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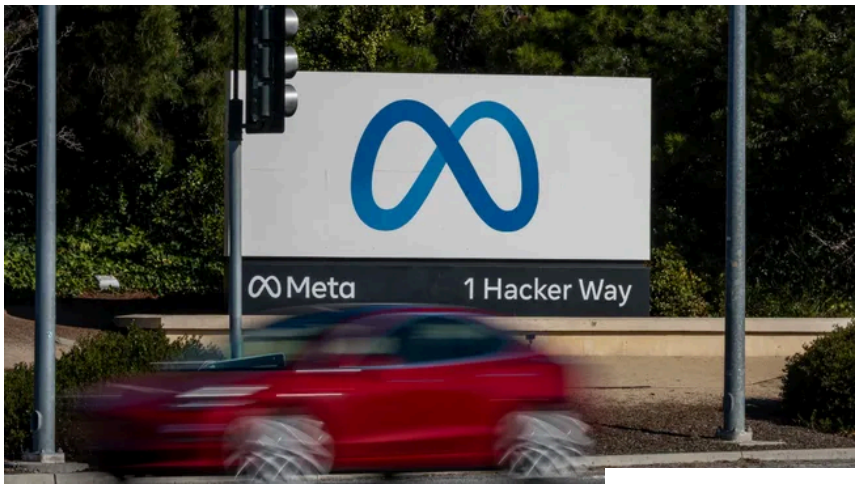
Abel founder claims Meta offered $1.25 billion over four years to AI hire — 'person still said no' despite equivalent of $312 million yearly salary

News By Mark Tyson published yesterday

Perhaps not a surprising figure, given the talk of $100 million signing bonuses.

Comments (12)

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(Image credit: Getty / Bloomberg)

Abel founder and enfant terrible of the algorithmic age, Daniel Francis, is incredulous at the remuneration offers being punted by the likes of Meta. On Sunday, Daniel told his throng of social media followers that Meta had offered a potential hire $1.25 billion. The sum was for a four-year stint, admittedly. Despite the 10-figure lure, which would mean over $300 million a year, the potential hire didn't take the bait.

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The above Tweet is actually an update to one Daniel floated into the X-abyss this weekend, suggesting that Meta was fishing for a high-caliber AI auteur armed with a $1 billion incentive. Whatever the case, "Person said no, btw," Daniel added, without embellishment.

To his rhetorical question about "what the hell is going on," Daniel didn't take too long to give one of his followers an answer, though. When someone raised the obvious valuation comparison, where hires are starting to attract 'IP style money,' Daniel said, "IP is in people's heads [right now]."

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Francis, whose startup uses AI to build police reports from body cam footage and dispatch call data, shot to internet notoriety in 2023 when he pretended to be a disgruntled Twitter worker fired by Elon Musk. After fooling multiple outlets into believing his story, he was hired by Musk to join the company.

Billion dollar contract is no one-off

The headlining employment contract worth $1.25 billion isn't unusual, according to several posters who replied to Daniel. AI researcher Roon, who is believed to have previously worked at OpenAI, stated that he's heard of higher offers being made. "It's not that crazy when you think of it like an acquihire," he stated, in an explanation which dovetails with Daniel's highlighting of valuable IP being in folk's heads in the current AI era.

After another seeming serious contribution, attempting to confirm that "The highest you've heard is regular to me," the thread began to turn into something of a farce. Posters moved on to trying to outdo each other with tales of infinite wealth, only matched by their levels of silliness.

AI biz CEO recently admitted nine-figure signing bonuses are real

Though we must take some of the claims above with a dash of salt, there are undoubtedly some extremely lucrative employment contracts being offered to established and rising AI execs.

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A case of extreme remuneration in the AI field came straight from the CEO's mouth last month. In June, OpenAI CEO Sam Altman revealed that Meta was attempting to swipe OpenAI technical staff with $100 million signing bonuses. "I'm really happy that, at least so far, none of our best people have decided to take them up on that," asserted Altman.

