



The Global Chessboard

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Marking the Global Events

Dates ¹	Event
23-27 Jun 2025	The Internet Governance Forum
24-25 Jun 2025	North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Summit
6-7 Jul 2025	BRICS+ Summit
8-11 Jul 2025	AI for Good Global Summit
17-18 Jul 2025	G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors' Meeting
9-23 Sep 2025	UN General Assembly
28-31 Oct 2025	APEC 2025 Summit
10-20 Nov 2025	UN Climate Change Conference (COP30)
22-23 Nov 2025	G20 Leaders' Summit

India & The World



India reportedly moves to suspend rare earth exports to Japan amid China supply curbs²

In a strategic policy shift, India has reportedly instructed state-run India Rare Earths Ltd (IREL) to halt neodymium exports to Japan under a 2012 bilateral deal. The move is aimed at securing domestic supplies of critical minerals and reducing dependence on China, currently dominating 90% of global rare earth magnet processing.

IREL, which has exclusive mining rights in India, is expanding its processing infrastructure in Odisha and Kerala. It aims to produce 450 metric tons of neodymium by FY 2026, with plans to double output by 2030. The company is also exploring local magnet manufacturing

¹ https://www.controlrisks.com/our-thinking/geopolitical-calendar?utm_referrer=https://www.google.com

partnerships to support India's auto and pharmaceutical sectors.

This development comes as China tightens export controls on key rare earth elements and magnets starting April 2025. The move, though not a full ban, mandates individual shipment licenses and impacts countries including the US, Japan, Germany, and India.

Defence Minister of India to attend SCO Defence Ministers' meeting in China

Defence Minister of India will lead a high-level Indian delegation to the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Defence Ministers' Meeting in Qingdao, China, from June 25 to 26, 2025. Defence Ministers at the meeting are expected to discuss regional and international peace and security, counter-terrorism efforts, and cooperation among SCO member states' Ministries of Defence. The Defence Minister is expected to highlight India's commitment to the SCO's principles and mandate, present India's vision for global peace and security, call for joint efforts to eliminate terrorism and extremism, and stress the need for greater trade, economic cooperation, and connectivity within the SCO. He will also hold bilateral meetings with his counterparts from some participating countries, including China and Russia. The SCO is an inter-governmental organisation established in 2001, with India becoming a full member in 2017 and assuming the rotating Chairmanship in 2023. China has assumed the Chair of the SCO for 2025.

²<https://www.digitimes.com/news/a20250617VL205/rare-earth-exports-2012-production-materials.html>

New UK-India Cultural Agreement to Boost Creative Industries Growth

A new cultural agreement between the United Kingdom and India aims to foster collaboration in the creative industries, enhancing economic and cultural ties between the two nations. The partnership focuses on areas such as visual arts, music, literature, and digital technologies, promoting mutual exchange and innovation.

This initiative aligns with the broader India-UK 2030 Roadmap, which emphasises culture as a central pillar of bilateral relations. Through joint projects, festivals, and digital platforms, the agreement seeks to create new opportunities for artists and cultural professionals, facilitating cross-cultural dialogue and shared learning.

The collaboration is expected to contribute significantly to the growth of the creative economies in both countries, fostering sustainable development and strengthening people-to-people connections.

India Retained on USTR's Priority Watch List for IP Concerns³

In its 2024 Special 301 Report, the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) has once again placed India on the Priority Watch List, citing ongoing challenges in intellectual property (IP) protection and enforcement. Concerns include restrictive patentability criteria (notably under Section 3(d)), potential for compulsory licensing, lack of dedicated trade secrets legislation, and delays in trademark enforcement. The report also flags reduced transparency in pharmaceutical approvals.

³ <https://www.thehindu.com/business/us-trade-agency-india-intellectual-property-priority-watch-list-2025/article69504663.ece>

While acknowledging recent reforms like India's amended patent rules and awareness efforts through CIPAM, the USTR urges more substantial action. India maintains that its IP regime complies with WTO-TRIPS standards, balancing innovation with public health and access goals.



Americas

North America

U.S. Airstrikes on Iranian Nuclear Sites Spark Global Tensions, Market Turmoil⁴

In the recent escalation, the U.S. military has conducted airstrikes on three Iranian nuclear facilities. The targeted sites are believed to be key components of Iran's nuclear weapons program, marking a critical turning point that effectively places the U.S. and Iran in a state of war.

