UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
SAN JOSE DIVISION

JOSEPH DEAN,
Plaintiff,

Case No. 5:25-cv-10597-NC

v.

META PLATFORMS, INC.,
Defendant.

EXHIBIT Z

SOURCE MATERIALS SUPPORTING SIXTH NOTICE OF NEWLY DISCOVERED EVIDENCE

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EXHIBIT Z-1

THE PROPRIETARY PIVOT

Z-1-A

Source: CNBC

"From Llamas to Avocados: Meta's shifting AI strategy is causing internal confusion"

Date: December 9, 2025

`https://www.cnbc.com/2025/12/09/meta-avocado-ai-strategy-issues.html`

Print-to-PDF copy follows.

BREAKING Asian software stocks plunge after U.S. peers decline on fears over .

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TECH

From Llamas to Avocados: Meta's shifting AI strategy is causing internal confusion

PUBLISHED TUE, DEC 9 2025•7:00 AM EST UPDATED TUE, DEC 9 2025•8:33 PM EST

Jonathan Vanian
@IN/JONATHAN-VANIAN-B704432/

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KEY POINTS

Meta is pursuing a new frontier AI model, codenamed Avocado, that could be proprietary instead of open source, CNBC has learned.

The company is trying to keep pace with artificial intelligence rivals OpenAI and Google after spending $14.3 billion to bring in the founder of Scale AI and a handful of top researchers and engineers.

"In many ways, Meta has been the opposite of Alphabet, where it entered the year as an AI winner and now faces more questions around investment levels and ROI," analysts at

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Meta CEO Mark Zuckerberg makes a keynote speech at the Meta Connect annual event at the company's headquarters in Menlo Park, Calif., on Sept. 25, 2024.

Manuel Orbegozo | Reuters

Meta CEO Mark Zuckerberg was so optimistic last year about his company's Llama family of artificial intelligence models that he predicted they would become the "most advanced in the industry" and "bring the benefits of AI to everyone."

But after including a whole section on Llama in his opening remarks during Meta's earnings call in January of this year, he mentioned the brand name only once on the latest call in October. The company's obsession with its open-source large language model has given way to a very different approach to AI, one focused around a multibillion-dollar hiring spree to bring in top industry talent that could help Meta take on the likes of OpenAI, Google and Anthropic.

As 2025 comes to a close, Meta's strategy remains scattershot, according to insiders and industry experts, feeding the perception that the company has fallen further behind its top AI rivals

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"Our model training efforts are going according to plan and have had no meaningful timing changes," a Meta spokesperson said in a statement.

With its stock underperforming the broader tech sector this year and badly trailing Google parent Alphabet, Wall Street is looking for a sense of direction and a path to a return on investment after Meta spent $14.3 billion in June to hire Scale AI founder Alexandr Wang and a handful of his top engineers and researchers. Four months after that announcement, which included Meta purchasing a big stake in Scale, the social media company raised its 2025 guidance for capital expenditures to between $70 billion and $72 billion from a prior range of $66 billion to $72 billion.

"In many ways, Meta has been the opposite of Alphabet, where it entered the year as an AI winner and now faces more questions around investment levels and ROI," analysts at KeyBanc Capital Markets wrote in a November note to clients. The firm recommends buying both stocks.



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make the organization more efficient and less bloated.

But Zuckerberg has much grander ambitions, and the new guard he's brought in to push the future vision of AI has no background in online ads. The 41-year-old founder, with a net worth of more than $230 billion, has suggested that if Meta doesn't take big swings, it risks becoming an afterthought in a world that's poised to be defined by AI.

Until recently, Meta's unique position in AI was the open-source nature of its Llama models. Unlike other AI models, Meta's technology was made freely available so third-party researchers and others could access the tools and ultimately improve them.

"Today, several tech companies are developing leading closed models," Zuckerberg wrote in a blog post in July 2024. "But open source is quickly closing the gap."

He's since started changing his tune. Zuckerberg hinted over the summer that Meta was considering shaking up its approach to open source after the April release of Llama 4, which failed to captivate developers. Zuckerberg said in July that, "We'll need to be rigorous about mitigating these risks and careful about what we choose to open source."

Avocado, when it's eventually made available, could be a proprietary model, according to people familiar with the matter. That means outside developers wouldn't be able to freely download its so-called weights and related software components.

Some at Meta were upset that the R1 model released by Chinese AI lab DeepSeek earlier this year incorporated pieces of Llama's architecture, the people said, further underscoring the risks of open source and hammering home the idea that the company should overhaul its strategy.

The company's high-priced AI hires and leaders of the recently launched Meta Superintelligence Labs, or MSL, have also questioned the open-source AI strategy and favored creating a more

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officer and, in August, became the head of an elite unit called TBD Lab. Avocado is being developed inside TBD, people familiar with the matter said.

Alexandr Wang, CEO of ScaleAI speaks on CNBC's Squawk Box outside the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland on Jan. 23, 2025.
Gerry Miller | CNBC

OpenAI CEO Sam Altman said in June that Meta was trying to lure talent from his company with gigantic pay packages, including sky-high $100 million signing bonuses, which Meta said at the time was a misrepresentation.

Along with Wang came other tech bigwigs, including former GitHub CEO Nat Friedman, who heads the product and applied research arm of MSL, and Shengjia Zhao, who was a ChatGPT co-

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That pressure has only increased as competitors stepped up their game. Google's Gemini 3, unveiled last month, has drawn solid reviews from users and analysts. OpenAI recently announced new updates to its GPT-5 AI model, while Anthropic debuted its Claude Opus 4.5 model in November shortly after releasing two other major models.

Analysts previously told CNBC that there's no clear leading AI model, because some perform better on certain tasks like conversations or coding. But the one constant is that all of the major model creators have to spend a lot of money on AI to maintain any competitive edge, they said.

A hefty dose of that spending lines the pockets of Nvidia , the leading developer of AI graphics processing units. Nvidia CEO Jensen Huang laid out the state of play during his company's earnings call in November, after the chipmaker reported 62% year-over-year revenue growth. He highlighted a number of model developers as big customers, including Elon Musk's xAI.

"We run OpenAI. We run Anthropic. We run xAI because of our deep partnership with Elon and xAI," Huang said. "We run Gemini. We run Thinking Machines. Let's see, what else do we run? We run them all."

At no point did Huang reference Llama, although elsewhere on the call he said Meta's Gem, "a foundation model for ad recommendations trained on large-scale GPU clusters," drove an improvement in ad conversions at Meta in the second quarter.

Wang isn't the only Meta exec feeling the heat.

Friedman has also been tasked with producing a breakout AI product, the people said. He was responsible for Meta's September launch of Vibes, a feed of AI-generated short videos, which is widely viewed as inferior to OpenAI's Sora 2, they said. Former employees and creators told CNBC that the product was rushed to market and lacked key features, like the ability to generate realistic lip-synched audio

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startup, according to people with knowledge of the matter.

LeCun declined to comment.

Yann LeCun, Meta's former chief AI scientist, says people move on.
Getty Images

Zuckerberg's high-stakes decision to turn to outsiders like Wang and Friedman to lead the company's AI efforts represented a major change for a company that's historically promoted long-tenured workers to top posts, the people said.

In Wang and Friedman, Zuckerberg has handed the controls to experts in infrastructure and

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However, Zuckerberg isn't giving the new AI leadership team complete autonomy. Aparna Ramani, engineering vice president, who has been with Meta for nearly a decade, has been put in charge of overseeing the distribution of computing resources for MSL, the people said.

And in October, Vishal Shah was moved from leading the company's metaverse initiatives within Reality Labs, where he'd been for four years, to a new role as vice president of AI Products, working with Friedman. Shah is considered a loyal lieutenant who has helped act as a bridge between the company's traditional social apps like Instagram and newer projects like Reality Labs, the people said.

Meta confirmed last week that it plans to cut resources for its virtual reality and related metaverse initiatives, shifting its attention to its popular AI-infused glasses developed with EssilorLuxottica .

'Demo, don't memo'

One of the biggest points of tension between the old and the new is in the realm of software development, people familiar with the matter said.

