AI For Future Kicks Off November 5 in San Francisco, bringing together International AI Leaders, Investors and 9 Startups from Europe and the U.S.

Two days to go until the second edition of AI For Future, WMF's Silicon Valley event bringing together AI experts, investors, venture capitalists and founders for an evening focused on Artificial Intelligence and its impact on global markets. International voices include Leonardo Nasi, Vice Consul – Economic Attaché at the Consulate General of Italy in San Francisco; Giosafat Riganò, Trade Commissioner, Italian Trade Agency – Los Angeles; Alicia Hanf, Head of Institutional Ecosystem Partnerships at LG NOVA, LG Electronics; Angelo Del Priore, Founding Partner at HP Tech Ventures; and Jerry Kaplan, author, entrepreneur and inventor of the tablet computer. The AI 4 Future Startup Competition will also take center stage, featuring 9 innovative ventures selected from Europe and the United States and an international jury.

Bologna, Italy, November 3, 2026

An evening of **vision, business and networking focused on Artificial Intelligence**, bringing together leading international **AI experts and investors** alongside **startup founders** selected from Europe and the United States. This is the focus of **AI For Future**, WMF's Silicon Valley event returning to **San Francisco on November 5** for its second edition at Mind The Bridge.

Following its 2025 debut, AI For Future further strengthens WMF's presence in the United States and its work connecting innovation ecosystems through the **WMF International Roadshow**, the initiative launched in 2021 to connect markets, expertise, capital, startups, companies and institutions worldwide. The international journey continues toward **WMF – We Make Future, The Biggest Event on Innovation: AI, Tech & Digital**, taking place **June 10–12, 2027 at BolognaFiere in Bologna, Italy**.

The event is supported by **ITA – Italian Trade Agency** and the **Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MAECI)**. Partners for the 2026 edition include **San Marino Innovation, POLIMI School of Management and the Digital Innovation Observatories of Politecnico di Milano**. **Five Degrees** and **Durana Tech Park** are event sponsors.

Highlighting the initiative's role in strengthening ties between the Italian innovation ecosystem and the Bay Area, **Massimo Carnelos, Consul General of Italy in San Francisco**, said:

> *"AI For Future's presence in San Francisco represents an opportunity to bring the Italian innovation ecosystem closer to the Bay Area, fostering connections among companies, startups and investors. In this context, the Consulate General of Italy in San Francisco contributes to strengthening economic and technological relations between Italy and the United States by leveraging its institutional network and facilitating access to key players in the local ecosystem, with the goal of encouraging new collaborations and showcasing the innovative potential of Italian companies."*

Opening the evening will be institutional remarks from **Leonardo Nasi, Vice Consul – Economic Attaché at the Consulate General of Italy in San Francisco**, and **Giosafat Riganò, Trade Commissioner, Italian Trade Agency – Los Angeles**.

Also highlighting the initiative's international continuity, **Cosmano Lombardo, Chairman of WMF – We Make Future and Founder and CEO of Search On Media Group**, said:

> *"AI For Future is rooted in the belief that innovation needs international connections to create meaningful impact. This is the purpose of the Innovation Diplomacy we pursue through WMF: creating tangible opportunities for talent, startups, companies, investors and institutions to meet, while connecting ecosystems that can grow through dialogue and collaboration,"* said **Cosmano Lombardo**, Chairman of WMF – We Make Future and Founder and CEO of Search On Media Group. *"Returning to Silicon Valley for a second year means continuing this journey and strengthening the dialogue between the United States, Italy and Europe, while increasingly extending it toward the Middle East. In 2027, this path will also take us to Saudi Arabia with Saudi Makes Future and will continue across WMF's international initiatives, with the goal of building lasting bridges between markets, expertise and capital."*

AI, Investment and U.S.-Europe Collaboration

Among the **announced speakers and guests** are **Alicia Hanf**, *Head of Institutional Ecosystem Partnerships at LG NOVA, LG Electronics*; **Jerry Kaplan**, *Entrepreneur and Expert in Artificial Intelligence*; **Angelo Del Priore**, *Founding Partner at HP Tech Ventures*; **Jeffrey Abbott**, *Founder of AI Salon and co-author of AI and the Art of Being Human*; **Jazz Samra**, *North American Commercialization and Business Development at Nium*; **Alberto Acito**, *Managing Director at INNOVIT SF*; **Federico Francioni**, *Design & Strategy Leader Meta, ex-Microsoft*; **Alessandro Piva**, *Director of the European Digital Tech Watch (EDTW) at Politecnico di Milano*; **Nicolas Rossini**, *Head of Innovation at San Marino Innovation*; **Joya Scarlata**, *Marketing Director at InterraIT*; **Patrick Devereux**, *Operations Manager at Five Degrees*; and **Chloe Jones**, *Business Development Expert at Durana Tech Park*.

At the center of the program are some of the key forces shaping the current development of AI: **investment and venture capital**, startup growth, enterprise AI adoption, **connections between the European and U.S. innovation ecosystems, and the development of new markets**.