The strikes have raised serious concerns over the potential for broader regional conflict, increased global instability, and disruption of energy markets.

The airstrikes have already begun to impact global oil markets. Prices are expected to surge as fears mount over supply disruptions, particularly given Iran's central role in global oil production and its strategic control over key maritime routes such as the Strait of Hormuz.

Market analysts warn of heightened volatility and uncertainty in the energy sector, with

⁴ <https://thehill.com/homenews/5362296-trump-us-bombs-iran/>

potential ripple effects across the global economy.

Pure Lithium Corp. Builds U.S.-Made Battery to Challenge Chinese Supply Chain⁵

Boston-based startup Pure Lithium Corp. is developing a new lithium metal battery technology that could challenge traditional lithium-ion batteries, with zero reliance on Chinese imports. A battery, which avoids critical materials like graphite, nickel, cobalt, and manganese, has been in R&D for four years and is now nearing pilot production.

The company is constructing a domestic prototype facility to integrate lithium extraction from brine directly into battery manufacturing. Once operational, the plant will start distributing batteries for use in EVs, utility-scale energy storage, and other U.S. applications.

Trump Administration Seeks to Open 82% of Western Arctic for Drilling⁶

The Trump administration has released a draft plan to open 82% of the National Petroleum Reserve—Alaska—a 23-million-acre federally owned area in the Western Arctic—for oil and gas drilling. The area, originally set aside as an emergency oil reserve, is home to sensitive wildlife and Indigenous communities, making the move highly controversial.

The administration argues the plan will boost domestic energy production, create jobs, and reduce reliance on foreign oil. It also builds on a previous decision to reopen 13 million acres

previously protected under the Biden administration.

The proposal revives a 2019 Trump-era policy, reversing Biden-era conservation efforts, and reflects the continued tug-of-war between environmental protections and energy development priorities across administrations.

Nvidia to Launch Downgraded AI Chips for China Amid U.S. Export Curbs⁷

Nvidia is set to release less powerful AI chips tailored for the Chinese market in response to U.S. export restrictions on its high-end H20 chip. The move aims to comply with tightened regulations while preserving market presence in China. CEO Jensen Huang highlighted the need to adapt to ongoing geopolitical challenges, underscoring the growing impact of U.S.-China tech tensions on the semiconductor industry.

Proposed Trump Tax Bill Seeks Boost in Semiconductor Incentives⁸

A new Trump-backed tax bill proposes raising the Biden-era semiconductor tax credit from 25% to 30% to further incentivise domestic chip manufacturing. The measure aims to enhance U.S. competitiveness in the global semiconductor race, especially amid ongoing tensions with China. Beneficiaries could include major players like TSMC and Samsung, particularly in their push for advanced 2nm chip production. The proposal signals continued bipartisan momentum to strengthen the U.S. chip supply chain and reduce reliance on foreign technology.

⁵<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2025-06-17/a-lithium-startup-is-building-a-us-battery-plant-that-will-skirt-trump-s-tariffs>

⁶ <https://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/5355925-trump-alaska-arctic-drilling-national-petroleum-reserve/>

⁷ Nvidia to Launch Downgraded AI Chips for China Amid U.S. Export Curbs

⁸<https://www.digitimes.com/news/a20250617VL200/chipmakers-investment-manufacturing-asia-policy.html>

Meta Acquires Scale AI for USD 14.8B to Strengthen AI Capabilities⁹

Meta has announced a USD 14.8 billion acquisition of Scale AI, aiming to enhance its capabilities in data annotation and model training, key components of cutting-edge AI development. The deal reflects Meta's strategic push to compete with leaders like Google and Microsoft in the AI race. It also comes amid heightened U.S.-China tech competition, emphasising the role of domestic innovation. Regulatory scrutiny is expected, with potential concerns around data privacy and market dominance.

Taiwan's Fortune Electric Wins NTD 2B U.S. Contract for AI Power Project¹⁰

Electric has secured a NTD 2 billion contract to supply power transformers for the U.S.-based Stargate AI project, marking Taiwan's first participation in the initiative. The deal underscores Taiwan's expanding role in supporting AI infrastructure, as data centres face rising energy demands. This contract also strengthens Taiwan-U.S. tech collaboration amid shifting global supply chains and growing focus on resilient, cross-border innovation partnerships.

