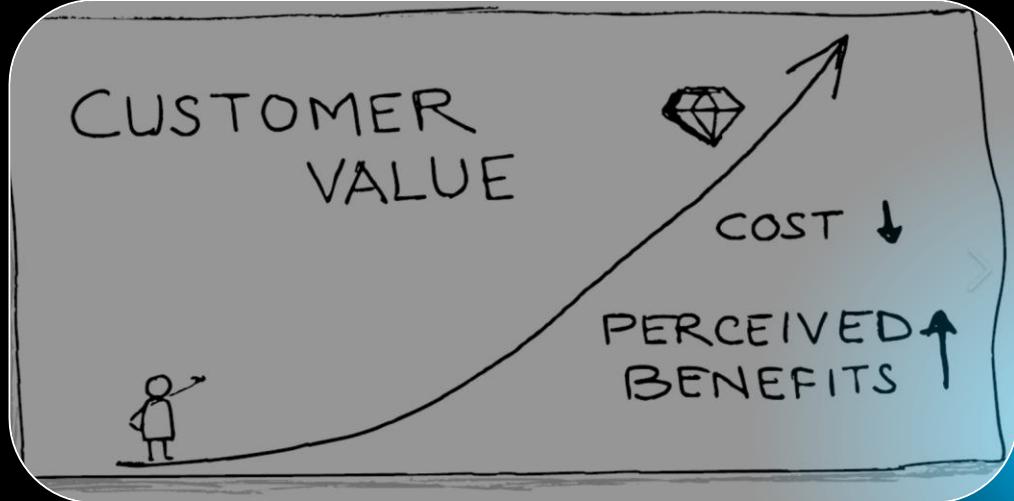
# CYPRUS 2030



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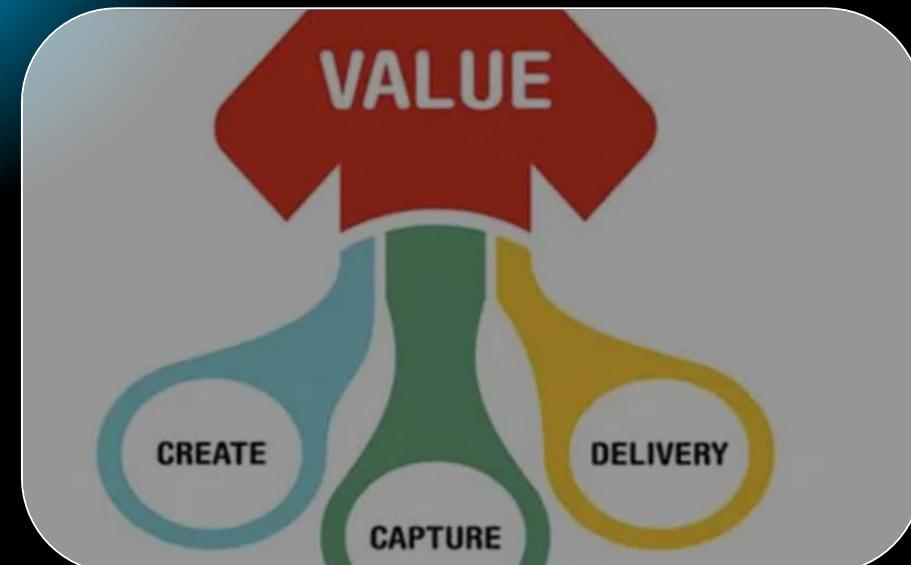
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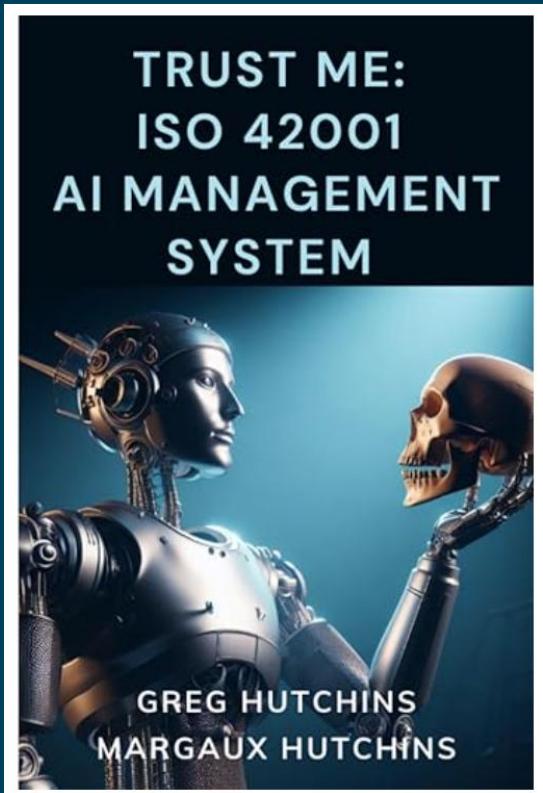
Customer & Citizen CX



