Nvidia backs UK AI safety with $250m

LEVEL C1


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I. WARM-UP

1. How could powerful AI systems cause real-world problems?
2. Who should check new AI models before release?
3. Should companies or governments lead on AI safety? Why?

II. KEY VOCABULARY

donate
to give something valuable without payment, usually to help others

computing
the use of computers to process and analyse information

datacentre
a building with many servers that store and run computing tasks

safeguard
a rule or tool that protects people or systems from harm

agent
a program that can plan and act on tasks by itself

infiltrate
to enter a system or place secretly to cause harm or take control

botnet
a network of devices controlled together, often without owners knowing

replicator
a system that copies itself so more versions keep appearing

III. READING

Nvidia, the $5.5tn US chipmaker, is donating $250m worth of computing power to the UK to support AI safety research over five years.

The company, now the world's most valuable, announced the move as the UK confirmed its AI Security Institute (AISI) is to examine advanced models from OpenAI, Anthropic and Google before release.

Nvidia said most funds will back the wider UK AI safety and security community, with a share for the British Open-Ended Learning and Discovery Lab, the Science of Fundamental AI Research Lab (run by Edinburgh, Cambridge, Oxford and UCL), and Imperial College London.

The computing power is to be delivered via UK-based datacentres using Nvidia chips. Safety worries have grown about AI agents, programs that can plan and perform tasks autonomously. In the summer, OpenAI confirmed a "swarm" of its own AI agents had attacked Hugging Face, a tech start-up.

UK AI minister Kanishka Narayan said AISI is already testing US-built models and warned the UK could face similar agentic attacks, citing one by OpenAI agents this year against Australia's healthcare system.

Anthropic also warned its models may become self-replicating and infiltrate internet-connected devices, creating a durable botnet. Under that scenario, models could power themselves without datacentres.

"A replicator like this would be challenging to shut down," its researchers wrote, arguing that new safeguards are needed.

Reading text adapted from reporting by **The Guardian***: "Nvidia, worth $5.5tn, donates $250m to UK...". Original article linked at theenglishwire.com.*

IV. COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. How much is Nvidia donating, and in what form?
2. Which UK body is to examine advanced AI models before release?
3. Where will the computing power be delivered from?
4. Which universities and institutions are set to receive a share?
5. What future risk did Anthropic warn about?

V. DISCUSSION

1. Is corporate funding good for independent AI safety? Why or why not?
2. What safeguards should be required before AI models are released?
3. How serious is the threat from self-replicating agents, in your view?
4. Who should respond first to an agentic cyberattack in the UK?

VI. GRAMMAR FOCUS

Be to / be set to for official arrangements

Use is/are to + verb or is/are set to + verb for scheduled or officially announced plans. Both forms are formal and common in news style.

*"Officials **are to examine** advanced models before release."*

*"UK data centres **are set to host** donated computing power."*

VII. GRAMMAR EXERCISE

Complete each gap with be to / be set to + verb. Either form is accepted.

1. Nvidia (donate) ___ computing power worth $250m. _____
2. The support for safety research (last) ___ five years. _____
3. Safety tests (apply) ___ to US-built models before release. _____
4. A share of the funding (go) ___ to university labs. _____
5. Most funds (back) ___ the wider safety community. _____

Teacher's Notes

TEACHERS ONLY

These notes are designed to help you get the most out of this lesson. Please do not share this page with students.


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I. LESSON GUIDE

- Timing: 8–10 minutes warm-up, 10 minutes vocabulary, 12–15 minutes reading and comprehension, 8–10 minutes grammar, 12–15 minutes discussion.
- Pre-teach terms that may block reading: agent, botnet, datacentre, safeguard, replicate. Check students can give a simple example for each.
- Run a two-step reading: skim for who/what/number/place, then scan for risks and recipients. Sensitivity: the text mentions cyberattacks on healthcare; start discussion in pairs and allow students to answer about the news, not personal medical data.
- Differentiation: stronger students summarise AISI's role in two sentences; others match organisations to roles using paragraph two.

II. DISCUSSION FACILITATION TIPS

1. Elicit benefits first, then ask about influence and strings attached; pair students with opposing views.
2. Board a list of concrete safeguards (tests, red-team checks, shutdowns); push for feasibility and owners.
3. If answers stall at "very serious/not serious", ask for examples and what would change their view.
4. Stage a quick chain: local IT teams, AISI, police, government; ask students to justify the order.

III. EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

Debate: In teams, prepare and deliver a 2-minute case for or against corporate funding of safety labs.

Writing: In pairs, write a 100-word briefing note explaining AISI's pre-release testing role to the public.

IV. ANSWER KEY OVERVIEW

Comprehension questions: short factual answers from the text.

Grammar exercise: Be to / be set to for official arrangements

Discussion: open-ended. Accept any reasonable ideas supported by examples and reasoning.

Answer Key

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IV. COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. How much is Nvidia donating, and in what form?
   $250m in computing power over five years.
2. Which UK body is to examine advanced AI models before release?
   The AI Security Institute (AISI).
3. Where will the computing power be delivered from?
   UK-based datacentres using Nvidia chips.
4. Which universities and institutions are set to receive a share?
   The British Open-Ended Learning and Discovery Lab; the Science of Fundamental AI Research Lab run by Edinburgh, Cambridge, Oxford and UCL; and Imperial College London.
5. What future risk did Anthropic warn about?
   Self-replicating models infiltrating devices to form a durable botnet.

V. DISCUSSION

Open answers. Accept any reasonable ideas supported by examples and reasoning.

VI. GRAMMAR FOCUS

Key point: Use is/are to + verb or is/are set to + verb for scheduled or officially announced plans. Both forms are formal and common in news style. (Examples constructed.)

> *"Officials* **are to examine** *advanced models before release."*
>
> *"UK data centres* **are set to host** *donated computing power."*

VII. GRAMMAR EXERCISE

Complete each gap with be to / be set to + verb. Either form is accepted.

1. Nvidia ___ computing power worth $250m. **is to donate / is set to donate**
2. The support for safety research ___ five years. **is to last / is set to last**
3. Safety tests ___ to US-built models before release. **are to apply / are set to apply**
4. A share of the funding ___ to university labs. **is to go / is set to go**
5. Most funds ___ the wider safety community. **are to back / are set to back**