In creating products, Meta has traditionally sought input from numerous groups responsible for areas like front-end user interface, design, algorithmic feeds and privacy, the people said. The multistep process was intended to ensure some level of uniformity among the company's apps that attract billions of users each day.

But the many internal tools built over the years to help coders create software and features weren't developed to accommodate foundation models. Meta's new AI leaders, notably Friedman, view them as bottlenecks slowing down what should be a rapid-fire development

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specifically referencing the company's finance teams, which have turned to Lovable to create software for tracking head count and planning.



An illustration photo shows the event of Meta launching the Vibes platform, Suqian City, Jiangsu Province, China on September 26, 2025.
Cfoto | Future Publishing | Getty Images

While Meta continues retooling its app development methods and pushes toward releasing Avocado, the company has been experimenting with other AI models on its products. Vibes, for instance, relied on AI models from Black Forest Labs and Midjourney, a startup that counts Friedman as an advisor.

Meta is also altering its approach to infrastructure, and is increasingly turning to third-party

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Despite the company's challenges in 2025, Zuckerberg's message to employees and investors is that he's more committed than ever to winning. At the top of the company's earnings call in October, Zuckerberg said MSL is "off to a strong start."

"I think that we've already built the lab with the highest talent density in the industry," Zuckerberg said. "We're heads down developing our next generation of models and products and I'm looking forward to sharing more on that front over the coming months."

WATCH: Data center demand driving infrastructure credit



VIDEO 03:06

Data centers demand driving infrastructure credit: Clifford Capital

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EXHIBIT Z-1

THE PROPRIETARY PIVOT

Z-1-B

Source: Benzinga

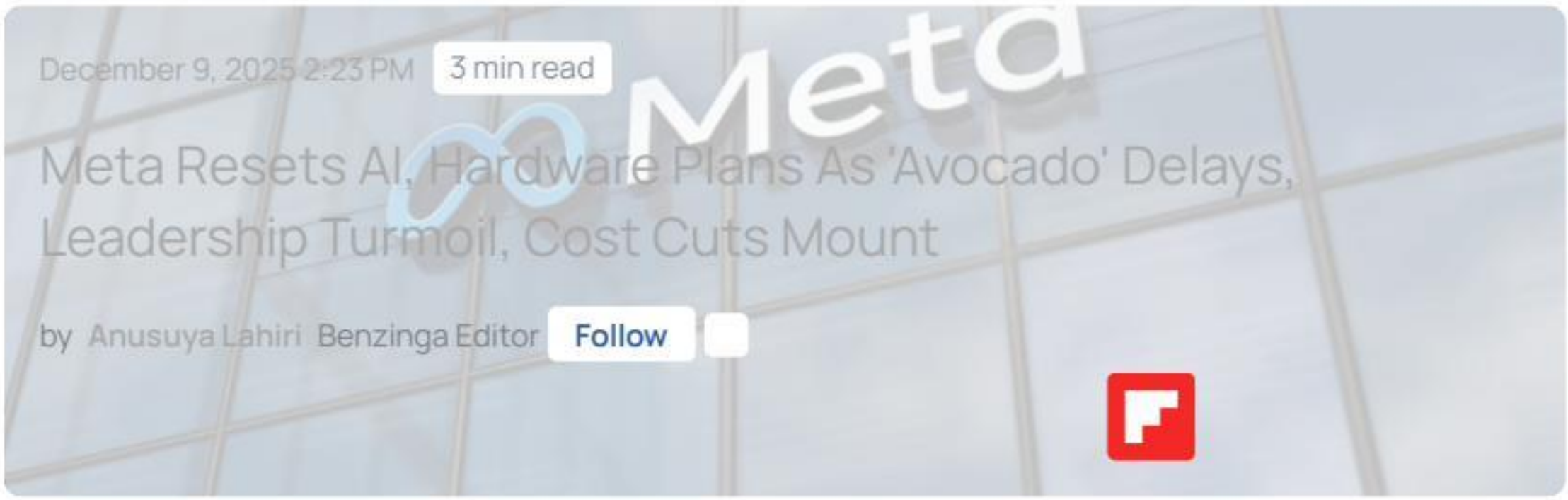
"Meta Resets AI, Hardware Plans As ‘Avocado’ Delays, Leadership Turmoil, Cost Cuts Mount"

Date: December 9, 2025

https://www.benzinga.com/markets/tech/25/12/49289401/meta-resets-ai-hardware-plans-as-avocado-delays-leadership-turmoil-cost-cuts-mount

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Meta Platforms Inc (NASDAQ:META) is reshaping its artificial intelligence strategy with sweeping leadership changes, escalating investments and a decisive shift away from its open-source roots.

CEO Mark Zuckerberg — who only a year ago pushed Meta's Llama models as the future of open-source AI — has pivoted sharply. Llama received almost no mention during the company's October earnings call, signaling a retreat after the underperformance of Llama 4 and rising competition from Chinese labs such as DeepSeek.

CNBC reported Tuesday that Meta is developing a new frontier model codenamed Avocado. Initially planned for late 2025, the launch has been pushed to early 2026 due to training performance issues. Unlike previous models, Avocado may debut as a proprietary system, marking a dramatic philosophical reversal for the company.

Benzinga reached out to Meta investor relations for its take on the report and is awaiting a response.

The shift has triggered major internal upheaval. Zuckerberg removed longtime Chief Product Officer Chris Cox from Meta's AI division, replacing him with 28-year-old Scale AI founder **Alexandr Wang**, now serving as chief AI officer. Wang — working closely with former GitHub CEO Nat Friedman — leads elite fast-moving units that operate with startup-like secrecy.

This break from Meta's historically open culture has created friction inside the organization. The new AI leadership enforces a rapid "demo, don't memo" style that leans heavily on modern AI agents, pushing employees through 70-hour workweeks amid ongoing layoffs and restructuring.

The cultural transformation culminated in Chief AI Scientist Yann LeCun's departure to launch his own startup.

Wall Street is watching closely as Meta pours billions into accelerating its AI race. Meta spent $14.3 billion to acquire Wang's team and raised its 2025 capex outlook to more than $70 billion, prompting investor debate about whether the massive bet can deliver returns.

Meta Reshapes Hardware Strategy With Limitless Buy, Cloud Deals and Metaverse Cuts

As Meta intensifies its artificial intelligence ambitions, the company is simultaneously restructuring its hardware and infrastructure roadmap, reallocating capital and tightening focus around AI-driven devices.

Meta recently acquired Limitless, a startup known for AI-powered wearable technology, to speed up its push toward what Zuckerberg calls "personal superintelligence." The company is integrating Limitless' device expertise with Meta's consumer scale and AI infrastructure.

As part of the transition, Meta is ending commercial sales of the Limitless Pendant while supporting existing users for at least a year, eliminating subscription fees and providing free access to premium features. The company is also retiring non-core apps such as Rewind, reducing its regional footprint, and adding tools that help users manage, export or delete their data.

At the infrastructure level, Meta is diversifying beyond its own data centers. The company has struck cloud partnerships with **CoreWeave Inc** (NASDAQ:CRWV) and **Oracle Corp** (NYSE:ORCL) while simultaneously building its massive Hyperion facility in Louisiana — all to support next-generation AI workloads.

To free up capital, Meta is cutting up to 30% of its 2026 metaverse budget. That includes delaying its Phoenix mixed-reality glasses to early 2027 and shifting more resources into higher-quality smart glasses, AI wearables and data center expansions.

Analysts at JPMorgan and Bank of America Securities say the tighter spending discipline and reprioritization could free billions in cash flow and help support earnings growth as Meta doubles down on AI-driven products and infrastructure.

Meta shares are up 12% year-to-date as investors weigh the balance between soaring capital expenditures and long-term AI ambitions.

META Price Action: Meta Platforms shares were down 1.16% at $659.08 on Tuesday at publication, according to Benzinga Pro data.

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EXHIBIT Z-1

THE PROPRIETARY PIVOT

Z-1-C

Source: eWeek

"From ‘Llama’ to ‘Avocado’: Meta’s Sudden AI Shift Has Developers Worried"

Date: December 10, 2025

`https://www.eweek.com/news/meta-new-avocado-model/`

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From ‘Llama’ to ‘Avocado’: Meta’s Sudden AI Shift Has Developers Worried



AI-generated image of an avocado with a seed that represents a microchip.