Operational Accelerators



# 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



# HYPE CYCLE FOR GENERATIVE AI, 2025



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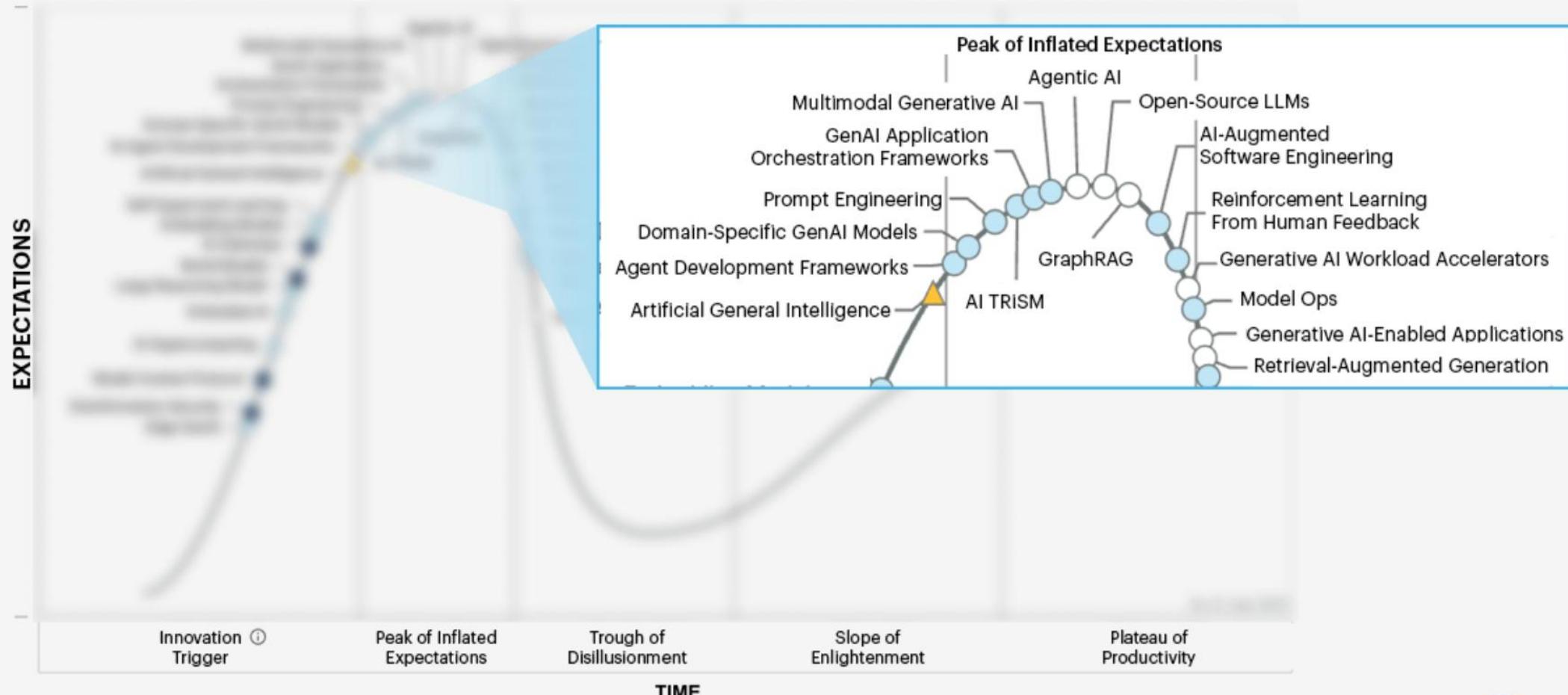
Plateau will be reached:

○ < 2 yrs.