Trump Approves Nippon Steel's USD 14.9B Acquisition of U.S. Steel¹¹

President Donald Trump has approved Nippon Steel's USD 14.9 billion acquisition of U.S. Steel, easing earlier concerns about foreign

control over a strategic American industry. The deal, which faced national security and economic scrutiny, is set to reshape the U.S. steel market. Nippon Steel has pledged to preserve U.S. operations and jobs, though scepticism over foreign ownership remains. The approval comes with conditions to safeguard American interests, signalling a cautious green light for global investment in critical sectors.

U.S.-Mexico Near Deal to Curb Steel Duties, Cap Imports¹²

The U.S. and Mexico are nearing an agreement to reduce steel tariffs and introduce caps on Mexican steel imports, aiming to address U.S. concerns over market saturation. The deal seeks to protect domestic industries while preserving strong bilateral trade ties. Ongoing negotiations focus on striking a balance between economic cooperation and safeguarding national manufacturing interests amid wider global trade tensions.

Amazon to Invest USD 20 Billion in Pennsylvania AI Data Centres¹³

Amazon is planning to make a record USD 20 billion investment in two data centre campuses in Pennsylvania, marking the state's most significant private sector investment. The facilities near the Susquehanna nuclear power plant and another at the Keystone Trade Centre in Fairless Hills will significantly expand Amazon Web Services' (AWS) AI and cloud

⁹ <https://www.reuters.com/sustainability/boards-policy-regulation/metas-148-billion-scale-ai-deal-latest-test-ai-partnerships-2025-06-13/>

¹⁰ <https://www.digitimes.com/news/a20250616PD203/fortune-electric-stargate-equipment-taiwan-usa.html>

¹¹ <https://www.reuters.com/business/us-steel-shares-slip-nippon-steel-faces-trumps-hurdle-over-control-2025-06-13/>

¹² <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2025-06-10/us-and-mexico-near-deal-to-cut-steel-duties-and-cap-imports>

¹³ <https://www.cnn.com/2025/06/09/amazon-to-spend-20-billion-on-data-centers-in-pennsylvania-including-one-next-to-a-nuclear-power-plant.html>

infrastructure. The Susquehanna site features a unique "behind-the-meter" power deal with the nuclear plant, drawing up to 960 megawatts and currently under federal scrutiny. The project will create at least 1,250 high-skilled jobs and boost the regional supply chain, with Pennsylvania providing millions in incentives and workforce training support.

GlobalFoundries to Invest USD 16 Billion in U.S. Chip Manufacturing¹⁴

GlobalFoundries has unveiled a USD 16 billion investment to expand its U.S. semiconductor operations, with a focus on AI and automotive chips. The plan includes new fabs and facility upgrades to meet rising domestic demand and curb dependence on foreign suppliers. This move supports broader U.S. efforts to strengthen its chip industry amid geopolitical tensions and global shortages. Key hurdles include a skilled labour shortage and the need for continued government incentives to ensure long-term competitiveness.

South America

Equinor Expands Offshore Presence with New Brazil Exploration Block¹⁵

Norwegian energy giant Equinor has won a new offshore exploration block off Brazil's coast in a competitive bidding round, reinforcing its deepwater drilling portfolio. The block is located in a promising hydrocarbon zone, and the move underscores Equinor's strategic push to expand in high-potential regions. It also enhances Brazil's status as a

¹⁴<https://www.digitimes.com/news/a20250605VL202/globalfoundries-chips-production-demand-data.html>

¹⁵https://www.rigzone.com/news/equinor_wins_new_exploration_block_offshore_brazil-18-jun-2025-180873-article/?rss=true

major oil and gas frontier in the global energy landscape.



China

China Unveils USD 19 Billion Consumer Subsidy Plan to Boost Domestic Demand¹⁶

China is likely to inject USD 19 billion in consumer subsidies under an expanded trade-in policy targeting goods like vehicles and home appliances, aiming to stimulate domestic consumption amid global trade tensions and a slowing economy. The initiative is expected to drive sales in 2025, especially in the automotive and electronics sectors, and is part of Beijing's broader strategy to strengthen internal markets and reduce reliance on external demand.

China Begins Clinical Trial for Brain Implants, Intensifying Global Neurotech Race¹⁷

China has launched a clinical trial for brain implants, marking its formal entry into the global race for neural interface technology. The initiative aims to develop treatments for neurological disorders, paralleling efforts by U.S. companies like Neuralink. While the move underscores China's growing ambitions in neurotechnology, it also raises ethical and safety concerns, prompting calls for stronger regulatory oversight. The trial signals a significant step in the brain-computer interface (BCI) sector's international competition.

