Latest
Startups
Venture
Apple
Security
AI
Apps

Events
Podcasts
Newsletters

Advertisement



IMAGE CREDITS: CRAIG T FRUCHTMAN / GETTY IMAGES



Connie Loizos

Meta's recruiting blitz claims three OpenAI researchers

In the fight for top AI talent, Meta just reportedly snagged a win, poaching three OpenAI researchers despite rival Sam Altman's public mockery of Mark Zuckerberg's lavish hiring tactics.

The latest victory in Zuckerberg's widely reported recruiting blitz: Lucas Beyer, Alexander Kolesnikov, and Xiaohua Zhai — who established OpenAI's Zurich office — have joined Meta's superintelligence team, the WSJ reports, suggesting Zuckerberg's methods can deliver.

Advertisement

As Altman, the CEO of OpenAI, first revealed in a recent podcast with his brother Jack, Zuckerberg has been dangling $100+ million compensation packages in an effort to lure top talent from OpenAI. The WSJ subsequently reported that Zuckerberg has been personally WhatsApping hundreds of top AI researchers, coordinating targets through his "Recruiting Party 🎉" chat before hosting dinners at his homes in Palo Alto and Lake Tahoe.

The strategy is producing mixed results. Zuckerberg recently bagged Scale AI's CEO Alexandr Wang with a $14 billion investment, making the 28-year-old one of tech's priciest hires ever. But bigger game has eluded the Meta CEO, says the WSJ, including OpenAI co-founders Ilya Sutskever and John Schulman, both of whom have gone on to co-found newer startups.

In that podcast, Altman said of Zuckerberg's charm campaign: "I'm really happy that, at least so far, none of our best people have decided to take him up on [those offers]."

Topics: AI In Brief Mark Zuckerberg Meta OpenAI sam altman

TC DISRUPT

October 27-29, 2025 | San Francisco

Put your brand in front of 10,000+ tech and VC leaders across all three days of Disrupt 2025. Amplify your reach, spark real connections, and lead the innovation charge. Secure your exhibit space before your competitor does.

Advertisement

Book Your Table

Newsletters

See More ↗

Subscribe for the industry's biggest tech news

TechCrunch Daily News

Every weekday and Sunday, you can get the best of TechCrunch's coverage.

TechCrunch AI

TechCrunch's AI experts cover the latest news in the fast-moving field.

TechCrunch Space

Every Monday, gets you up to speed on the latest advances in aerospace.

Startups Weekly

Startups are the core of TechCrunch, so get our best coverage delivered weekly.

No newsletters selected.

Email address

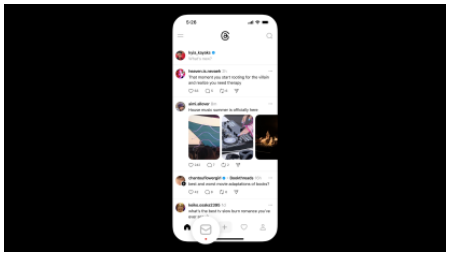
Subscribe

By submitting your email, you agree to our Terms and Privacy Notice.

Related



AI



APPS



AI

Advertisement

from Meta, says CEO Alexandr Wang is leaving

Ivan Mehta

Jun 13, 2025

Ivan Mehta

Jun 10, 2025

media nightmare

Maxwell Zeff

May 7, 2025

Latest in AI

See More



AI

Meta names Shengjia Zhao as chief scientist of AI superintelligence unit

Maxwell Zeff

2 days ago



AI

AI referrals to top websites were up 357% year-over-year in June, reaching 1.13B

Sarah Perez

2 days ago



AI

Sam Altman warns there's no legal confidentiality when using ChatGPT as a therapist

Sarah Perez

2 days ago

Advertisement

© 2025 TechCrunch Media LLC.

Advertisement