○ 2-5 yrs.

● 5-10 yrs.

▲ >10 yrs.



Source: Gartner

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**Gartner**



# 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**

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



## 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



Ranked no 25 on Global Innovation Index

78% increase in Startups since 2024



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



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# 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



**129%**

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

SOURCE: DEP MINISTRY OF INNOVATION



**2nd in EU27**

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

SOURCE: KPMG REPORT



# 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



### ERATOSTHENES

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



Bcentriqe  
AI Solutions





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# INTERNATIONALIZATION SUCCESS STORIES: CYPRUS AS A GATEWAY TO THE WORLD

**Demetris Skourides**

Chief Scientist of the Republic of Cyprus  
Chair of the National AI Taskforce





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## 5 LARGE-SCALE STRATEGIC RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURES OF CYPRUS



CMMI  
Cyprus Marine &  
Maritime Institute



German Oncology  
Centre (GOC)



CYENS  
Centre of Excellence



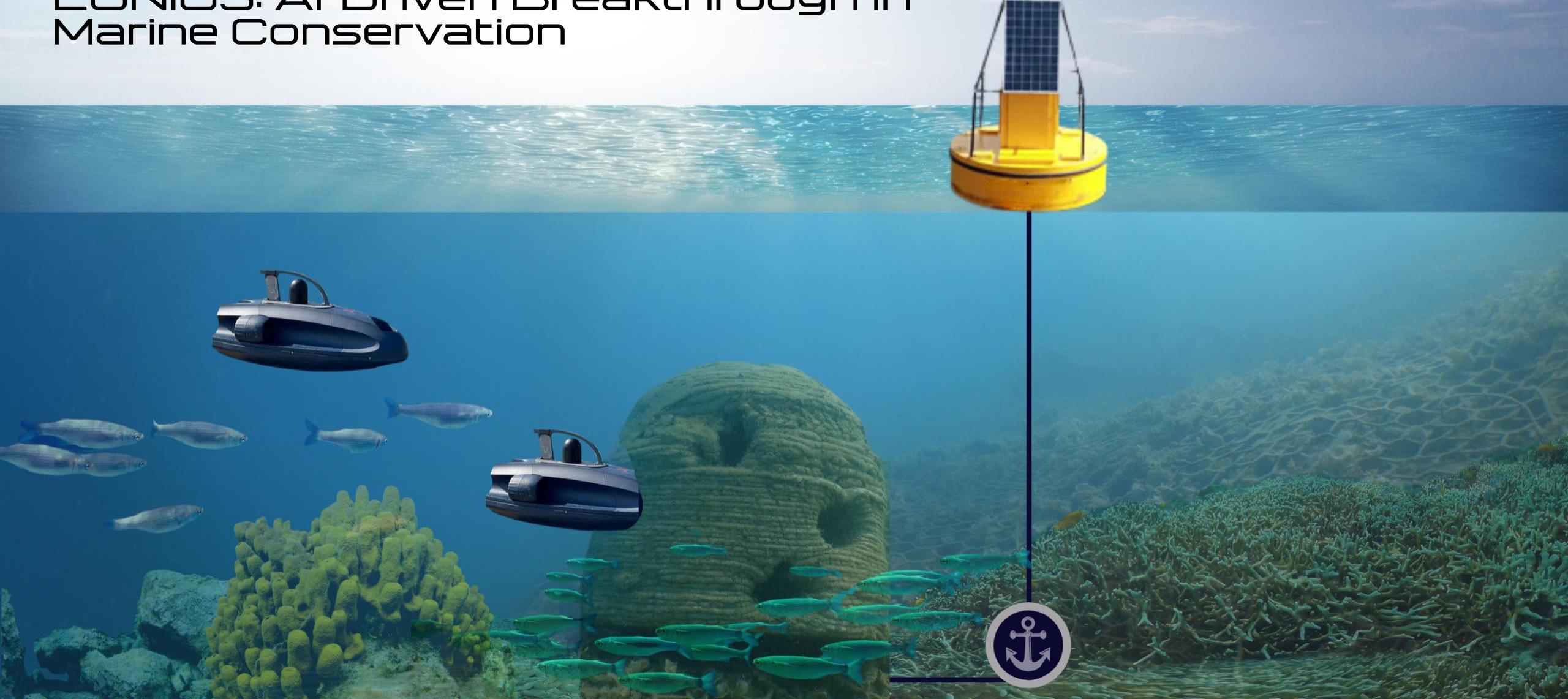
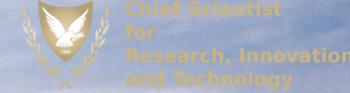
KIOS Research &  
Innovation Center of  
Excellence  
University of Cyprus