WRITTEN BY



AMINU ABDULLAHI

DEC 10, 2025

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Remember when Mark Zuckerberg was all about giving away Meta's AI secrets? Those days appear to be over.

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While Meta has spent the last year hyping up its "Llama" family of AI models, the company is quietly pivoting to a new project codenamed "Avocado." However, reports suggest that this new flagship model is facing delays and a major philosophical shift that could change how the world accesses Meta's technology.

For a while, the expectation inside Meta was that their next big thing would arrive before we ring in the new year. That timeline appears to have slipped.

According to a CNBC report, the company's new frontier model, Avocado, is now targeted for release in the first quarter of 2026. Sources familiar with the matter told the outlet that the model is currently "wrestling with various training-related

performance testing intended to ensure the system is well received when it eventually debuts."

Despite the internal chatter about delays, the company is officially putting on a brave face. In that same report, a spokesperson for Meta told CNBC: "Our model training efforts are going according to plan and have had no meaningful timing changes."

Closing the doors?

The biggest news isn't the name or the delay, but a potential U-turn in strategy. Until recently, Meta was the hero of the open-source community, giving away its Llama technology so developers worldwide could peek under the hood and use it freely.

That era might be ending. CNBC reports that Avocado could launch as a proprietary, closed model. This means outside developers wouldn't be able to download the "weights" or software components as they did with Llama.

This shift seems to be driven by security concerns and stiff competition. There was reportedly internal frustration after foreign competitors, including Chinese AI labs, used Llama's open architecture to build their own rival tools.

Mark Zuckerberg himself hinted at this change over the summer. "We'll need to be rigorous about mitigating these risks and careful about what we choose to open source," said Zuckerberg in July, according to CNBC.

A rebuilt AI leadership

Behind the strategic turn is a leadership overhaul. After Llama 4's underwhelming launch, Meta reorganized parts of its AI division and made one of the industry's most expensive talent bets: a $14.3 billion acquisition of Scale AI founder Alexandr Wang and several top engineers.

Wang now leads a new elite group called TBD Lab, where Avocado is being built. Meta also recruited high-profile names like former GitHub CEO Nat Friedman and Shengjia Zhao, a co-creator of ChatGPT. CNBC reports that these leaders have pushed for faster

development cycles and more modern tooling, clashing at times with Meta's older, more consensus-driven engineering culture.

On the company's October earnings call, Zuckerberg defended the reshaped team, saying, "I think that we've already built the lab with the highest talent density in the industry. We're heads down developing our next generation of models and products and I'm looking forward to sharing more on that front over the coming months."

Pressure from all sides

Meta enters 2026 under pressure on several fronts. Its competitors — OpenAI, Google, and Anthropic — are releasing upgraded models at a pace that leaves little room for missteps. Google's Gemini 3 and OpenAI's latest GPT-5 updates have been particularly well received. Within Meta, CNBC reports that 70-hour workweeks and multiple reorganizations have become common as teams scramble to keep the company competitive.

Meanwhile, Wall Street is watching closely. Meta's stock has lagged Alphabet this year, and the firm has raised its 2025 capital expenditure forecast to between $70 billion and $72 billion. KeyBanc analysts wrote in November that "Meta has been the opposite of Alphabet," entering the year as an AI winner but ending it with "more questions around investment levels and ROI," according to the CNBC report.

Some parts of Meta's business remain solid. Its advertising engine, powered significantly by AI, continues to grow at more than 20% a year. But Zuckerberg's ambitions extend far beyond ads, and the company is now betting heavily on a high-end, closed AI model that can compete directly with Gemini, ChatGPT, Claude, and others.

For a look at which companies are actually pulling ahead with generative AI, this report on OpenAI's State of Enterprise AI report breaks down adoption gaps, productivity gains, and how frontier firms are widening the lead.



AMINU ABDULLAHI

Aminu Abdullahi is an experienced B2B technology and finance writer and award-winning public speaker. He is the co-author of the e-book, The Ultimate Creativity Playbook, and has written for various publications, including TechRepublic, eWEEK, Enterprise Networking Planet, eSecurity Planet, CIO Insight, Enterprise Storage Forum, IT Business Edge, Webopedia, Software Pundit, Geekflare and more.

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EXHIBIT Z-2

PROPRIETARY MODELS CONFIRMED

Z-2-A

Source: WinBuzzer

"Meta Solidifies AI Open Source Retreat with Proprietary 'Mango' and 'Avocado' Models for 2026"

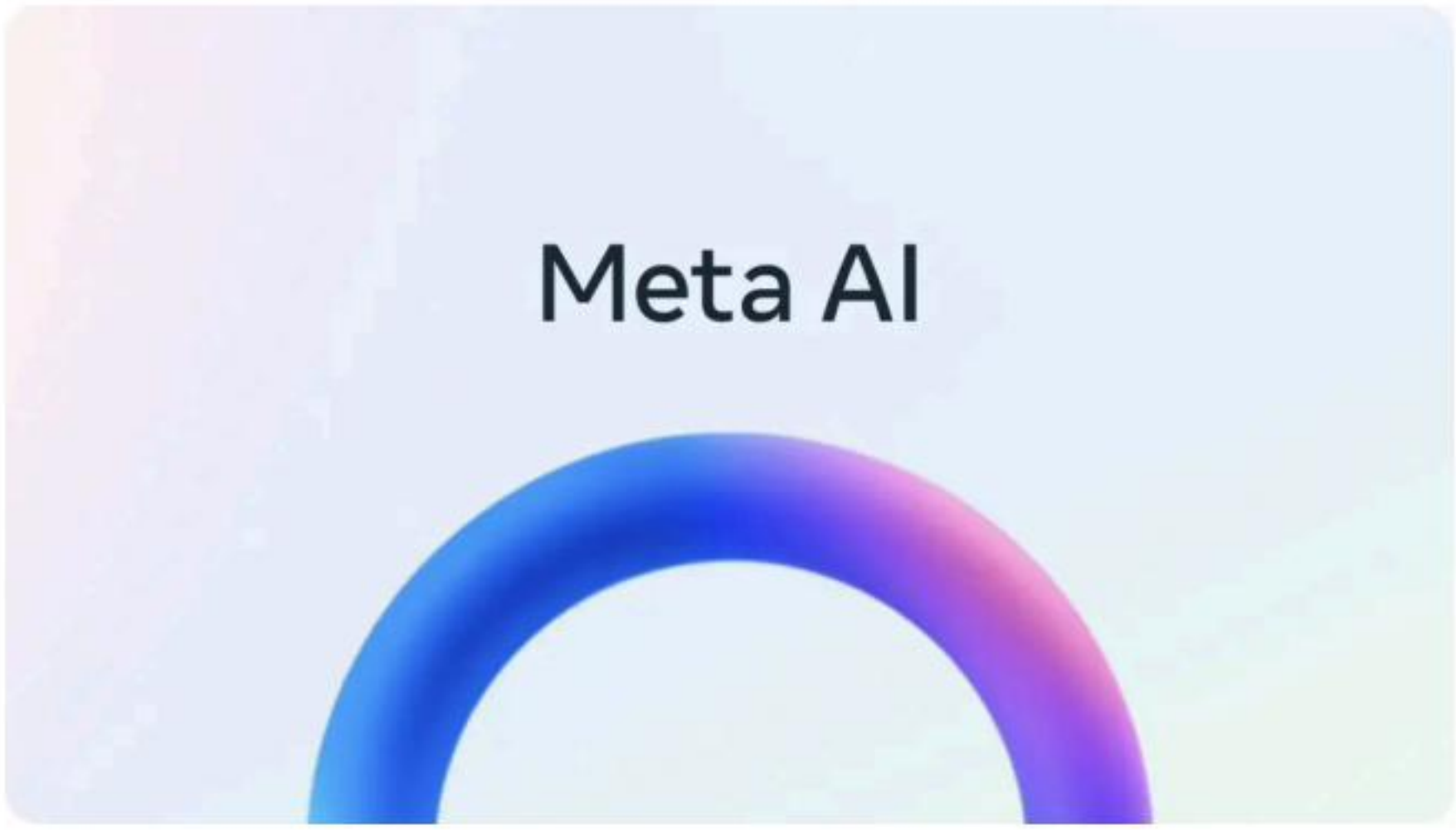
Date: December 19, 2025

https://winbuzzer.com/2025/12/19/meta-solidifies-open-source-retreat-with-proprietary-mango-and-avocado-models-for-2026-xcxwbn/

Print-to-PDF copy follows.

