

The iliad Group is making strategic investments in Artificial Intelligence

Press pack
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The Iliad Group has purchased an NVIDIA DGX SuperPOD equipped with NVIDIA DGX H100 systems and NVIDIA AI Enterprise - the world's most advanced AI supercomputing platform. Through this investment, the Group can provide European customers with the most powerful cloud-native AI supercomputer on the continent today.

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Through its subsidiary, Scaleway, as of today the Iliad Group is offering its customers a full suite of cloud-native AI solutions. Thanks to its NVIDIA DGX SuperPOD, Scaleway is enabling businesses to use advanced AI training models. Scaleway has also equipped itself with computing power available in smaller meshes so that smaller and more targeted models can be trained.

An excellence lab dedicated to AI research P8

The Iliad Group is announcing the creation of an excellence lab in Paris dedicated to AI research, in which over €100 million has already been invested. A team has already been set up comprising founder researchers of international renown in their fields. The lab's objective is to help build artificial general intelligence and bring it within everyone's reach.

Europe's leading AI conference at Station F P10

Together with Scaleway, the Iliad Group is launching its first European conference on artificial intelligence for key industry players, with over 50 specialists taking part. This major convention, which will take place on November 17 at Station F and will be attended by Xavier Niel, is designed to become Europe's leading annual AI event.

A message from Xavier

Xavier Niel,
Chairman of the Iliad Group



When a tech revolution erupts we want to be part of it. 25 years ago, the revolution was internet - and we were there. Today, it's artificial intelligence - and we're making sure we're there for that too.

You're getting to know us a bit by now: when we join a game, it's not to watch from the sidelines.

To have clout in the AI market, you need computing power. To have computing power you need supercomputers. And to have supercomputers you need to invest. To invest massively.

That's exactly what we've done at Iliad. Which means that today we've got the most powerful cloud-native AI supercomputer deployed to date in Europe. And that's just the start.

Together with our subsidiary, Scaleway, we've already been working for several years on developing a European cloud. And by equipping Scaleway with a supercomputer we're seeking to - and will be able to - create a European AI champion. It comes down to sovereignty: in order to protect our data, we need platforms located within our borders.

But it's not enough to create a champion. An entire ecosystem needs to be built up in France. And because we intend to play a role in that, we're setting up an AI research lab, investing the necessary resources and hiring the best researchers to work there.

Wanting to become an AI champion may seem a slightly crazy gamble. Then again, 25 years ago it was a slightly crazy gamble too wanting to make internet accessible to everyone. But that certainly didn't stop us...

The most powerful cloud-native AI supercomputer deployed to date in Europe

The Iliad Group has purchased an NVIDIA DGX SuperPOD equipped with NVIDIA DGX H100 systems - the world's most advanced AI supercomputing platform. It has been installed at the heart of the Group's Datacenter 5, located in the Paris region.

With this supercomputer, the Group is deploying Europe's most powerful cloud-native AI supercomputer today. The DGX SuperPOD supercomputer provides the computing power necessary to train large language models up to four times faster than computers using earlier versions of GPUs.

This investment represents a first step for the Group in achieving its near-term aim of increasing the computing power available to its customers.

**1016 NVIDIA H100
Tensor Core GPUs**

FOCUS

THE DGX SUPERPOD, NVIDIA'S LATEST-GENERATION SUPERCOMPUTER

Scaleway's NVIDIA DGX SuperPOD comprises 127 DGX H100 systems, representing a total of 1,016 NVIDIA H100 Tensor Core GPUs interconnected by NVIDIA NVLink technology and the NVIDIA Quantum-2 InfiniBand platform. NVIDIA DGX systems also include NVIDIA AI Enterprise software for secure, supported and stable AI.



THOMAS REYNAUD,
CEO OF
THE ILIAD GROUP

We're entering AI in the same way as we entered telecoms, with the same pioneering mindset. By acquiring a NVIDIA DGX SuperPOD, the Iliad Group has equipped itself with the most powerful cloud-native AI supercomputer deployed to date in Europe. And because a central element of our AI strategy is for it to benefit society, the Group is taking part in the creation of an independent AI research lab.



CHARLIE BOYLE,
VICE PRESIDENT,
DGX PLATFORM AT NVIDIA

Enterprises worldwide are seeking powerful, efficient computing for advanced AI training and data science workloads. Through the NVIDIA DGX SuperPOD powered by NVIDIA DGX H100 systems with NVIDIA AI Enterprise software, the Iliad Group can provide European companies with world-leading AI supercomputing to help them advance their most innovative AI initiatives.

A full suite of cloud-native AI offerings for businesses

As of today, Scaleway - a subsidiary of the Iliad Group - is offering its customers a full suite of cloud-native AI offerings, with the aim of becoming Europe's leading supplier of cloud services optimized for the development of artificial intelligence.

By offering its customers access to NVIDIA's latest-generation AI supercomputing, Scaleway can provide businesses with the high-performance computing power required for advanced AI training and data science workloads.

In order to meet all the needs of its customers, Scaleway has also equipped itself with computing power available in smaller meshes. An offer consisting of two interconnected DGX H100 systems is already available, which will enable, for example, the training of smaller and more targeted AI models.

At the same time, through its closer collaboration with NVIDIA, Scaleway can provide its customers not only with outstanding computing power but also with the full range of NVIDIA's AI tools. In particular, it can offer NVIDIA AI Enterprise software solutions with AI pretrained models, frameworks, and tools which will enable its customers to significantly accelerate the development and deployment of their AI, including generative AI, and data science solutions.