RISE / CY-Biobank &  
Molecular Medicine  
Infrastructure

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

## EONIOS: AI-Driven Breakthrough in Marine Conservation

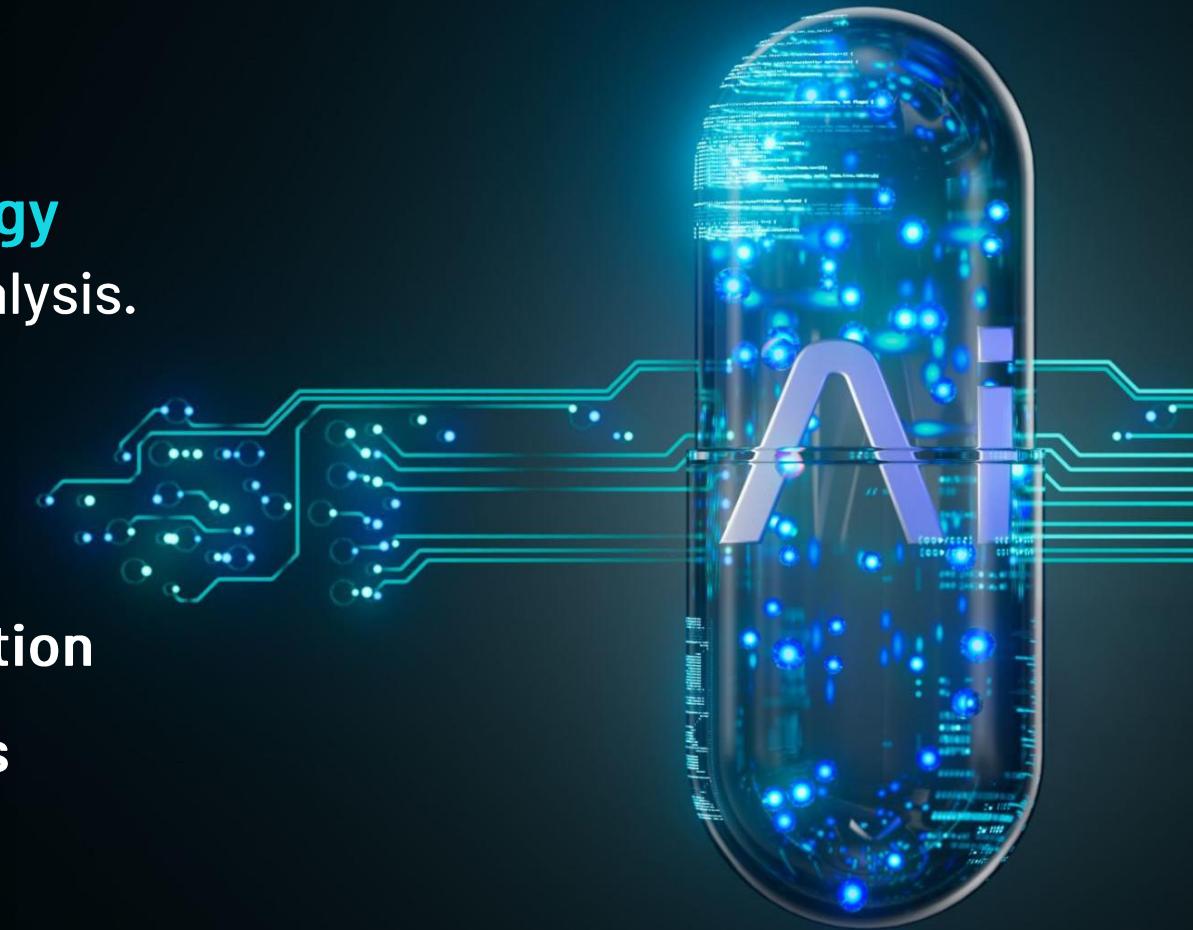


