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Sam Altman says Meta offered $100 million bonuses to OpenAI employees

By **Reuters**

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June 17 (Reuters) - OpenAI CEO Sam Altman said that Meta (META.O) has offered his employees bonuses of $100 million to recruit them, as the tech giant seeks to ramp up its artificial intelligence strategy.

The alleged attempts by Meta to hire OpenAI staffers are the latest signs of a frenzy to hire top engineers to develop AI models, and they come at a time when the Facebook owner is working on building its superintelligence unit to catch up with competitors.

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Competition for AI talent has reached a feverish pitch as superstar researchers are being courted like professional athletes on the belief that individual contributors can make or break companies.

"They (Meta) started making giant offers to a lot of people on our team," Altman said on the Uncapped podcast that aired on Tuesday, hosted by his brother. "You know, like $100 million signing bonuses, more than that (in) compensation per year."



[1/3] OpenAI CEO Sam Altman is seated to testify before a Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee hearing titled "Winning the AI Race: Strengthening U.S. Capabilities in Computing and... Purchase Licensing Rights **Read more**

"At least, so far, none of our best people have decided to take them up on that," Altman said.

Meta did not immediately respond to a request for comment outside regular business hours, and Reuters could not verify the information.

"I've heard that Meta thinks of us as their biggest competitor," Altman said.

His comments come just days after Meta invested $14.3 billion in data-labeling startup Scale AI, and hired its top boss, Alexandr Wang, to lead its new superintelligence team.

Meta, once recognized as a leader in open-source AI models, has suffered from staff departures and has postponed the launches of new open-source AI models that could rival competitors like Google, China's DeepSeek and OpenAI.

Reporting by Gursimran Kaur in Bengaluru; Editing by Alan Barona

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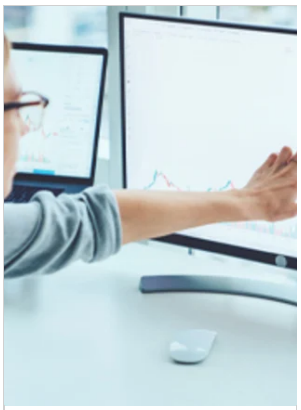
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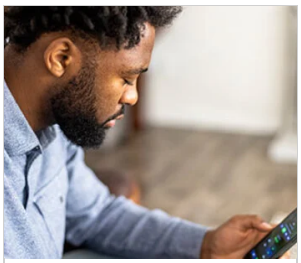
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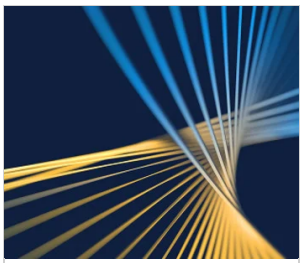
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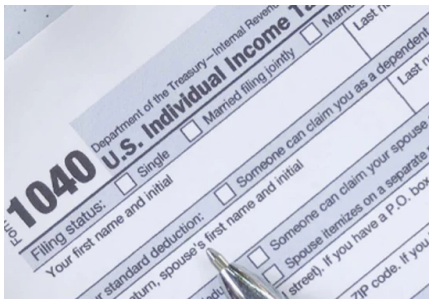
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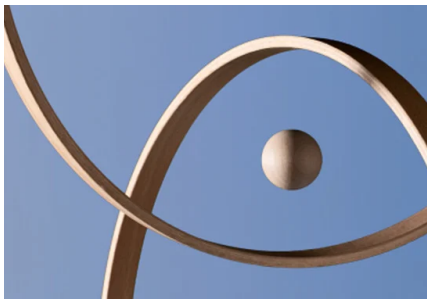
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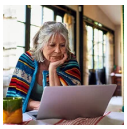


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