Meta Solidifies AI Open Source Retreat with Proprietary ‘Mango’ and ‘Avocado’ Models for 2026

By **Markus Kasanmascheff** December 19, 2025 3:15 pm CET



TL;DR

- The gist: Meta is reportedly developing two proprietary AI models, ‘Mango’ and ‘Avocado’, for release in the first half of 2026.
- Key details: The move is a shift from the open-source Llama strategy with a closed platform backed by a $72 billion infrastructure investment.
- Why it matters: This pivot signals a possible retreat from open-source AI, aiming to prevent competitors from cloning Meta’s architecture.
- Context: The shift follows the internal failure of Llama 4 and a major restructuring under Chief AI Officer Alexandr Wang.

Solidifying its retreat from open-source AI, Meta is reportedly developing two proprieta codenamed ‘Mango’ and ‘Avocado,’ for a targeted release in the first half of 2026.

Designed to complement or possibly even to replace the Llama series, ‘Mango’ will focu media while ‘Avocado’ targets text and code. This closed-garden strategy, driven by Chi Alexandr Wang, aims to mitigate the risk of competitors cloning open weights.

Ad ends in 28


Backed by a $72 billion capital expenditure (Capex) forecast, the pivot attempts to close the gap with OpenAI and Google, whose advanced reasoning models are already deployed in enterprise environments.

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The ‘Mango’ and ‘Avocado’ Strategy

Confirming the definitive shift in strategy, Meta has established a dual-track development pipeline for its next generation of models. According to The Wall Street Journal, the company aims to launch ‘Mango’ as its multimodal flagship to compete with existing video generators.

Parallel to the visual effort, ‘Avocado’ targets text and code generation. This specific focus addresses technical weaknesses identified in previous architectures, particularly regarding programming proficiency and complex reasoning tasks.

Ad ends in 26

Targeting a release in the first half of 2026, this schedule places the launch approximatel after the originally intended debut of the Llama 4 series.

Following a pivot to closed models reported earlier this month, this restructuring marks from the past. Abandoning the open-source Llama lineage became necessary after the pc the Llama 4 “Behemoth” model due to performance failures.

Strategic rationale for the closure centers on risk mitigation. Meta’s leadership reportedly fears that releasing open weights allows competitors, such as the Chinese lab DeepSeek, to clone and optimize

Meta's architecture without incurring the initial research costs.

Addressing this vulnerability in July, CEO Mark Zuckerberg stated that *"We need to be rigorous about mitigating these risks and careful about what we choose to open source."*

According to the new report, these new models are being built with "world model" capabilities. Such systems are designed to understand physical environments and causality rather than just pixel or token probability.

Creating a closed platform, Meta plans to integrate these models exclusively into its family of apps, including Instagram and WhatsApp, rather than releasing weights on GitHub.

Culture Shock: The 'TBD Lab' Takeover

A major restructuring has placed Chief AI Officer Alexandr Wang and Head of Product Nat Friedman at the helm of the new "Meta Superintelligence Labs." This elite unit, formerly known internally as the "TBD Lab," operates with a "demo, don't memo" philosophy.

Explicitly rejecting the academic rigor and peer-review processes that defined the legacy Fundamental AI Research (FAIR) team, the new leadership prioritizes speed. Defending the streamlined structure in an internal memo, Wang argued that *"By reducing the size of our team, fewer conversations will be required to make a decision, and each person will be more load-bearing and have more scope and impact."*

Consolidating power has marginalized long-time executives. Most notably, Chief Product Officer Chris Cox was removed from AI oversight following the performance issues associated with the Llama 4 development cycle.

Internal friction resulting from these changes has reached a critical level. The cultural clash contributed to the departure of Chief AI Scientist Yann LeCun and the layoff of 600 staff from infrastructure teams, as detailed in the pivot to closed models.

Former researchers have described a difficult environment where speed is prioritized over scientific validation. Describing the severity of the internal changes, former researcher Tijmen Blankevoort stated that *"It's not just dysfunction – it's a metastatic cancer that is affecting the entire organisation."*

Ad ends in 28

Hiring has shifted to a high-stakes "buy or poach" strategy. During this year, the compar
reportedly offering compensation packages reaching nine figures to lure talent from Ope
DeepMind, creating a two-tier employee system that further alienates existing staff.

Operating in isolation, the new division reportedly bypasses standard internal communic
This secrecy prevents cross-pollination with other engineering teams, further deepening

The $72 Billion Infrastructure Bet

Underpinning the software pivot is a significant capital injection. To support the computational requirements, Meta raised its 2025 Capex guidance to $72 billion.

Anchoring this build-out is "Prometheus," a gigawatt-scale data center in Ohio. Designed specifically to support the training runs for Mango and Avocado, the facility represents a major escalation in infrastructure density.

Bypassing regional grid constraints, Prometheus features on-site power generation. This capability is a necessity for the power density required by next-generation GPU clusters.

Exceeding the GDP of many small nations, this expenditure reflects a strategy that prioritizes raw scale over architectural efficiency. The goal is to achieve performance gains through raw scale that the previous Llama architecture failed to deliver.

Feeding these compute clusters requires a dedicated data pipeline. Meta invested $14.3 billion in Scale AI, effectively buying its way out of data scarcity to ensure a steady stream of labeled training material.

Competitive Reality: Playing Catch-Up

Despite the $72 billion investment, the H1 2026 release window places Meta significantly behind its primary competitors. Rivals have already deployed advanced reasoning and media models into enterprise environments.

OpenAI has already deployed the GPT Image 1.5 launch as of December 2025. That model offers 4x speed increases and deep integration into creative workflows, establishing a foothold in the professional market that Meta targets.

Similarly, Google has moved quickly to capture the enterprise sector. The Gemini 3 Pro Image release is currently live, featuring "Deep Think" reasoning capabilities that allow for precise control over physics and lighting.

The FLUX.2 launch introduced models that integrate Vision-Language Models (VLMs) for superior prompt adherence, maintaining the open model availability Meta has abandoned.

When Mango launches in 2026, competitors will likely be iterating on their next generation of models. Leaving the open model availability also creates a gap that is rapidly being filled by Chi Kling and Alibaba, who are releasing capable models for consumer hardware.

Ad ends in 28

Beyond technical hurdles, the challenge is temporal. The company must surpass compet currently 12 to 18 months ahead in the deployment cycle, while rebuilding its internal cu critical development phase.

EXHIBIT Z-3

LAYOFFS TARGET OPEN-SOURCE TEAMS

Z-3-A

Source: CNBC

"Meta lays off 600 from ‘bloated’ AI unit as Wang cements leadership"

Date: October 22, 2025

`https://www.cnbc.com/2025/10/22/meta-layoffs-ai.html`

Print-to-PDF copy follows.

TECH

Meta lays off 600 from ‘bloated’ AI unit as Wang cements leadership

PUBLISHED WED, OCT 22 2025•10:17 AM EDT UPDATED WED, OCT 22 2025•5:30 PM EDT



Ashley Capoot
@/IN/ASHLEY-CAPOOT/

Jonathan Vanian
@IN/JONATHAN-VANIAN-B704432/

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KEY POINTS

Meta will lay off roughly 600 employees within its artificial intelligence unit, a spokesperson confirmed to CNBC.

The cuts did not impact employees within TBD Labs, which includes many of the top-tier AI hires brought into Meta this summer, people familiar told CNBC.

The layoffs are an attempt by Meta to continue trim the department and further cement Wang’s role in steering the company’s AI strategy.