## AGORA 3.0 – AI-Driven Personalized Oncology

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



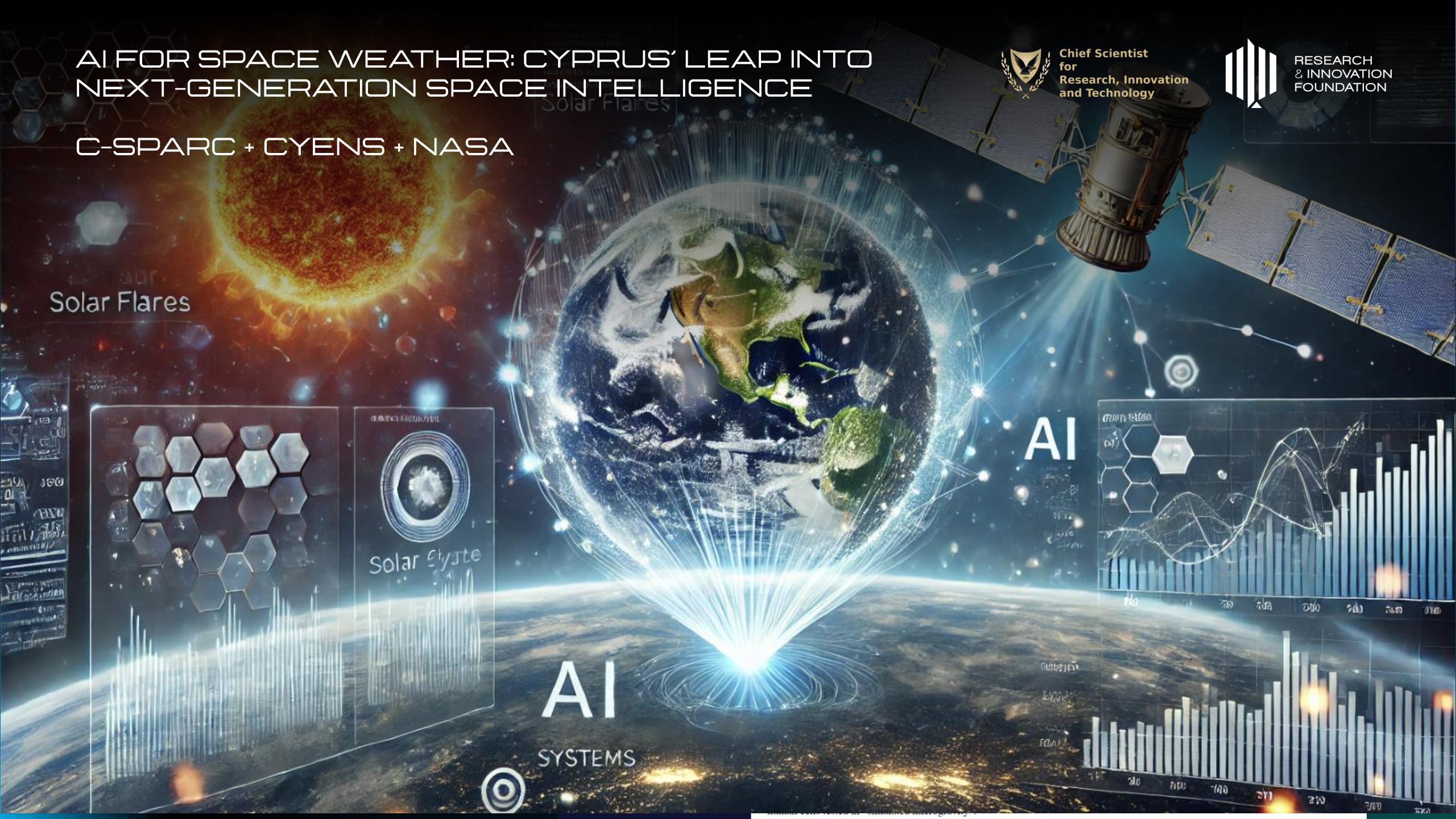
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# AI FOR SPACE WEATHER: CYPRUS' LEAP INTO NEXT-GENERATION SPACE INTELLIGENCE

