



## Research, investment, robotics, and activism: WMF 2026 unveils Its first 150 Global speakers & personalities

*OpenAI, NVIDIA, Anthropic, and Microsoft, alongside leading voices from the United States, the United Kingdom, Europe, and the Middle East - including Alberto Sangiovanni Vincentelli (UC Berkeley), Nestor Maslej (Stanford HAI), Daniele Pucci (Generative Bionics), Aprajita Jain (Google), Alicia Hanf (LG NOVA) are among the first names announced for WMF – We Make Future 2026. With its first 150 speakers revealed, WMF 2026 - taking place June 24–26 at BolognaFiere, Italy - is set to ignite a global conversation on artificial intelligence, technology, information, and social impact. Conceived, produced, and organized by Search On Media Group, the event was officially introduced during its first press conference, held on Tuesday, February 10, at the Italian Ministry of Enterprises and Made in Italy, in collaboration with AEFI, and attended by Federico Eichberg, Chief of Staff to the Ministry.*

### Italy, Bologna, February 10, 2026

From the **United States, the United Kingdom, South Korea, India, Qatar, Switzerland, Saudi Arabia**, and many other countries, the first protagonists of **WMF – We Make Future 2026** are coming together in Bologna. With the announcement of its first 150 names and personalities, **WMF - an International B2B Trade Fair and Festival on AI, Tech, and Digital Innovation** - offers an initial preview of the global lineup that will gather in Europe and Italy this June, reinforcing the event's international scope.

Following last year's edition, which welcomed **73,000 attendees from 90 countries**, featured **over 1,000 speakers**, and hosted **more than 700 exhibitors and sponsors**, WMF 2026 will once again bring together **entrepreneurs, researchers, AI experts, Big Tech leaders, investors, institutional representatives, journalists, activists, creators, and cultural figures**. Together, they will explore the future across **14 strategic sectors**, addressing the **Future Challenges** that have long defined WMF's structure and vision.

From **AI and robotics to advanced manufacturing and the space economy**, from **healthcare and finance to public policy and rights**, and from **media and culture to information and social impact**, WMF 2026 will provide a broad, cross-sector perspective on today's most significant technological, economic, and societal transformations.

Among the first confirmed participants are representatives from organizations and institutions such as **OpenAI, NVIDIA, Anthropic, Microsoft, Google, Lenovo, and The LEGO Group**, alongside universities, research centers, space agencies, accelerators, investment funds, and leading technology companies - bringing to Italy insights, expertise, and visions from the world's most influential innovation ecosystems.

*"WMF was created to connect different yet complementary worlds - research, business, institutions, investment, and society - around the defining challenges of our time," said **Cosmano Lombardo**, Founder and CEO of Search On Media Group and creator of WMF. "With the 2026 edition, we are placing Europe and Italy back at the center of the*



*global debate on artificial intelligence, emerging technologies, and social impact. The first 150 names are just a preview of an international ecosystem that will come together in June to discuss innovation, development, and the future, creating tangible connections between ideas, capital, and people.”*

## Key Themes Shaping WMF 2026

The first wave of announced speakers highlights the core themes that will drive WMF 2026: **artificial intelligence, robotics, advanced manufacturing, scientific research, public policy, finance and investment, information, culture, and social impact.** These areas are represented by experts from global ecosystems spanning academia, industry, institutions, major digital platforms, journalism, and content creation.

### Research, Artificial Intelligence, and Robotics

Scientific research, AI, and robotics return to the forefront at WMF through internationally recognized innovators and researchers. Early confirmed speakers include **Alberto Sangiovanni Vincentelli**, UC Berkeley professor and pioneer of Electronic Design Automation (EDA) and co-founder of companies such as Cadence and Synopsys; **Nestor Maslej**, Research Manager at Stanford’s Human-Centered AI Institute; **Corey Ching**, Developer Experience at OpenAI; **Karen Zhou**, Member of Technical Staff at Anthropic; **Marco Pavone**, Director of Autonomous Vehicle Research at NVIDIA; **Giorgio Metta**, Scientific Director of the Italian Institute of Technology; **Daniele Pucci**, CEO of Generative Bionics; **Alessio Pomaro**, Head of AI at Search On Media Group; and **Nasser bin Saeed Al-Hajri**, member of the Saudi International Council for Business and Investment and Chairman of PNG. Their contributions will bridge advanced research and real-world industrial applications in AI, humanoid robotics, and autonomous systems.

### Industry, Manufacturing, and Applied Innovation

WMF 2026 will also feature leaders from industry and applied technological innovation. Among them are **Aprajita Jain**, Chief Brand Officer at Google; **Massimo Chiriatti**, Chief Technical & Innovation Officer at Lenovo; **Matteo Mille**, Chief Sales Enablement & Operations at Microsoft Italy; **Federico Menna**, CEO of EIT Digital; and **Elisabetta Bracci**, Manager at Clust-ER Innovate. Together, they will explore new production models, the role of AI in enterprise transformation, and strategies for technological growth.

### Space Economy, Science, and New Frontiers

The program will also spotlight the **space economy** and international scientific research, with speakers such as **Veronica La Regina**, Space Mentor; **Pierre-Philippe Mathieu** and **Claudio Iacopino** from the **European Space Agency (ESA)**; and **Simone Bianco**, Principal Investigator and Director of Computational Biology at the Altos Labs Bay Area Institute of Science. Their sessions will span space exploration, applied research, and emerging technological frontiers.