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Mark Tyson News Editor

Mark Tyson is a news editor at Tom's Hardware. He enjoys covering the full breadth of PC tech; from business and semiconductor design to products approaching the edge of reason.

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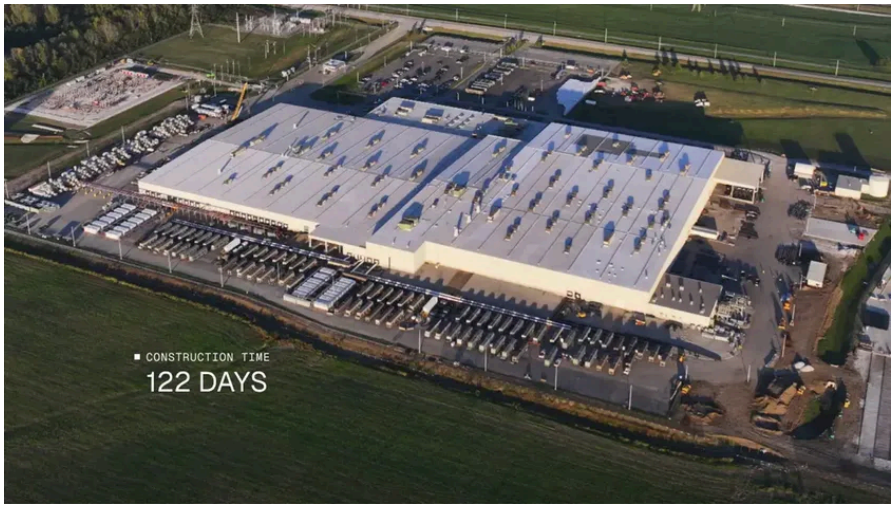
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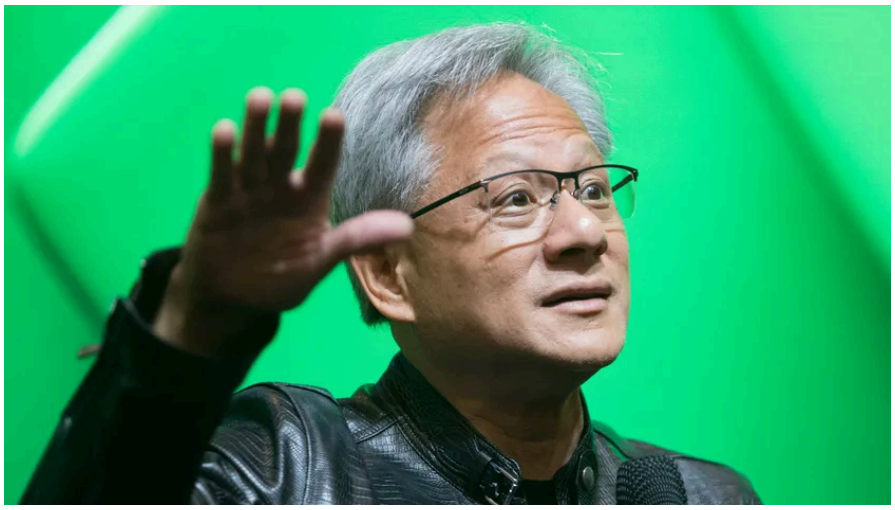
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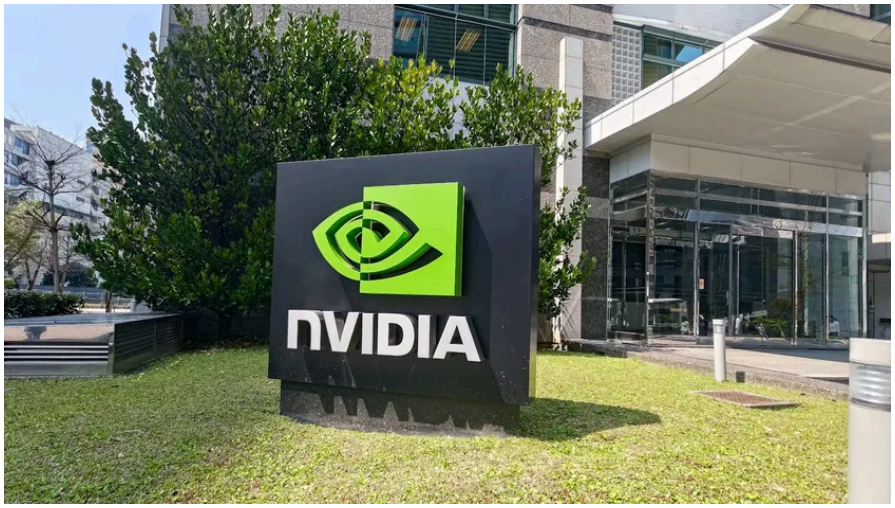