C-SPARC + CYENS + NASA





SOZO 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.

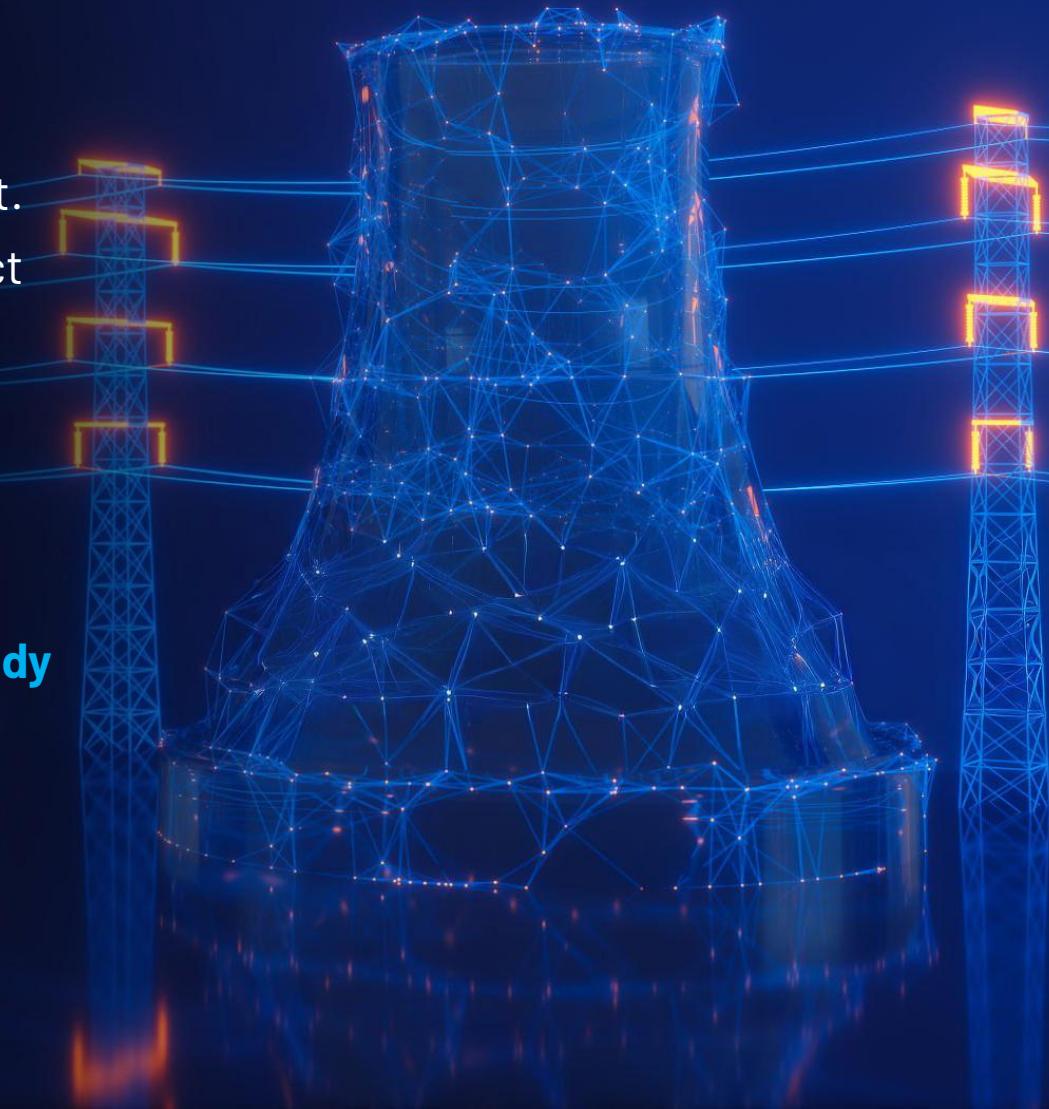
energy/intel

**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.**



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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## TOTAL PARTICIPANTS (GAIA Dataset)

**209**  
Companies Listed

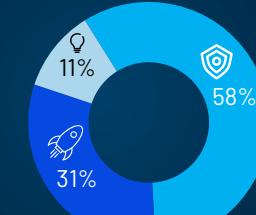


## McKinsey Three Horizons Mapping (Cyprus AI & Tech 2025)

H3: Create the Future 13  
companies

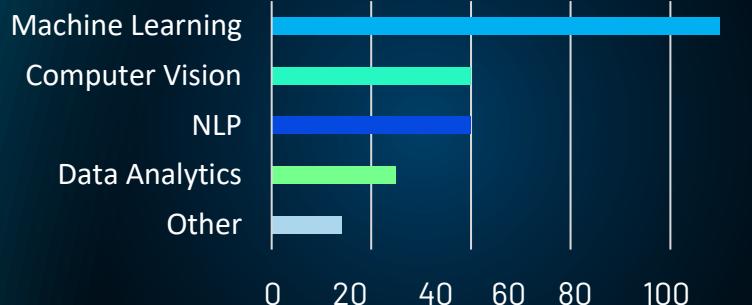
H2: Build Emerging Businesses 36  
companies