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Mark Zuckerberg, CEO of Meta Platforms.
David Paul Morris | Bloomberg | Getty Images

Meta will lay off roughly 600 employees within its artificial intelligence unit as the company looks to reduce layers and operate more nimbly, a spokesperson confirmed to CNBC on Wednesday.

The company announced the cuts in a memo from its chief AI officer, Alexandr Wang, who was hired in June as part of Meta's $14.3 billion investment in Scale AI. Workers across Meta's AI infrastructure units, Fundamental Artificial Intelligence Research unit (FAIR) and other product-related positions will be impacted.

However, the cuts did not impact employees within TBD Labs, which includes many of the top-tier AI hires brought into the social media company this summer, people familiar with the matter told CNBC. Those employees, overseen by Wang, were spared by the layoffs, underscoring Meta

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Nintendo shares sink 10% as gaming giant faces memory shortage c

LIVESTREAM SIGN IN

Following the cuts, Meta's Superintelligence Labs' workforce now sits at just under 3,000, the people said.

Meta notified at least some employees on Wednesday that Nov. 21 is their termination date and, until then, they're in a "non-working notice period."

"During this time, your internal access will be removed and you do not need to do any additional work for Meta," said the message, which was viewed by CNBC. "You may use this time to search for another role at Meta."

The company also said it's paying 16 weeks of severance plus two weeks for every completed year of service, "minus your notice period."

CEO Mark Zuckerberg had grown frustrated with Meta's progress in AI, especially after the release of its Llama 4 models in April received a lukewarm response from developers.

Following Meta's massive investment in Scale AI, Zuckerberg unveiled a new unit called Meta Superintelligence Labs that's made up of top AI researchers and engineers. The group is led by Wang and former GitHub CEO Nat Friedman.

During the company's second-quarter earnings call in July, Meta said it expects its total expenses for 2025 to come in the range of $114 billion to $118 billion, raising the low end of its previous outlook. That number is only expected to increase, as Meta said its AI initiatives will "result in a 2026 year-over-year expense growth rate that is above the 2025 expense growth."

Meta is scheduled to report third-quarter results next week.

On Tuesday, Meta announced a $27 billion deal with Blue Owl Capital to fund and develop its

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VIDEO 03:38

Megacap AI talent wars: Meta poaches another top Apple executive

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Nintendo shares sink 10% as gaming giant faces memory shortage concerns

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EXHIBIT Z-4

OPEN-SOURCE CHAMPION DEPARTS

Z-4-A

Source: CNBC

"Meta chief AI scientist Yann LeCun is leaving to create his own startup"

Date: November 19, 2025

https://www.cnbc.com/2025/11/19/meta-chief-ai-scientist-yann-lecun-is-leaving-the-company-.html

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TECH

Meta chief AI scientist Yann LeCun is leaving to create his own startup

PUBLISHED WED, NOV 19 2025•4:31 PM EST UPDATED WED, NOV 19 2025•8:58 PM EST

Jonathan Vanian
@IN/JONATHAN-VANIAN-B704432/

WATCH LIVE

KEY POINTS

Yann LeCun, known as one of the godfathers of modern artificial intelligence and one of the first AI visionaries to join Facebook, is leaving parent Meta.

LeCun plans to create a startup that specializes in a kind of AI technology known as world models.

The departure comes at a time of disarray within Meta's AI unit, which was dramatically overhauled over the past year after the company's Llama 4 model disappointed developers.

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Yann LeCun, chief AI scientist at Meta, speaks at the Viva Tech conference in Paris, June 13, 2023.

Chesnot | Getty Images News | Getty Images

Yann LeCun, known as one of the godfathers of modern artificial intelligence and one of the first AI visionaries to join the company then known as Facebook, is leaving Meta .

LuCun said in a LinkedIn post on Wednesday that he plans to create a startup that specializes in a kind of AI technology that researchers have described as world models, analyzing information beyond web data in order to better represent the physical world and its properties.

"I am creating a startup company to continue the Advanced Machine Intelligence research program (AMI) I have been pursuing over the last several years with colleagues at FAIR, at NYU, and beyond," LeCun wrote. "The goal of the startup is to bring about the next big revolution in AI: systems that understand the physical world, have persistent memory, can reason, and can plan complex action sequences."

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chief AI officer.

LeCun, 65, joined Facebook in 2013 to be director of the FAIR AI research division while maintaining a part-time professorial position at New York University. He said in the LinkedIn post that the "creation of FAIR is my proudest non-technical accomplishment."

"I am extremely grateful to Mark Zuckerberg, Andrew Bosworth, Chris Cox, and Mike Schroepfer for their support of FAIR, and for their support of the AMI program over the last few years," LeCun said. "Because of their continued interest and support, Meta will be a partner of the new company."

At the time, Facebook and Google were heavily recruiting high-level academics like LeCun to spearhead their efforts to produce cutting-edge computer science research that could potentially benefit their core businesses and products.

LeCun, along with other AI luminaries like Yoshua Bengio and Geoffrey Hinton, centered their academic research on a kind of AI technique known as deep learning, which involves the training of enormous software systems called neural networks so they can discover patterns within reams of data. The researchers helped popularize the deep learning approach, and in 2019 won the prestigious Turing Award, presented by the Association for Computing Machinery.

Since then, LeCun's approach to AI development has drifted from the direction taken by Meta and the rest of Silicon Valley.

Meta and other tech companies like OpenAI have spent billions of dollars in developing so-called foundation models, particularly LLMs, as part of their efforts to advance state-of-the-art computing. However, LeCun and other deep-learning experts, have said that these current AI models, while powerful, have a limited understanding of the world, and new computing architectures are needed for researchers to create software that's on par with or surpasses humans on certain tasks, a notion known as artificial general intelligence.

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some who were part of the FAIR unit that LeCun helped get off the ground. Those layoffs and other cuts to FAIR over the years, coupled with a new AI leadership team, played a major role in LeCun's decision to leave, according to people familiar with the matter who asked not to be named because they weren't authorized to speak publicly.

Additionally, LeCun rarely interacted with Wang nor TBD Labs unit, which is comprised of many of the headline-grabbing hires Zuckerberg made over the summer. TBD Labs oversees the development of Meta's Llama AI models, which were originally developed within FAIR, the people said.

While LeCun was always a champion of sharing AI research and related technologies to the open-source community, Wang and his team favor a more closed approach amid intense competition from rivals like OpenAI and Google, the people said.

WATCH: Meta is a table pounder here.



VIDEO 05:44

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AMD shares drop as forecast comes up short of some expectations

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EXHIBIT Z-4

OPEN-SOURCE CHAMPION DEPARTS

Z-4-B

Source: The Decoder

"'You certainly don't tell a researcher like me what to do' says LeCun as he exits Meta for his own startup"

Date: January 3, 2026

https://the-decoder.com/you-certainly-dont-tell-a-researcher-like-me-what-to-do-says-lecun-as-he-exits-meta-for-his-own-startup/

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AI in practice

"You certainly don't tell a researcher like me what to do" says LeCun as he exits Meta for his own startup

Matthias Bastian Jan 3, 2026



Key Points

- Yann LeCun, Meta's outgoing AI chief scientist, has acknowledged that Llama 4 benchmark results were manipulated.
- Following the admission, CEO Mark Zuckerberg reportedly lost confidence in those responsible and sidelined the GenAI department, with many employees already leaving and more expected to follow.
- LeCun is now launching his own startup called "Advanced Machine Intelligence Labs," which will focus on developing an alternative

approach to large language models.

Ask about this article…

Meta's departing chief AI scientist Yann LeCun isn't holding back. In a new interview, he talks about manipulated benchmarks, a furious Zuckerberg, and a wave of departures from the AI division.

Yann LeCun, one of the most influential figures in AI research, just unloaded on Meta in an interview with the Financial Times. The 65-year-old is leaving after more than a decade to launch his own AI startup, and he's painting a grim picture of the company's AI operation.

One issue is Llama 4, Meta's flagship language model that shipped in April 2025. LeCun admits the published benchmarks were misleading. "Results were fudged a little bit," he says. The team used different models for different benchmarks to game the numbers. This came out almost immediately after Llama 4's release.