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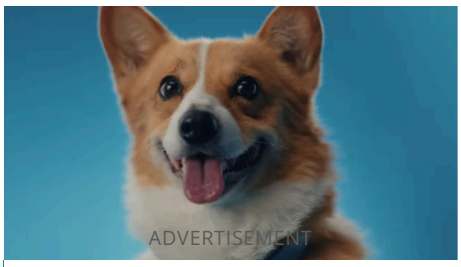
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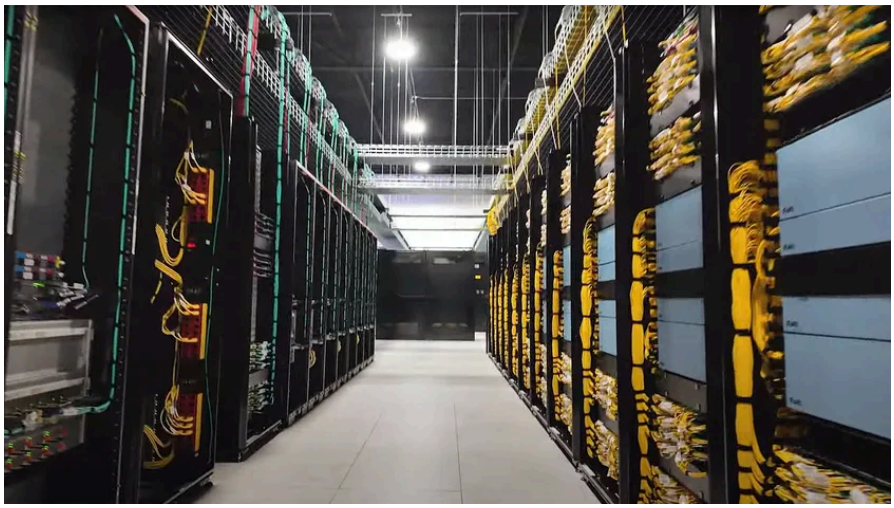
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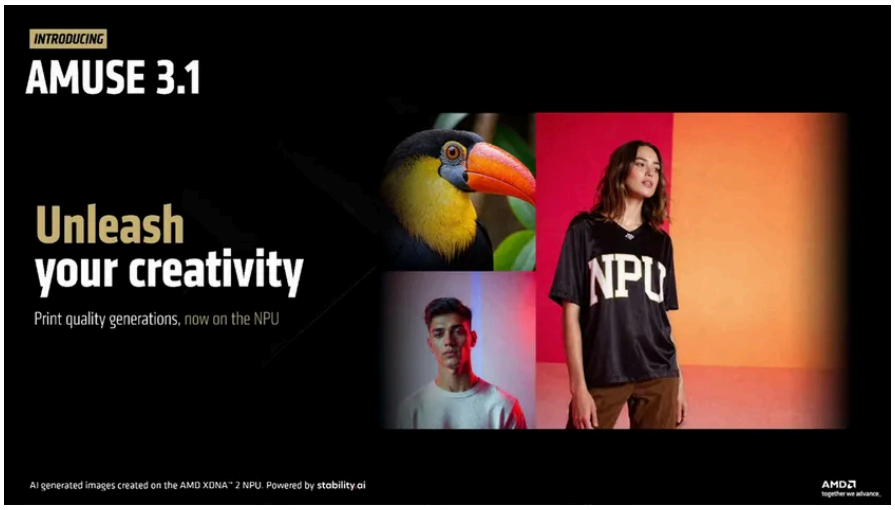
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OpenAI and Oracle ink deal to build massive Stargate data center, total project will power 2 million AI chips