¹⁶ <https://www.digitimes.com/news/a20250620PD232/subsidies-policy-demand-2025-sales.html>

¹⁷ <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2025-06-16/china-joins-us-in-brain-implant-race-with-clinical-trial>

China Unveils World's 1st 'Meltdown Proof' Thorium Reactor¹⁸

China has launched the world's first thorium-fuelled nuclear reactor, marking a major milestone in next-generation energy technology. Designed to be inherently safe and meltdown-resistant, the reactor uses thorium—a more abundant alternative to uranium—offering potential benefits for long-term energy security and reduced nuclear waste.

The development bolsters China's standing in the global race for nuclear innovation, though experts note that commercial scalability and regulatory approval remain key challenges ahead. The move has also sparked geopolitical interest, as countries closely monitor the implications of China's lead in advanced nuclear technologies.



Europe

EU Targets Zero Russian Gas Imports by 2027¹⁹

The European Union is pushing to eliminate Russian gas imports by 2027, aiming to bolster energy security through increased U.S. LNG shipments and reduced energy demand. Russian gas has already fallen from 40% to 8% of EU imports since the Ukraine invasion. While the shift relies heavily on LNG terminals, financial concerns and Azerbaijan's potential

rebranding of Russian gas present challenges. The plan underscores the EU's focus on energy diversification and geopolitical resilience.

Germany Launches Economic Reforms to Regain Momentum²⁰

Germany is rolling out a series of economic reforms to tackle stagnation caused by high energy costs, global competition, and a shrinking workforce. The strategy includes investments in green energy, digital infrastructure, and tax incentives to stimulate manufacturing and innovation. However, bureaucratic red tape and pushback from traditional industries, especially automotive, pose hurdles. The initiative marks a significant step to reclaim Germany's status as Europe's economic engine amid evolving global trade dynamics.

ASML Pushes Boundaries with Advanced EUV Lithography for Next-Gen Chips²¹

Dutch semiconductor equipment giant ASML is advancing its High-NA and Hyper-NA EUV lithography systems, key to enabling smaller, more powerful chips for AI and 2nm production. While the technologies come with high costs and technical challenges, they are expected to be transformative for the industry. ASML's breakthroughs reinforce its critical role in the global semiconductor supply chain, especially as demand surges for cutting-edge computing power.

¹⁸ <https://oilprice.com/Alternative-Energy/Nuclear-Power/China-Unveils-Worlds-1st-Meltdown-Proof-Thorium-Reactor.html>

¹⁹ <https://naturalgasintel.com/news/eu-seeks-to-end-russian-gas-by-2027-with-us-lng-demand-cuts/>

²⁰ <https://www.cnn.com/video/2025/06/21/why-germany-is-rebooting-its-economy.html>

²¹ <https://www.digitimes.com/news/a20250616VL203/asml-euv-high-na-dutch-equipment.html>

Nvidia to Build 20 AI Factories Across Europe for Sovereign AI and Quantum Integration²²

Nvidia will establish 20 AI factories across Europe, targeting sovereign AI and quantum computing to support the region's tech autonomy. CEO Jensen Huang highlighted the potential of combining AI with quantum computing to transform sectors such as healthcare and logistics. The initiative includes partnerships with European governments and firms, reinforcing data sovereignty and localized innovation. This move strengthens Nvidia's footprint and aligns with Europe's drive for technological independence.

EU Considers Tariffs as U.S. Steel Policy Sparks Import Surge²³

U.S. tariffs under Trump-era trade policies have diverted global steel shipments toward Europe, causing a surge in steel imports to the EU. This has put European steelmakers under pressure, facing heightened competition and potential price suppression. In response, the EU is weighing protective measures such as tariffs or quotas to safeguard its domestic industry. The development underscores the global ripple effects of U.S. trade actions on market stability and economic security in the EU.

EU Greenlights UK-Italy-Japan Next-Gen Fighter Jet Project²⁴

The European Union has approved a joint venture between the UK, Italy, and Japan to

develop a next-generation fighter jet under the Global Combat Air Programme (GCAP). Aimed for deployment by the mid-2030s, the project reinforces trilateral defence cooperation despite the UK's departure from the EU. The move reflects growing efforts to enhance global defence capabilities in response to rising geopolitical tensions.