H1: Mature, significant revenue/customers. H2: Early traction, scaling. H3: R&D, pilot stage

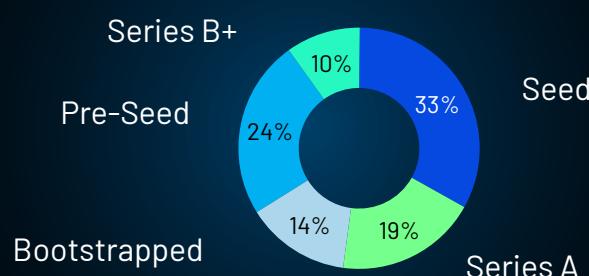


H1: Defend & Grow the Core 67  
companies

## TOP AI FOCUS AREAS



## FUNDING STAGE DISTRIBUTION



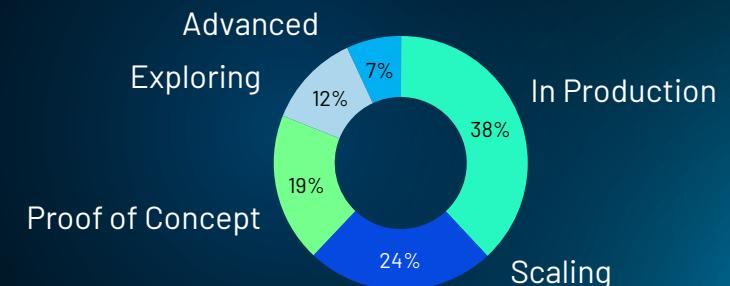
## TOP HQ LOCATIONS



## COMPANY SIZE (Employees)



## AI MATURITY LEVEL





# 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

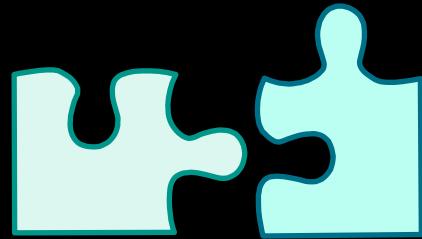


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COOPERATION & KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER €34M (2021-2027)