### Investment, Venture Capital, Scaleups, and Startups



Strong focus will also be placed on **investment and open innovation**, with the participation of venture capital firms, accelerators, and international funds. Early confirmations include **Jonathan Speed** (Coach and Venture Partner at Alchemist Accelerator & Waterman Ventures), **Jonathan Eade** (Venture Partner at Sansar Ventures), **Gabriele Ronchini** (CEO of Zest Investments), **Florin Catalin** (Operations Director at Silicon Allee), **Dan Radomski** (Director at Centropolis Accelerator), **Todor Mladenov** (CEO of Sofia Tech Park), **Madéleine Pilstrand** (CEO of Create Business Incubator), and India's Department of Science and Technology with **Ramanan Ramanathan**, Board Member and Advisor.

## Journalism, Content Creation, Arts, and Social Innovation

Journalism and global media will have a strong presence at WMF 2026, with speakers such as **Enrico Mentana**, Editor-in-Chief of TG La7; **Corrado Formigli**, journalist at La7; **Cecilia Sala**, journalist at Chora News; **Lorenzo Tondo**, journalist at *The Guardian*; **Leyla Elchekhly**, TV presenter and journalist at Al Jazeera Media Network; **Fjona Cakalli**, Tech Reporter and Presenter at TechPrincess.it; and **Veronica Maffei**, journalist US correspondent and host.

Alongside technology and policy, WMF will explore **digital culture, creativity, and social innovation**, featuring voices such as Italian **Presidential Honors recipients Luisa Rizzo**, drone racing pilot, and **Nadia Lauricella**, influencer and activist; **Pegah Moshir Pour**, activist and author; **Ayumi Moore Aoki**, Founder and CEO of Women in Tech® Global.

## Toward WMF 2026: A Global Gathering

The announcement of the first 150 names and personalities marks only the beginning of a program set to expand significantly in the coming weeks. WMF 2026 is preparing to once again place **Europe and Italy at the center of the global conversation** on artificial intelligence, emerging technologies, innovation, and social impact - reinforcing its role as an international platform for connection, dialogue, and future-building.

## Institutional Information

**WMF - We Make Future** is conceived, produced, and organized by **Search On Media Group**. The event is held under the patronage of the **European Commission**, the **Emilia-Romagna Region**, and the **City of Bologna**, with the support of the **Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MAECI)**, **ICE - Italian Trade Agency**, and the **Emilia-Romagna Region**. In collaboration with **BolognaFiere**, **CINECA**, and the **European Space Agency (ESA)**, with **Dell Technologies** and **Intel** as Premium Sponsors.

## Useful links

- [WMF 2026 First names and personalities](#)



From June 24 to 26, 2026, WMF returns to BolognaFiere (Italy) as a certified international event fully focused on the future of innovation. A global hub for the AI and tech ecosystem, WMF brings together each year the most advanced developments in artificial intelligence, digital and social innovation, alongside leading international companies, startups, scaleups, investors, institutions, universities, and non-profit organizations. With over 73,000 attendees from 90 countries in 2025, more than 700 exhibitors, 1,000+ speakers and guests from around the world, 2,800+ organized B2B meetings, and 3,000 startups and investors involved, WMF represents a unique convergence point for innovation-driven business and policy dialogue.

Its partner network includes organizations managing a combined €1.5 trillion investment portfolio, €304+ billion in assets under management (AUM), \$72.8+ billion in funded transactions, and over 17,000 investment rounds, positioning WMF as a global benchmark event for the innovation economy.

### Saudi Makes Future – The Largest AI Exhibition in the Middle East

Saudi Makes Future is the Saudi edition of WMF – We Make Future, a certified international trade fair and global platform for innovation, artificial intelligence, and emerging technologies. Developed through the collaboration between Search On Media Group, WMF – We Make Future, and PNG Saudi, the event will take place December 14–16, 2026, in Riyadh at the Riyadh International Convention & Exhibition Center. Building on WMF’s vision, experience, and thematic architecture, Saudi Makes Future adapts the format to a strong AI-driven focus, structured across 14 strategic sectors exploring the impact of artificial intelligence on business, industry, society, and institutions. Aligned with Saudi Vision 2030, the event positions itself as an international platform for dialogue, cooperation, and development, designed for companies, startups, investors, and stakeholders seeking new opportunities for growth, training, and innovation in the Middle East and on a global scale.

**Search On Media Group - Humans Leading Innovation** Founded in 2004, Search On Media Group works to advance digital culture and innovation by managing professional communities, supporting knowledge-sharing initiatives, and delivering strategic and operational consulting through its Search On Consulting division, specializing in Digital Marketing and Digital Transformation for large organizations. From the expertise of Search On Media Group stem both the Event Agency Business Unit—responsible for organizing WMF and other proprietary and client events—and Hybrid.io, a flexible and customizable platform designed to manage online, hybrid, and on-site events.

### Per informazioni e materiale

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## #WMF2026 | International Trade Fair and Festival on Innovation: AI, Tech and Digital.

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