

The Stargate Project

The Stargate Project is an American artificial intelligence (AI) joint venture created by OpenAI, SoftBank, Oracle and investment firm MGX. [1] The venture plans on investing up to US\$500 billion in AI infrastructure in the United States by 2029. It has been planned since 2022 and was formally announced on January 21, 2025, by US president Donald Trump. [2] Incorporated in Delaware as Stargate LLC, [3] SoftBank's CEO Masayoshi Son will be the venture's chairman. [4]

It is named after the 1994 movie, *Stargate*, in which the <u>stargates</u> were portals to other worlds. [5] Because of its large scale, the program has been compared to the Manhattan Project. [6][7][8][9]

Stargate LLC

Company type	Joint venture
Industry	Artificial intelligence
Founded	January 21, 2025
Founders	Sam Altman
	Larry Ellison
	Masayoshi Son
Headquarters	United States
Area served	Worldwide
Key people	Masayoshi Son (chairman)
Owners	OpenAI (40%)
	SoftBank Group (40%)
	Oracle Corporation
	MGX

History

The venture was announced at a <u>White House</u> press conference on January 21, 2025, by President <u>Donald</u> <u>Trump</u>, with <u>Sam Altman</u> from <u>OpenAI</u>, <u>Larry Ellison</u> from <u>Oracle</u> and <u>Masayoshi Son</u> from <u>SoftBank</u> accompanying him. [4]

Donald Trump called it "the largest AI infrastructure project in history", and he indicated that he would use emergency declarations to expedite the project's development, particularly regarding energy infrastructure. [10]

Larry Ellison contended that Stargate could lead to the AI-facilitated production of <u>mRNA vaccines</u> against cancer, and that such vaccines could be designed "robotically," or by leveraging AI, "in about 48 hours." [11]

The venture was started with an investment of \$100 billion and that is planned to increase \$500 billion by 2029. [12] However, Elon Musk, CEO of OpenAI's competitor xAI, said that the venture lacked the financing to meet the promised investment levels. These statements were later denied by Sam Altman. [13] Arm CEO Rene Haas stated that the financial backing behind the project is "quite solid". [14] The Information reported that Softbank and OpenAI have each committed \$19 billion of capital to initially fund Stargate and would each hold 40% ownership interest in the joint venture, while Oracle and MGX would each contribute \$7 billion, and the remaining funds would be sourced from limited partners and debt financing. [15][16] According to the Financial Times, the infrastructure being built as part of the project will be exclusive to OpenAI. [17]

Coinciding with the project announcement, <u>Microsoft</u> and OpenAI signed a new agreement that grants Microsoft a <u>right of first refusal</u> on future OpenAI cloud computing capacity, while allowing OpenAI to use other cloud providers if Microsoft declines. [18]

The "Stargate" term dates back to 2024, when OpenAI and Microsoft started developing a \$100 billion AI supercomputer. [12][19]

Structure

The venture is currently building 10 <u>data centers</u> in <u>Abilene</u>, <u>Texas</u>, [20][12] and plans to expand to more states, [4] with Trump saying that he will use <u>executive orders</u> to help build the venture's infrastructure. The new venture says that it will create more than 100,000 jobs in the United States. Altman has said that SoftBank will have the "financial responsibility" of the venture and OpenAI will have the "operational responsibility". [12] <u>Arm</u>, <u>Microsoft</u>, <u>Nvidia</u>, Oracle, and OpenAI are the key initial technology partners. [21]

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External links

- Trump announces the venture (https://www.nbcnews.com/now/video/trump-announces-starg ate-ai-infrastructure-project-229900357578)
- Announcing The Stargate Project (https://openai.com/index/announcing-the-stargate-project/) (by OpenAI)