Russia

Russia Expands Economic Footprint in Africa Amid Western Sanctions²⁵

Russia is strengthening economic ties with African nations, targeting sectors like energy, mining, and infrastructure to secure access to critical resources such as rare earths and oil. By offering debt relief and favourable trade agreements, Moscow positions itself as a strategic partner, leveraging its non-colonial legacy to contrast Western influence. However, sanctions and local governance hurdles may constrain the scale and impact of these efforts.



Africa

Niger Junta Seizes French Nuclear Giant Orano's Uranium Mine²⁶

Niger's military junta has seized control of a uranium mine operated by French nuclear

²² <https://www.digitimes.com/news/a20250612P-D226/nvidia-europe-quantum-computing-ceo-jensen-huang.html>

²³ <https://www.ft.com/content/6ffe2b11-c187-46f2-bc2c-0198b06ce99d>

²⁴ <https://www.ft.com/content/4569adf3-fa4d-4f9d-b736-c47c44d193d6>

²⁵ <https://moderndiplomacy.eu/2025/06/14/russia-enhancing-its-economic-and-investment-ties-in-africa/>

²⁶ <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2025-06-20/niger-junta-seizes-french-nuclear-giant-orano-s-uranium-mine>

company Orano, escalating tensions with Western partners. The move follows Niger's shift toward Russian and Chinese alliances, reflecting a broader geopolitical realignment. The seizure threatens France's nuclear fuel supply, critical for its energy sector. This development could disrupt global uranium markets and impact nuclear energy production.

Algeria plans to open the Mining Sector to foreign investors amid a critical minerals push²⁷

Algeria plans to allow foreign companies to own up to 80% stakes in mining projects, aiming to boost production of critical minerals such as phosphate, iron ore, and lithium. The legislative reform, pending parliamentary approval, is designed to attract foreign investment and diversify Algeria's gas-dependent economy. The move aligns with rising global demand for minerals vital to green energy and technology. However, concerns over regulatory transparency and environmental risks could pose challenges to implementation.

Asia



China, Kyrgyzstan Advance Trade Corridor to Bypass Western Sanctions²⁸

China and Kyrgyzstan are building a strategic trade corridor under the Belt and Road

Initiative to bypass Western sanctions and strengthen regional supply chains. The project includes rail and road infrastructure to connect China with Central Asia, reducing dependence on restricted trade routes. The initiative highlights China's long-term strategy to insulate its economy from global geopolitical disruptions while deepening ties with neighbouring states.

Kazakhstan Weighs Nuclear Power with Strategic Diplomacy²⁹

Kazakhstan is moving forward with a two-phase nuclear power plan, starting with a public referendum and followed by global bidding for reactor construction. The initiative aims to meet rising domestic energy demands while carefully managing geopolitical sensitivities. With vast uranium reserves, Kazakhstan is positioning itself as a key player in global energy, balancing ties with Russia, China, and Western nations. The cautious approach reflects regional wariness of nuclear power following the Chernobyl legacy.

Kazakhstan Partners with Russia and China for Nuclear Power Expansion³⁰

Kazakhstan has tapped Russia's Rosatom and China to lead the construction of two new nuclear power plants, aiming to reduce coal dependence and meet surging energy needs. The collaboration reflects deepening ties among the three nations and marks a major move in Kazakhstan's energy diversification strategy. While the project bolsters regional cooperation, it also raises environmental and safety concerns tied to nuclear development.

²⁷<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2025-06-04/algeria-plans-to-allow-foreign-firms-to-mine-for-critical-metals>

²⁸ <https://thediomat.com/2025/06/china-kyrgyzstan-and-the-quiet-construction-of-a-sanctions-resistant-trade-corridor/>

²⁹ <https://oilprice.com/Alternative-Energy/Nuclear-Power/Kazakhstans-Two-Step-Nuclear-Plan-Reveals-Delicate-Diplomacy.html>

³⁰<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2025-06-14/rosatom-to-lead-construction-of-first-kazakhstan-nuclear-plant>

Vietnam-China High-Speed Rail Ties Signal Strategic Connectivity Push³¹

Vietnam and China are strengthening diplomatic and economic ties through high-speed rail projects, including potential cross-border links. These initiatives aim to boost infrastructure, trade, and regional connectivity, aligning with China's Belt and Road Initiative and Vietnam's modernisation goals. However, they bring geopolitical and financial risks, with concerns over debt sustainability and strategic dependence. The collaboration underscores the delicate balance between economic opportunity and sovereignty in infrastructure diplomacy.