A COMPREHENSIVE, SOVEREIGN AND ECO-RESPONSIBLE AI ECOSYSTEM

For Scaleway, this collaboration represents a first step in creating a comprehensive ecosystem of hardware and software solutions dedicated to AI and Big Data. Ranging from data storage and security through to training, Scaleway is currently developing an end-to-end offer to partner with its customers along the entire value chain of their AI projects.

As its servers are located in Europe, Scaleway also provides its customers with a sovereign ecosystem, forming the starting block for a distinctively European AI offer.

In the coming months, Scaleway will continue to invest in building up a leading European AI ecosystem, particularly by further increasing its available computing power.

From 1 to 1000 GPUs
for all usages

FIND OUT
MORE ABOUT
SCALEWAY'S
CLOUD-NATIVE AI
OFFERINGS



DAMIEN LUCAS,
CEO OF SCALEWAY



Through our collaboration with NVIDIA, we will enable European companies to significantly accelerate their AI innovations and to compete with international players. Our aim is to become the leading partner in Europe for all AI companies.



FOCUS

WATER AND ENERGY CONSUMPTION: AN EFFICIENT ECOSYSTEM

The NVIDIA DGX systems will be installed at DC5, the datacenter of OpCore (Iliad Group's datacenter subsidiary) located in the Paris region, which is one of Europe's most energy-efficient datacenters in terms of water and electricity consumption. DC5 has an adiabatic cooling process - a technology which incorporates evaporative and air cooling into a single system using the evaporation of a very small quantity of water to lower the temperature inside the server room when outside air temperatures are high. Combined with the use of outside air to cool the servers, the system avoids the need for air conditioning and means the datacenter consumes 30%-40% less electricity compared with a traditional datacenter, and uses 9 to 10 times less water than systems with open cooling towers. This solution will enable Scaleway to offer its customers an AI ecosystem that is both water- and energy-efficient.



An excellence lab dedicated to AI research

The Iliad Group is announcing today that it has initiated the creation of an excellence lab in Paris dedicated to AI research. This lab - in which over €100 million has already been invested - will be chaired by Xavier Niel.

A team has already been set up comprising researchers of international renown in their fields. They have all contributed to AI research over the past ten years or so, working in the largest international players within the market.

Thanks to its partnership with Scaleway, which now has a latest-generation NVIDIA supercomputer, the lab will have the computing power it requires for its research work.

MAIN ROLE OF THE LAB

The lab's main role is to help build artificial general intelligence and bring it within everyone's reach, by making the findings of its research publicly available.

This will enable a threefold objective to be achieved:

- ▶ help the entire AI ecosystem (public and private organizations, businesses and non-profits) to benefit from significant advances in the development and optimization of AI models;
- ▶ train a new generation of researchers, in particular by taking on doctoral students under France's "CIFRE" system of public-private partnership in doctoral research; and
- ▶ further the understanding of institutions, companies and the general public about AI technologies via the lab's open research.



AUDE DURAND,
DEPUTY CEO OF
ILIAD HOLDING



For an independent European lab, having the same computing power as that currently available to major international market players is an incredible opportunity. We're delighted to be able to support such a talented team committed to giving the whole ecosystem open access to its research work.



Over
€100 million
already invested

Europe's leading AI conference at Station F

Scaleway, a subsidiary of the Iliad Group, is launching Europe's leading conference on Artificial Intelligence designed for key industry players. The first of these conventions will take place on November 17 at Station F, attended by Xavier Niel who will be presenting the team of researchers from the AI research lab co-founded by the Iliad Group.

The aim of the conference is to showcase the most recent advances in AI, decrypt the impact that the latest AI models will have on the world of business, and anticipate upcoming trends. It is designed for engineers, developers and researchers working in AI, as well as for decision-makers of companies and start-ups that have AI projects, and institutional partners, the press and analysts.

During the day-long event, in which some fifty specialists will be taking part, visitors will be able to go to keynote speeches, technical presentations, and workshops.

NVIDIA and Amere Computing are partners of the event.

More than
1,000
visitors expected



PRACTICAL INFORMATION

1st European AI conference

Friday, November 17, 2023,
from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.

At Station F,
the world's largest start-up campus

Pre-book
your place at
the event:



Partners:



About the iliad Group

Created in the early 1990s, the iliad Group is the inventor of the world's first triple-play box and has grown into a major European telecoms player, standing out for its innovative, straightforward and attractive offerings. The Group is the parent of Free in France, iliad in Italy and Play in Poland, has over 16,700 employees serving 47 million subscribers, and generated €8.6 billion in revenues in the last 12 months. In France, the Group is an integrated Fixed and Mobile Ultra-Fast Broadband operator and had 21.8 million retail subscribers at June 30, 2023 (14.5 million Mobile subscribers and 7.3 million Fixed-line subscribers). In Italy - where it launched its business in 2018 under the iliad brand, making it the country's fourth Mobile operator - the Group had almost 13% market share and more than 10.1 million Mobile subscribers at June 30, 2023. In Poland, the Group became an integrated convergent operator following the acquisition of UPC Polska in 2022, and at June 30, 2023 had over 12.9 million Mobile subscribers and some 2.1 million Fixed-line subscribers. The iliad Group is Europe's sixth-largest operator by number of retail Mobile subscribers (excluding M2M) and Fixed-line Internet subscribers.

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