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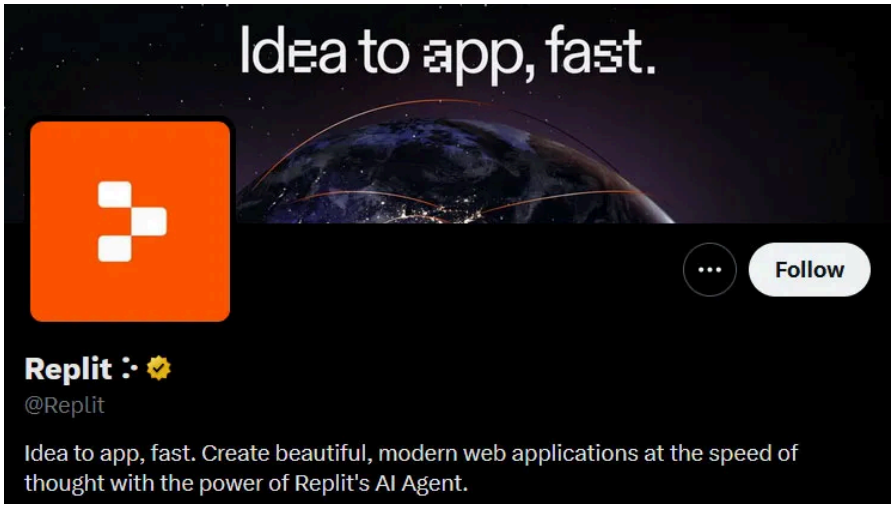


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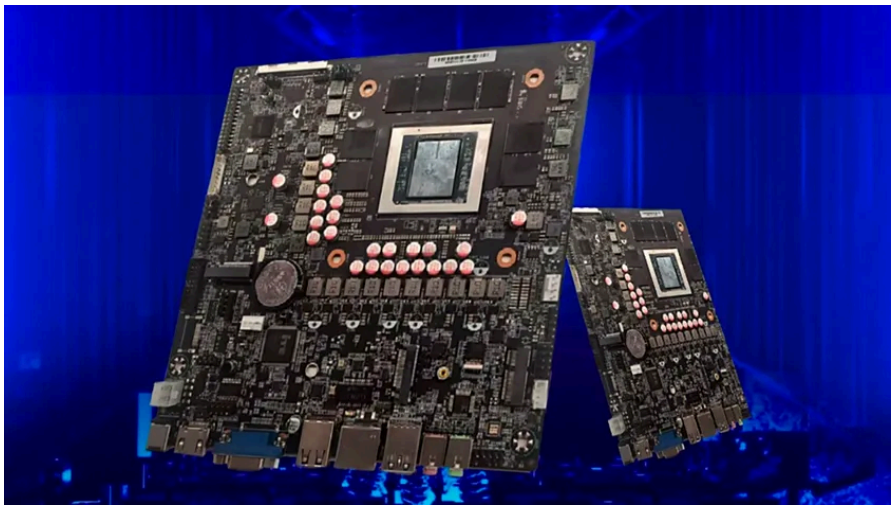