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 €34M (2021-2027)

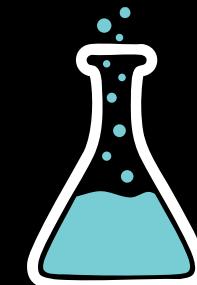
Pre-Seed  
€120K

Seed  
€500K

Innovate  
€1M

Disrupt  
€1.5M  
+VC 1M

RESEARCH €30M (2021-2027)





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



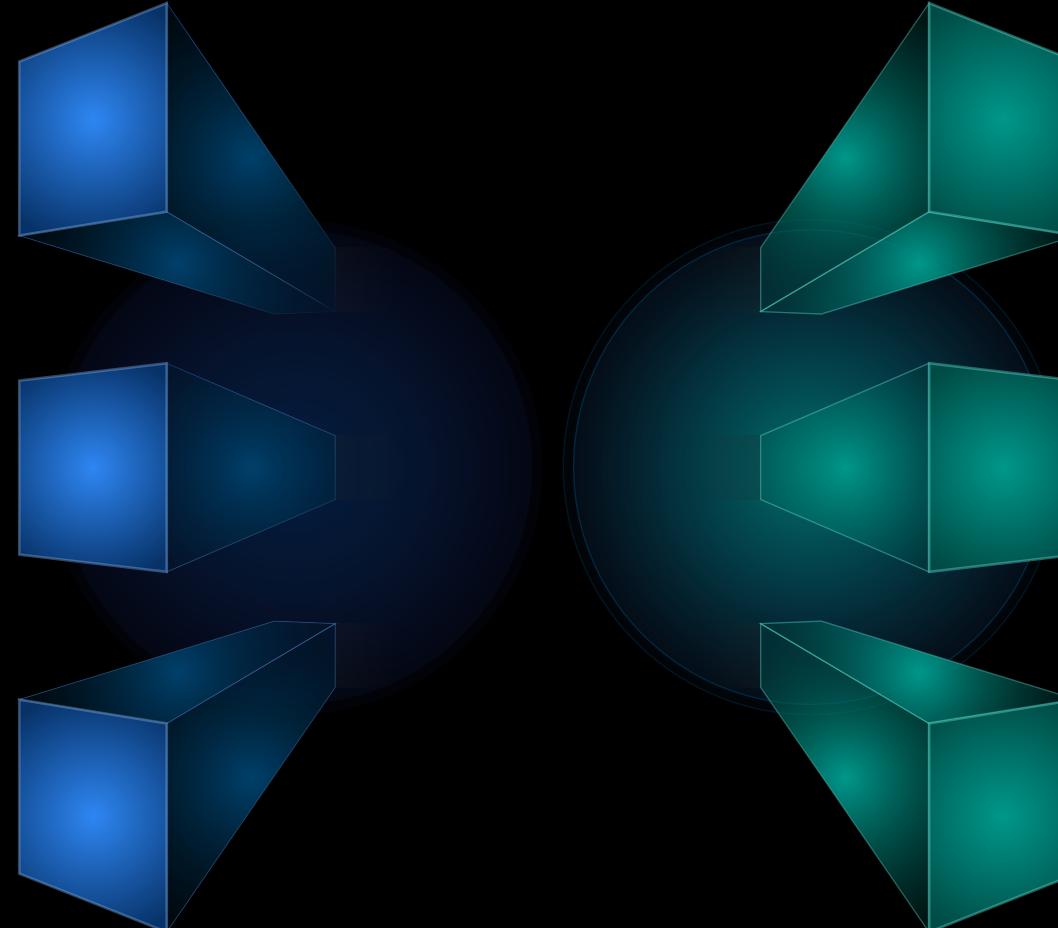
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## EU Jurisdiction + Regional Gateway

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?**