AD

CEO Mark Zuckerberg didn't take it well: "Mark was really upset and basically lost confidence in everyone who was involved in this. And so basically sidelined the entire GenAI organization." LeCun adds, "A lot of people have left, a lot of people who haven't yet left will leave."

LeCun recently said he's had almost nothing to do with the LLM project since the original Llama shipped. Meta is developing two new generative AI models codenamed "Mango" and "Avocado" with a planned release in the first half of 2026.

"You certainly don't tell a researcher like me what to do"

LeCun doesn't mince words about Alexandr Wang, the 28-year-old former Scale AI CEO that Meta hired in June 2025 as part of a $14 billion deal. Wang now runs the "TBD Lab" for frontier AI models, which technically made him LeCun's boss.

AD

LeCun describes Wang as "young" and "inexperienced": "He learns fast, he knows what he doesn't know… There's no experience with research or how you practice research, how you do it. Or what would be attractive or repulsive to a researcher."

On the new reporting structure, LeCun is direct: "You don't tell a researcher what to do. You certainly don't tell a researcher like me what to do." As for Meta's approach of luring top researchers from rivals with offers as high as $100 million, he's not convinced: "The future will say whether that was a good idea or not."

LeCun thinks LLMs are going nowhere

The rift between LeCun and Meta goes beyond office politics. He sees large language models as fundamentally flawed, a "dead end" on the road to superintelligence. But Meta's new AI recruits are, in his words, "completely LLM-pilled," all in on the technology he thinks is a mistake.

AD

"I'm sure there's a lot of people at Meta, including perhaps Alex, who would like me to not tell the world that LLMs basically are a dead end when it comes to superintelligence," LeCun says. "But I'm not gonna change my mind because some dude thinks I'm wrong. I'm not wrong. My integrity as a scientist cannot allow me to do this."

The disconnect between research and product teams started well before Llama 4 flopped. LeCun says they had many new ideas and "really cool stuff" that the product teams should have implemented, but they just went for things that were essentially safe and proven. When you do that, you fall behind, he adds. Eventually, staying at Meta became "politically difficult."

LeCun's new venture bets on world models

His new company, Advanced Machine Intelligence Labs, is run by CEO Alex LeBrun. LeCun took the Executive Chair role instead. He says he's "too disorganized for this, and also too old" for the day-to-day stuff. Instead, his job is to inspire.

The startup is betting on an alternative to LLMs built around V-JEPA, an architecture LeCun created at Meta. Instead of learning from text alone, these models train on video and spatial data to understand how the physical world works. They can plan, reason, and hold onto information over time. LeCun calls this "Advanced Machine Intelligence" (AMI), the same name as his company. He tried to push the term while still at Meta.

Early "baby" versions should be ready within a year, with full-scale systems coming a few years after that. "Maybe there is an obstacle we're not seeing yet, but at least there is hope."

His new company has a global footprint but strong ties to France. French President Emmanuel Macron even texted LeCun after the news broke, though LeCun won't say what the message said.

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Source: Financial Times

EXHIBIT Z-5

BENCHMARK FRAUD & EXODUS WARNING

Z-5-A

Source: Yahoo Finance

"Yann LeCun calls Alexandr Wang 'inexperienced' and predicts more Meta AI employee departures"

Date: January 2, 2026

`https://finance.yahoo.com/news/yann-lecun-calls-alexandr-wang-182614902.html`

Print-to-PDF copy follows.

Prediction markets are now on Yahoo Finance

BUSINESS INSIDER

Yann LeCun calls Alexandr Wang 'inexperienced' and predicts more Meta AI employee departures

Brent D. Griffiths
January 2, 2026 • 3 min read

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AI pioneer Yann Lecun isn't sold on the "completely LLM-pilled" researchers that will lead Meta's AI development.Brian Snyder/Reuters; Fabrice Coffrini/Getty Images

- AI pioneer Yann LeCun predicted that more Meta AI employees will leave the company.

- LeCun was critical of Alexandr Wang, who Meta poached to lead its Superintelligence Labs, in an interview with FT.
- "There's no experience with research or how you practice research," LeCun said of the Scale AI cofounder.

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> Alexandr Wang's leader

AI pioneer Yann LeCun isn't sold on Mark Zuckerberg's $14 billion bet on Alexandr Wang, the 28-year-old Scale AI cofounder recruited to lead Meta's Superintelligence Labs.

In a new interview with the Financial Times, LeCun, who was Meta's chief AI scientist before announcing in November that he was leaving to form his own startup, said Wang was "inexperienced" and didn't fully understand AI researchers.

"He learns fast, he knows what he doesn't know . . . There's no experience with research or how you practice research, how you do it. Or what would be attractive or repulsive to a researcher," LeCun said.

Wang was the crown jewel of Zuckerberg's aggressive moves in the AI talent war. Meta made a $14 billion investment in Scale AI, which included hiring Wang from the buzzy startup.

LeCun said that Zuckerberg grew frustrated after disappointing progress on Llama, the company's flagship, open-sourced AI model.

In the interview, LeCun said that the AI team "fudged" some of the results of Llama 4. At the time, Meta was criticized for potentially gaming the results of benchmark tests. LeCun said the episode soured Zuckerberg on Meta's existing AI team.

"Mark was really upset and basically lost confidence in everyone who was involved in this," he told FT. "And so basically sidelined the entire GenAI organisation."

As for his relationship with Wang, LeCun said that even though the 28-year-old was briefly his boss after Zuckerberg's AI reorg, he wasn't really directing him.

"You don't tell a researcher what to do," LeCun told the publication. "You certainly don't tell a researcher like me what to do."

Meta's new AI team is 'completely LLM-pilled'

LeCun said Zuckerberg remained supportive of his views on the future of AI, but that the Meta CEO's larger hires are focused on large language model development.

"I'm sure there's a lot of people at Meta, including perhaps Alex, who would like me to not tell the world that LLMs basically are a dead end when it comes to

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EXHIBIT Z-5

BENCHMARK FRAUD & EXODUS WARNING

Z-5-B

Source: CNBC

"AI godfather says Meta's new 29-year-old AI boss is 'inexperienced' and warns of staff exodus"

Date: January 5, 2026

https://www.cnbc.com/2026/01/05/ai-godfather-calls-meta-ai-boss-alexander-wang-inexperienced-.html

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Print-to-PDF copy follows.

TECH

AI godfather says Meta's new 29-year-old AI boss is 'inexperienced' and warns of staff exodus

PUBLISHED MON, JAN 5 2026•11:00 AM EST UPDATED WED, JAN 7 2026•8:19 PM EST



Sawdah Bhaimiya

KEY POINTS

Meta's former chief AI scientist Yann Lecun criticized Meta's AI strategy and warned of a potential staff exodus.

The "godfather of AI" said Meta's newest AI boss, 29-year-old billionaire Alexandr Wang, was "young" and "inexperienced."

Wang has "no experience with research or how you practice research, how you do it. Or what would be attractive or repulsive to a researcher," Lecun told the FT.

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Yann LeCun, chief AI scientist at Meta Platforms, at the VivaTech conference in Paris, May 22, 2024.
Bloomberg | Bloomberg | Getty Images

Meta's former chief AI scientist, Yann Lecun, has called its 29-year-old AI boss "inexperienced," and warned of a staff exodus from the company.

Alexandr Wang, the billionaire co-founder of Scale AI, joined Meta as its chief AI officer in 2025 after the tech giant bought a 49% stake in his startup.

His hiring came amid an intensifying AI talent war, in which Meta reportedly offered $100 million signing bonuses to poach top talent from ChatGPT maker OpenAI, as it raced other hyperscalers to dominate the multibillion-dollar AI market with the most advanced models.

Lecun, who's known as one of the "godfathers of AI" and quit Meta in November, called Wang "young" and "inexperienced" in an interview with the Financial Times.

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said.

"A lot of people have left, a lot of people who haven't yet left will leave," Lecun added.

"We had a lot of new ideas and really cool stuff that they should implement. But they were just going for things that were essentially safe and proved," he said. "When you do this, you fall behind."

CNBC contacted Meta for a response, but had not received a response as this story went live.

AI superintelligence is a 'dead end' for LLMs

When asked about Meta's AI hiring drive, Lecun said: "The future will say whether that was a good idea or not."