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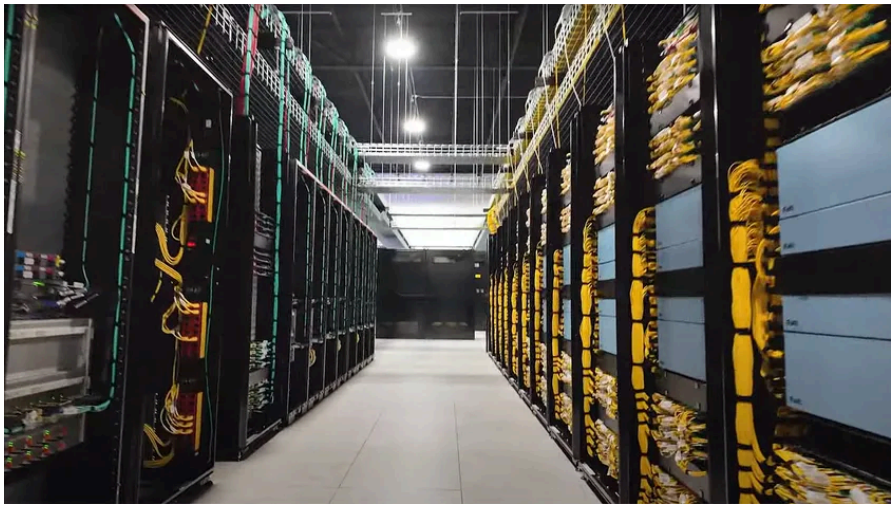
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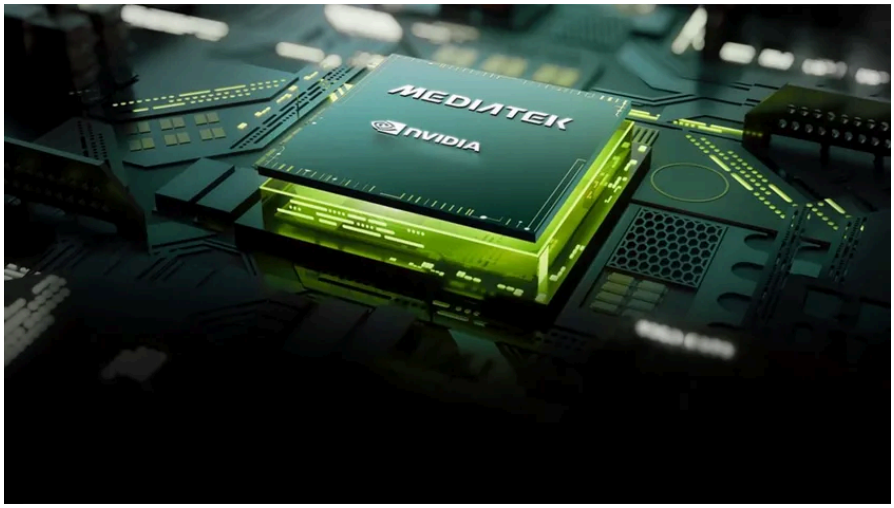
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12 COMMENTS

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tikal

This is complete madness. I doubt any single person is worth such an amount. Unless they are the only person capable of envisioning some groundbreaking breakthrough. Which is extremely unlike, and there is absolutely not way to ascertain it.

REPLY ▶

QuarterSwede

I love this so much. It just shows you that not everyone has a price. Or, if they do, they've already attained it and they aren't working for money anymore.

REPLY ▶

acadia11

So , 2 of the guys on my team were working on PHds when first starting my development career, one researching in mesh networks and edge computing, one was researching in AI, his research centered on listening list and song matching ... when MP3s weren't a thing. I'm talking pre-iPhone and hipsters snacked on gluten chips days but talk about foresight. I didn't understand much about how AI actually worked then or ML. But if you were a researcher or foundation guy the fact that contracts now are being handed out that will have the cheerleaders watching the "AI draft" is wild!

REPLY ▶

acadia11

> ***QuarterSwede*** **said:**
>
> I love this so much. It just shows you that not everyone has a price. Or, if they do, they've already attained it and they aren't working for money anymore.

$1.25 billion for 4 years of work ... if I'm this persons future progeny I'd reach back in the past and slap them silly. All jokes aside somehow I'm quite sure this person will be a billionaire either way

or has a stock package already that's made them quite rich .., I'm not saying I know, but I'd guess so.

REPLY ▶

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