

Korea Launches 'K-AI' Project with Five Domestic Consortiums to Build Sovereign AI

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□ **Project Overviews**

- K-AI Project: A national initiative to develop sovereign AI models tailored to Korean language and culture
- Support Provided: Over KRW 200 billion in funding, including GPU rentals, data acquisition and processing, and R&D labor costs
- Objective: Establish a domestically-led, independent AI ecosystem using Korean technology and data

□ **Selected Consortiums**

- Naver Cloud
- SK Telecom
- LG Group Management Development Institute
- NC AI
- Upstage

□ **Non-selected Applicants**

- Kakao, KT, KAIST, among others(5 in total)

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□ Takeaways

- The government's focus on Sovereign AI shaped the selection, favoring teams with full domestic capabilities and independent tech development.
- Companies like Kakao and KT, though not selected, are still advancing AI through global partnerships and open-source contributions, showing varied approaches in the industry.
- This contrast reveals how closely aligning with policy directions may increasingly affect competitiveness and public funding opportunities.
- Ultimately, combining sovereign development with global cooperation could support a more resilient and inclusive AI ecosystem in Korea.

Source

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