But he added that "LLMs basically are a dead end when it comes to superintelligence."

"I'm sure there's a lot of people at Meta, including perhaps Alex, who would like me to not tell the world that," Lecun said.

Lecun's new startup, Advanced Machine Intelligence Labs, is focusing on "world models:" AI systems that learn from videos and physical data as well as language.

Nabla, a health tech AI startup that partnered with Lecun's company in December, said in a press release that, unlike world models, LLMs "still face some structural constraints, including hallucinations, non-deterministic reasoning and limited handling of continuous multimodal data, which make autonomous decision-making challenging."

— Correction: This copy has been updated to correct the spelling of Meta Chief AI Officer Alexandr Wang's name.

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Source: Slashdot

"'Results Were Fudged': Departing Meta AI Chief Confirms Llama 4 Benchmark Manipulation"

Date: January 2, 2026

https://tech.slashdot.org/story/26/01/02/1449227/results-were-fudged-departing-meta-ai-chief-confirms-llama-4-benchmark-manipulation

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'Results Were Fudged': Departing Meta AI Chief Confirms Llama 4 Benchmark Manipulation (ft.com)

Posted by msmash on Friday January 02, 2026 @11:00AM from the move-fast-and-fudge-thi

Yann LeCun, Meta's outgoing chief AI scientist and one of the pioneers credited with laying the groundwork for modern AI, has acknowledged that the company's Llama 4 language model had its benchmark results manipulated before its April 2025 release. In an interview with the Financial Times, LeCun said the "results were fudged a little bit" and that the team "used different models for different benchmarks to give better results."

Llama 4 was widely criticized as a flop at launch, and the company faced accusations of gaming benchmarks to make the model appear more capable than it was. LeCun said CEO Mark Zuckerberg was "really upset and basically lost confidence in everyone who was involved" in the release.

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Zuckerberg subsequently "sidelined the entire GenAI organisation," according to LeCun. "A lot of people have left, a lot of people who haven't yet left will leave." LeCun himself is departing Meta after more than a decade to start a new AI research venture called Advanced Machine Intelligence Labs. He described the new hires brought in for Meta's superintelligence efforts as "completely LLM-pilled" -- a technology LeCun has repeatedly called "a dead end when it comes to superintelligence."

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Okay, this is Meta (Score:5, Insightful)
by Covert Wagon (326346) on Friday January 02, 2026 @11:11AM (#65897045)
Frankly, is there anyone who didn't already assume they weren't being honest? Lying i



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I can said CEO Mark Zuckerberg was "really upset and basically lost confidence in everyone who was involved" in the release. Only those that can prevaricate believably will please the Zuk. Confidence at Meta is built on a tissue of lies.

- **Re:Okay, this is Meta (Score:4, Interesting)**
  by Brain-Fu (1274756) on Friday January 02, 2026 @11:54AM (#65897147) Homepage Journal
  I suspect that the team was given impossible goals to hit. Probably aggressive deadlines too. The same story everywhere.
  I am not saying that makes it ok to cheat. I am just saying that problems like this start at the top, so being "really upset and losing confidence" is no evidence that leadership stands blameless for the team's failure.

- **Re: (Score:2)**
  by gweihir (88907)
  Indeed. Essentially gross leadership failure.
  Scientists and engineers with intact personal integrity will leave at that point. The smart ones will leave when demands like that are made, because this invariably backfires.

- **Re: (Score:2)**
  by Kisai (213879)
  Almost certainly.
  Past a certain point, management doesn't care how you do something, as long as it gets done, because they aren't going to be the one that gets fired for doing it wrong, you are.
  Like the entire corporate responsibly model is really upside down. If numbers were being fudged, then whoever signed off on it, should be fired. Period. Likewise just fail when given impossible directions, fail early and save the costs from death-spiraling out of control.

- **Evil company lies. Details at 11. (Score:2, Interesting)**
  by shanen (462549)
  Concurrence, but not so much with the moderators.
  Had another AI encounter today. Went as bad as usual. Each time I think I've figured out the worst thing about genAI, it apparently provokes me into thinking of something worse than that...
  Today's result? Useless code and a feeling that writing more than I want to read is pretty annoying. Not only did the AI waste the electricity spewing it, but then my time is wasted trying to figure out what parts are relevant or useful. I'd estimate my current averages are

- **Re: Evil company lies. Details at 11. (Score:1)**
  by blue trane (110704)
  When your code breaks after you thought it was all done, do you acknowledge that yo
  blame something else?
- 1 hidden comment
- **Re: (Score:2)**
  by shanen (462549)
  Worthless drivel. Did an AI write it for you?
  NAK

- **Re: Evil company lies. Details at 11. (Score:2)**
  by 5n3ak3rp1mp (305814)
  Not my experience at all. Your prompting has to suck, and youâ(TM)re using excuses if you havenâ(TM)t even heard of Llama then you truly do live under a self-imposed ro

- **Re: (Score:2)**
  by shanen (462549)
  NAK

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- **LLM pilled?** (Score:3, Insightful)
  by liqu1d (4349325) on Friday January 02, 2026 @11:12AM (#65897049)
  Ahh so moron then.

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  - **Re:** (Score:1)
    by smooth wombat (796938)
    Meaning the people were devotees of all things AI. They'd taken the pill.
    Which is funny to hear coming from the guy who headed the AI program at Meta. Did he think they should hire people who didin't care about AI?

- **Re: LLM pilled?** (Score:5, Insightful)
  by ZectronPositron (9807174) on Friday January 02, 2026 @12:46PM (#65897271)
  I think h is saying they are devotees of LLMs, ignoring other types of AI they could be focusing on

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- **Oh dear** (Score:2, Informative)
  by Viol8 (599362)
  Sounds like Llama is going to be about as successful as the "metaverse". I guess this is what happens to a company whose foundations are built on the sands of IP theft and in the right place at the right time luck.

  - 3 hidden comments

- **Re:** (Score:2)
  by dsgrntlxmply (610492)
  Maybe in some colloquial usage, but it's Day 1 Spanish lesson for "call" in the senses both of "name" and of "summon". Como se llama? "Me llamo Juan." (inverted question mark not rendered)

  - **Re:** (Score:2)
    by Plugh (27537)
    You could say by llama4 the genAI division had lost its legs. But the Metaverse division was way ahead of them...

  - **Re:** (Score:2)
    by gweihir (88907)
    That sad thing is that Zuck-the-Fuck has the money for these massively expensive pathetic failures. Something is really wrong with the human race as a group.

- **Not fudged!** (Score:5, Funny)
  by RitchCraft (6454710) on Friday January 02, 2026 @11:37AM (#65897093)
  The results were hallucinated. Get your corporate team speak terms correct people. Tl ly
  lie. They are not sociopaths in any sense of the meaning. They are the benevolent hol
  states this explicitly.

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- **Self-deception** (Score:5, Insightful)
  by Gravis Zero (934156) on Friday January 02, 2026 @12:01PM (#65897157)
  The people using these systems are not going to be fooled by faked benchmarks. The l
  it's investors.

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  - **Re: Self-deception** (Score:1)



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by blue trane (110704)
Gemini:
"there are two errors in the second sentence:
Subject-Verb Agreement: "The only people... is" should be "The only people... are" to match the plural subject.
Possessive Error: "it's" (it is) should be "its" (belonging to it)."

- 1 hidden comment
-
-
- **He keeps saying that (Score:3)**
by Plugh (27537) on Friday January 02, 2026 @12:01PM (#65897159) Homepage
(LLMs) a technology LeCun has repeatedly called "a dead end when it comes to superintelligence."
He keeps saying that but AFAICT the block diagram for his JEPA solution [youtu.be] is the same thing just predicting next floating latent space token instead of discrete word-token. Which is very powerful and cool but I mean its not like he is getting rid of backprop or convolution or even attention really. He should stop attacking his older work and just be a rock star.