Investment and venture capital will be the focus of the panel *"Beyond the AI Hype: Who Will Build, Fund, and Own the Future?"*, featuring **Alicia Hanf, Angelo Del Priore, Jeffrey Abbott and Jazz Samra** in a discussion on the forces shaping the development and financing of emerging AI companies across the United States and Europe. The European AI ecosystem will also be in focus, with **Alessandro Piva** addressing the relationship between startups and enterprises and the road to AI adoption. The event will also feature a preview of the new **WMF Sports Innovation Track**, presented by **Alicia Hanf and Cosmano Lombardo**.

AI 4 Future Startup Competition: 9 Founders Take the Stage in San Francisco

A major focus of the event will be the AI 4 Future Startup Competition, bringing **9 startups selected from Europe and the United States** to the San Francisco stage: **SupraOS**, focused on enterprise AI; **Mulan AI**, applying AI to content creation and marketing; **Salute360**, active in digital health; **PRODIGY PRODUCTS**, focused on enterprise AI and automation; **Handy Signs**, using AI to improve accessibility and support sign-language translation; **MON5**, specializing in cybersecurity for industrial systems and critical infrastructure; **Vertalis**, developing industrial data infrastructure to enable AI and technology implementation across manufacturing plants; **TerraSpark**, active in CleanTech and space-based solar energy, winner of the **WMF 2026 Startup Competition** and selected for the **final stage of the Startup World Cup**; and **Nuhpro**, focused on FoodTech and AI-powered nutrition.

The **three winning startups** will each receive **a dedicated desk in the exhibition area** at three international events: **WMF – We Make Future 2027**, taking place **June 10–12 at BolognaFiere in Bologna, Italy**; **AI Festival 2027**, taking place **February 11–12 in Milan, Italy**; and **Saudi Makes Future 2027** in **Riyadh, Saudi Arabia**. These opportunities will give the winning startups additional chances to showcase their solutions, connect with international investors and corporations, and explore new markets. The winners will also join the **Builders Community**, gaining access to WMF's global network and the opportunities developed across it, including **pitch sessions, B2B meetings, networking, international visibility and connections with investors, venture capitalists, companies and innovation stakeholders** across the global ecosystems reached by WMF initiatives.

Hosted by journalist and presenter **Veronica Maffei**, the evening will continue with a **networking aperitif** bringing together startups, investors, companies, speakers and international stakeholders. With the second edition of AI For Future, WMF further strengthens its presence in Silicon Valley and continues the international work of connecting **innovation, capital, companies, startups and institutions** that defines the WMF International Roadshow.

Useful Links

- AI For Future San Francisco

WMF – We Make Future is conceived, organized and produced by Search On Media Group.

The 2026 edition was held under the **patronage of the European Parliament, the European Commission, the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MAECI), the Emilia-Romagna Region and the Municipality of Bologna, Italy**. It was supported by the **Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MAECI)**, **ITA – Italian Trade Agency** and the **Emilia-Romagna Region**, in partnership with **Visit Emilia-Romagna** and in collaboration with **BolognaFiere, CINECA and ESA – European Space Agency**. **Main Sponsors** of the 2026 edition were **Philip Morris, Dell Technologies and Intel**.

WMF – We Make Future, The Largest International Trade Fair and Festival on Artificial Intelligence, Technology and Digital Innovation **WMF – We Make Future** returns to **BolognaFiere in Bologna, Italy**, on **June 10–12, 2027**, as a certified international trade fair entirely dedicated to innovation. The global event brings together leading players in Artificial Intelligence, technology, digital and social innovation, alongside international companies, startups, scaleups, investors, institutions, universities and nonprofit organizations. The 2026 edition welcomed **more than 75,000 attendees from 90 countries, over 800 exhibitors, more than 1,000 speakers and guests from around the world, more than 3,000 startups and investors**, alongside partners representing a combined investment portfolio of **€1.5 trillion, more than €304**

billion in AUM, over $72.8 billion in funded transactions and more than 17,000 investment rounds managed, positioning WMF as an international reference point for the global innovation ecosystem.

Saudi Makes Future – The Largest AI Exhibition in the Middle East **Saudi Makes Future** is the Saudi edition of WMF – We Make Future, the certified international trade fair and global platform dedicated to innovation, Artificial Intelligence and technology. Developed through a collaboration between Search On Media Group, WMF – We Make Future and PNG Saudi, the event will take place in **Riyadh in 2027 at the Riyadh International Convention & Exhibition Center**. Building on WMF's vision, experience and thematic structure, Saudi Makes Future adapts the format around AI through **14 strategic industries exploring the impact of Artificial Intelligence on business, industry, society and institutions**. Set within the framework of **Saudi Vision 2030**, the event is designed as an international platform for connection, cooperation and development, bringing together companies, startups, investors and stakeholders interested in new opportunities for growth, education and innovation across the Middle East and globally.

Search On Media Group – Humans Leading Innovation Since 2004, Search On Media Group has worked to spread digital culture by building communities, supporting knowledge-sharing initiatives and providing strategic and operational consulting through **Search On Consulting** in Digital Marketing and Digital Transformation for major companies. Search On Media Group's experience and expertise have also led to the creation of its **Event Agency Business Unit**, which organizes WMF as well as proprietary and client events, and **ibrida.io**, a platform for managing online, hybrid and in-person events in a flexible and customizable way.

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