South Korea Rethinks Energy Policy Amid AI Data Centre Surge³²

South Korea's booming AI sector is driving a sharp rise in electricity demand from data centres, putting pressure on its energy infrastructure. With projections showing substantial increases in power consumption, the government is reassessing its energy mix, considering nuclear expansion and grid modernisation to ensure reliability. The country's dependence on nuclear and renewables is under review, as policymakers warn that without strategic investments, energy shortfalls could undermine South Korea's AI-led economic ambitions.

Singapore Pivots AI Strategy Toward Global Influence and Policy Leadership³³

Singapore is evolving its AI strategy from a focus on infrastructure development to

becoming a global influencer in AI policy and innovation. While continuing to invest in data centres and digital capabilities, the city-state is increasingly leveraging its neutral geopolitical stance to bridge Western and Asian AI ecosystems. By fostering international collaborations and promoting ethical AI standards, Singapore aims to establish itself as a key mediator and rule-maker in shaping the future of artificial intelligence.

Taiwan's Exports to U.S. Soar 87% in 2025 Amid Electronics and Semiconductor Boom³⁴

Taiwan's exports to the United States surged by 87% in 2025, propelled by shifting trade policies and booming demand for electronics and semiconductors, particularly components vital for AI and computing. This sharp increase reinforces Taiwan's strategic importance in global technology supply chains.

The export spike has also driven up shipping rates, putting additional pressure on global supply chains and manufacturing costs. While this trade momentum strengthens economic ties with the U.S., challenges such as inventory imbalances, geopolitical uncertainties, and regional tensions could affect future trade dynamics and supply chain stability.

Taiwan adds Huawei, SMIC, others to export control entity list³⁵

Taiwan has added Chinese tech firms Huawei, SMIC, and others to its export control list, restricting their access to Taiwanese technology due to national security concerns.

³¹<https://moderndiplomacy.eu/2025/06/21/vietnam-and-chinas-railway-diplomacy-high-speed-projects-not-small-risks/>

³²<https://www.digitimes.com/news/a20250619PD207/electricity-growth-demand-nuclear-2030.html>

³³<https://www.digitimes.com/news/a20250617PD239/singapore-ai-infrastructure-data-center-policy.html>

³⁴ <https://www.digitimes.com/news/a20250610PD219/taiwan-exports-shipping-inventory.html>

³⁵<https://www.digitimes.com/news/a20250616VL200/taiwan-huawei-smic-russia-shipments.html>

The move aligns with U.S. efforts to curb China's technological advancements, particularly in semiconductors. Affected companies face challenges in sourcing critical components, impacting their global supply chains. The decision reflects Taiwan's strategic role in the global tech industry amid U.S.-China tensions.



Australia

Australia becomes one of the first to approve Lab-Grown Meat for commercial Sale³⁶

Australia has become one of the first countries to approve lab-grown (cultivated) meat for commercial sale, marking a significant step in the alternative protein industry. The regulatory green light enables producers to introduce cultivated meat to restaurant menus, with plans to scale up production in response to rising demand for sustainable and ethical food options. This move solidifies Australia's position as a leader in food innovation, contributing to the global momentum behind climate-conscious food systems.

Amazon to Invest USD 13 Billion in Australian Data Centres to Boost Cloud and AI Capabilities³⁷

Amazon has unveiled a USD 13 billion investment plan to construct new data centres across Australia, aiming to meet surging demand for cloud computing and AI-driven services. The initiative is expected to create thousands of jobs, enhance Australia's digital infrastructure, and position the country as a strategic hub in Amazon's global expansion strategy.

The investment will support Amazon Web Services (AWS) operations and help Australia keep pace with technological transformation and digital services adoption. However, the announcement has sparked environmental concerns, with local advocacy groups scrutinising the energy-intensive nature of data centres and calling for greater transparency regarding renewable energy usage and carbon mitigation plans.

³⁶<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2025-06-18/lab-grown-meat-soon-on-australia-s-menus-after-approval>

³⁷<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2025-06-14/amazon-plans-13-billion-investment-in-australia-data-centers>



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