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- **Re:He keeps saying that (Score:4, Interesting)**
by SpinyNorman (33776) on Friday January 02, 2026 @12:31PM (#65897235)
I really don't know why LeCun is a rock star. It seems his main achievements have been an early invention/application of convnets for reading handwriting, and an early involvement with EBMs (interesting, but didn't really lead to anything). His claim to have invented convnets seems a bit dodgy since these (originally just considered as weight-sharing between kernels applied at different positions) seem to have first been mentioned by Hinton in the PDP handbook.
That said, I do think JEPA is a step in the right direction since the model is now essentially predicting the external environment (per it's own latent space sensory representations) as opposed to an LLM which is auto-regressive - predicting it's own generative continuations.
JEPA isn't exactly ground breaking - it's widely understood that animal/human brains are predicting the external world, not just predicting auto-regressive behavioral continuations (although we do that too), but at least LeCun is a fairly rare voice pointing out that ultimately, on the quest for human-level intelligence, LLMs are a dead end. LLMs are very useful, and will get better, buy they are what they are - ultimately more akin to expert systems, packaging canned knowledge, than animals.

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- **Re: He keeps saying that (Score:1)**
by blue trane (110704)
Gemini:
The "canned knowledge" vs. "animal intelligence" distinction ignores context-sensitivity. LLMs aren't just static expert systems; via in-context learning, they adapt to novel scenarios at inference time. This isn't a database lookup; it is a dynamic computation where the "latent state" shifts based on the prompt.
The real delta between LLMs and JEPA isn't just about "predicting the world"â"it's about the objective function. LLMs are sensitive to linguistic context, but JEPA tries to be sensitive
-
- **Re: (Score:2)**
by SpinyNorman (33776)
Well, yes, LLMs and JEPA are both predictors, and it's the objective function that sets is that LLMs are trying to predict what they themselves are going to "do" next, while JE world is going to do next.
It's maybe just as well that LLM's don't learn at runtime since then they'd learn to self some dysfunctional feedback loop.
The whole point of JEPA, with it's outward vs inward looking ob
-
- **Results were fudged (Score:2)**
by necro81 (917438)
Is an acknowledgement and apology in the same was as "mistakes were made" - use c
-
- **Re: (Score:2)**
by dsgrntlxmply (610492)
Matt Groening said it best around 1989: Mistakes were made [foxywriterchick.com]
-
- **They obviously need ... (Score:3)**
by nospam007 (722110) * on Friday January 02, 2026 @06:02PM (#65897865)


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Ralph the Wonder Llama.

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Source: Fast Company

"Yann LeCun: Meta ‘fudged a little bit’ when benchmark-testing Llama 4 model"

Date: January 6, 2026

https://www.fastcompany.com/91469583/yann-lecun-meta-llama-4-model-zuckerberg

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Yann LeCun: Meta 'fudged a little bit' when benchmark-testing Llama 4 model

The testing sparked internal frustration about the progress of the Llama models.

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Yann LeCun [Photo: Nathan Laine/Bloomberg via Getty Images]



BY **MARK SULLIVAN**

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Yann LeCun, Meta's outgoing chief AI scientist, says his employer tested its latest L[illegible]that may have made the model look better than it rea[illegible]

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In a recent *Financial Times* interview, LeCun says Meta researchers "fudged a little bit" by using different versions of Llama 4 Maverick and Llama 4 Scout models on different benchmarks to improve test results. Normally researchers use a single version of a new model for all benchmarks, instead of choosing a variant that will score best on a given benchmark.

Prior to the launch of the Llama 4 models, Meta had begun to fall behind rivals Anthropic, OpenAI, and Google in pushing the envelope. The company was under pressure to reassert Llama's prowess, especially in an environment where stock prices can turn on the latest model benchmarks.

After Meta released the Llama 4 models, third-party researchers and independent testers tried to verify the company's benchmark claims by running their own evaluations. But many found that their results didn't align with Meta's. Some doubted that the models it used in the benchmark testing were the same as the models released to the public.

Ahmad Al-Dahle, Meta's vice president of generative AI, denied that charge, and attributed the discrepancies in model performance to differences in the models' cloud implementations.

The benchmark-fudging, LeCun said, contributed to internal frustration about the progress of the Llama models and led to a loss of confidence among Meta leadership, including CEO Mark Zuckerberg.

In June, Zuckerberg announced an overhaul of Meta's AI organization, which included the establishment of a division called Meta Superintel[Add Fast Company as a preferred source to see more of our stories on Google.]Meta also paid between $14.3 billion and $15 billion[ning data company Scale AI, and tapped Scale's CEO, Alexandr Wang, to lead MSL. On paper, at least, LeCun, who won the coveted Turing Award for his pioneering work on neural networks, reported to the 28-year-old Wang.

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1. Leading Water-Free Cooling

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Many data orative cooling systems, which require large volu te temperatures in data halls and support customer IT infrastructure. Understanding this was not sustainable, we knew we needed a new approach. Enter water-free cooling, a closed-loop system that, once operational, does not withdraw, consume or discharge water and has saved 1.5 billion gallons of water in 2024 alone.

For perspective, that's enough water to fill 2,271 Olympic-sized swimming pools. We've now implemented water-free cooling across all our new data centers and some existing facilities as well.

And because accountability requires measurement, we proved the effectiveness of our water-free cooling system by achieving a 2024 Water Usage Effectiveness (WUE) of 0 in our water-free cooling data centers. If this system were implemented across the industry, we could collectively save trillions of gallons of water a year.

2. Prioritizing Carbon-Free Energy & Reinventing Energy Partnerships

Rightly so, much of the discussion around energy management focuses on data centers' impact on power grids. At QTS, we acknowledge this by combining a commitment to source the maximum amount of carbon-free energy, sustainable building design and community partnerships that deliver cle

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In 2024, w on-free operational electricity across our facilities, driving a 14.2% year-over-year improvement. We pursued LEED certification for every new build, and 77% of our eligible facilities received Energy Star benchmark scores.

QTS works closely with utility companies to identify innovative and sustainabl d secure power that best serves our customers the environment. We implement long-term provider partnerships and secure electrical service agreements for large-scale campuses years before commissioning. Often, infrastructure investments facilitate improved reliability and modernization of the power grid, ultimately benefiting residents.

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As demand for data centers grows, QTS also explores unique solutions with utility partners to keep energy sustainable and secure. We're investing in renewable projects like solar and wind, developing waste heat

recovery systems to capture and reuse heat to support nearby communities and pushing into next-generation options such as geothermal energy, which taps heat from deep within the Earth.

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QTS is invAdd Fast Company as a preferred source to see more of our stories on Google.que partnerships, including:

- *Groningen, Netherlands*: QTS works with WarmteStad, a local organization reducing waste by redistributing energy, to distribute residual heat from the QTS Groningen campus to the surrounding community.

- *Orego*Add Fast Company as a preferred source to see more of our stories on Google.helped enable the Tower Solar project, a new 1 solar energy installation in Morrow Coun g Portland General Electric's Green Future Impact (GFI) program, the project will deliver carbon-free energy to Portland General Electric's grid.

- *Virginia, USA*: Solar Access Henrico—a partnership between Henrico County, QTS and Dominion Energy Solutions—provides qualified residents with free solar panels, making clean energy accessible to families who need it most and helping them significantly lower their energy bills.

3. Supporting Community Prosperity

Responsible growth isn't just about managing energy and water; it's about supporting the people and places that make it possible. For us, being responsible community stewards means being a good neighbor. From collaborating with community members and local officials from the start of a project to supporting charitable organizations and establishing local workforce training initiatives, our goal is to make a positive impact to each community from day one.

A new QTS facility means an influx of construction, manufacturing and technology jobs and investment in workforce development programs in the locations we live, work and operate in, creating pathways to high-quality an logy careers for residents.

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As the dig der, we understand that our role goes far beyond building and operating the world's most advanced data centers. In 2024, QTS team members logged over 15,000 volunteer hours across more than 380 charitable organizations and made $7.5 million in charitable donations.

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We will co r goal of having a positive impact on those who need maining stewards of the environment and communities we call home. QTS is leading the way in responsible expansion and operations, but we can't do it alone.

If we come together as an industry and commit to growing thoughtfully, we can do more than change narratives and perceptions around data centers. We can deliver real, positive value to the communities where we operate.

And that's a goal everyone can get behind.

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