

Press Release

EARLYBIRD LEADS ALEPH ALPHA'S 23 MILLION EUR SERIES A FOR THE LARGEST EUROPEAN AI MODELS

- Heidelberg-based AI R&D and Deployment startup builds Europe's largest, sovereign AI language models
- Investment accelerates development of European next gen, large AI models
- Safeguards AI sovereignty for European public & private sector

Berlin, July 27, 2021 – AI Research, Development, and Deployment startup [Aleph Alpha](#) raises €23 million in a Series A funding. The round was led by Earlybird VC, Lakestar, and UVC Partners, as well as existing investors LEA Partners, 468 Capital and Cavalry Ventures. Together with the seed round of €5.3 million in November 2020, the total investment grows to €28.3 million. With the newly gained support of Europe's leading Deep Tech Investors and a record capital stock, Aleph Alpha can further accelerate independent development of cutting-edge AI systems and continue to grow its team of world-class AI researchers, engineers and delivery professionals.

Headquartered in Heidelberg, Germany, Aleph Alpha was founded in 2019 by AI-serial entrepreneur Jonas Andrulis and his co-founder Samuel Weinbach. The team researches, develops and operationalizes large AI systems towards generalizable AI. Aleph Alpha will offer GPT-3-like text models, as well as vision and strategy AI models via an API. This will enable public and private sector partners to modernize existing as well as develop new, innovative business models in data-based value creation.

With a strong commitment to open-source communities (such as Eleuther.AI), and academic partnerships (such as TU Darmstadt), Aleph Alpha builds a transparent innovation ecosystem based on reproduceable research and open exchange. This community-driven and interdisciplinary approach assures that tectonic shifts in the global AI landscape are aligned with European values and ethical standards. Aleph Alpha and its partner network create a strong and sovereign European innovation powerhouse supporting fairer access to modern AI research – aimed at counteracting ongoing 'de-democratization', monopolization, and loss of control or transparency.

From model training to inference (application), Aleph Alpha safeguards personal and organizational sovereignty over data and gives control over normative value alignment back to the developer. The compute intensive training for these GPT-3-like AI models will be enabled through the buildup of a sovereign, EU-based compute infrastructure. This makes Aleph Alpha an indispensable success factor for the digitization of Europe's private and public sectors.

"Aleph Alpha's mission is to enable the accessibility, usability and integration of large, European multilanguage and multimodal AI models following the likes of GPT-3 and DALL-E, driving innovation for the explainability, alignment and integration.", said Jonas Andrulis, CEO and founder of Aleph Alpha. "The funds significantly accelerate the process of bringing the latest generation of AI technology into application and secure the digital sovereignty for public and private sector partners in Europe and beyond".

Aleph Alpha's generalizable AI models significantly augment and improve human capabilities in dealing with any sort of data. The technology is able to understand and create complex texts based on minimal human input, acting as a virtual assistant in a new generation of human-machine interaction. The deep contextual understanding has been previously attributed to human experts. These new functionalities will transform human interaction with information by structuring knowledge, responding to complex tasks, or transforming, summarizing, and structuring highly specialized, bureaucratic, or legal language into easily understood everyday speech.

"We're excited to partner with the exceptional team around Jonas and Samuel on their vision to develop one of the most transformative platform technologies of our time and bring Artificial General Intelligence into reality - made in Europe", states Dr. Hendrik Brandis, Co-Founder and Partner at Earlybird. "They are uniquely positioned to bridge the gap between cutting-edge research and real-world applications, unlocking

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incredible potential across industries.” Earlybird Principal Dr. Andre Retterath adds: “Aleph Alpha’s ‘world models’ are a new breed of meta learners that ‘learn’ how to learn. Once trained, these deep learning models are able to truly disrupt every IT-based work flow ranging from document search over content writing to programming.”

About Earlybird

Earlybird is a venture capital investor focused on European technology companies. Founded in 1997, Earlybird invests in all growth and development phases of a company. Amongst the most experienced venture investors in Europe, Earlybird offers its portfolio companies not only financial resources, but also strategic support as well as access to an international network and capital markets. Earlybird manages different funds with a focus on digital technologies in Eastern and Western Europe as well as healthcare technologies. With over EUR 1.5 billion under management, eight IPOs and 30 trade sales, Earlybird is one of the most successful venture capital firms in Europe.

For further information: www.earlybird.com, Twitter: [@EarlybirdVC](https://twitter.com/EarlybirdVC), LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/company/earlybird-venture-capital or Facebook: www.facebook.com/EarlybirdVC

About Aleph Alpha

Aleph Alpha is a Heidelberg-based AI R&D company that researches, develops and operationalizes large-scale generalizable artificial intelligence models for text, vision, and strategy to ensure digital sovereignty for public and private sector partners.

For more information: www.aleph-alpha.de, Twitter: [@Aleph_Alpha](https://twitter.com/Aleph_Alpha), LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/company/aleph-alpha

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