



WMF in Silicon Valley with "AI For Future": high-level speakers and investors for an exclusive event on March 18th in San Francisco

Less than a week to go until the exclusive WMF - We Make Future and Search On Media Group event, bringing together AI experts, big tech, investors, and startups to shape the future of Artificial Intelligence. The American stop of the Road To WMF 2025 is approaching, an event that will take place on March 18th in San Francisco with speakers such as Luc Julia, Co-creator of Siri and Chief Scientific Officer of Renault Group; Simona Capece, Product Management at Google; Nestor Maslej, Research Manager at the Human-Centered AI Institute at Stanford University; and Alicia Hanf, Head of Institutional Ecosystem Partnerships at LG NOVA, @LG Electronics. Also present will be the General Consul in San Francisco Sergio Strozzi, ITA Los Angeles Director Giosafat Riganò, and INNOVIT Director Alberto Acito.

San Francisco, March 14, 2025 – Only a few days left before "[AI For Future](#)", the first event organized in the heart of **Silicon Valley** by [WMF - We Make Future](#), *International Trade Fair on Artificial Intelligence, Technology, and Digital*. After a successful 2024 edition that attracted over **70.000 participants from 90 countries**, 700 exhibitors, more than 1.000 speakers, and over 3.000 startups and investors, WMF is heading to San Francisco on **March 18th** for the American stop of *Road to WMF 2025*, a global series of initiatives culminating with the "**Main Event**" from **June 4th to 6th at BolognaFiere**.

AI For Future, taking place at INNOVIT - *Italian Innovation and Culture Hub*, offers a unique opportunity to explore the new frontiers of AI by connecting with **high-profile investors, tech companies, and innovative startups** from Italy and the U.S. with AI applications. The event is supported by **ITA - Italian Trade & Investment Agency** and serves as a **bridge between Silicon Valley and Bologna**: a key stop on the path toward WMF 2025, which in June will host one of the largest global meetings dedicated to innovation and venture capital. With **\$1.3 billion in assets under management**, over **\$60 billion in financed operations**, and **more than 13.000 investment rounds managed by over 300 VCs** expected in 2025—including SoftBank, European Council, EIT Digital, and LG NOVA—the WMF continues to be a global hub for startups, investors, and corporate VCs from around the world.

This event in Silicon Valley will offer an exclusive opportunity to connect with this global ecosystem, creating synergies that will find their full development at the WMF in Bologna, where high-profile investors and representatives of major venture capital funds will be present.

An Exclusive Program to Explore the Future of AI

On March 18th, starting at 5:00 PM, "AI For Future," hosted by journalist and TV presenter Veronica Maffei, will offer an in-depth look at the challenges and opportunities of Artificial Intelligence with a program featuring **global leaders, AI experts, and international investors**. After the opening remarks by **Cosmano Lombardo**, *Founder and CEO of Search On Media Group and creator of WMF*, and institutional greetings from General Consul in San Francisco **Sergio Strozzi**, ITA Los Angeles Director **Giosafat Riganò**, and INNOVIT Director **Alberto Acito**, the spotlight will shine on a panel of **high-level speakers** ready to outline the present and future of AI globally.

"The General Consulate of Italy in San Francisco and INNOVIT are pleased, together with the ITA Los Angeles office—whom we thank for organizing this event—to bring this year's We Make Future to San Francisco, at the Italian Center for Innovation and Culture," says **Sergio Strozzi**, **General Consul in San Francisco**. "The Consulate and INNOVIT are working diligently to strengthen the ties between Italy and the West Coast of the United States, particularly San Francisco and the Bay Area, in all innovation sectors related to new technologies,



including Artificial Intelligence. Bringing a high-level event like We Make Future, which represents one of the leading initiatives in Italy and Europe in the field of innovation, tech, and startups, to INNOVIT aligns perfectly with the strategic goals of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, the Italian Embassy in Washington, and this General Consulate." He concludes, "We therefore invite all investors, partners, and representatives of American companies interested in learning more about this reality to join us on March 18th at INNOVIT."

"We are proud to bring WMF - We Make Future to the United States for the first American roadshow in Silicon Valley at the Italian Innovation Center INNOVIT," says **Giosafat Riganò, Director of the ITA Los Angeles office**. "This event is part of the Italian Innovation Week, an initiative celebrating Italian technological excellence through key events like Italy's presence at the Game Developers Conference (GDC) and INNOVIT's AI Cohort dedicated to Artificial Intelligence. March 18th is just the beginning of a journey that will continue in Bologna in June with WMF 2025, where ITA Los Angeles will accompany the largest American delegation ever, including journalists, investors, incubators, and accelerators, ready to discover the best of Italian innovation."

"Bringing WMF to Silicon Valley with 'AI For Future' is a crucial step in our commitment to fostering the growth of the global AI ecosystem. Artificial Intelligence is now a strategic lever for innovation and market competitiveness, and this event serves as a unique platform for startups, companies, and investors to meet and collectively shape the future," explains **Cosmano Lombardo, Founder and CEO of Search On Media Group and creator of WMF**. "Thanks to collaboration with international partners and the support of ITA, we continue to create strategic connections between key players in the sector, strengthening WMF as a global reference point for technology and innovation."

Among the key speakers, **Nestor Maslej, Research Manager at the Human-Centered AI Institute at Stanford University**, will present the latest data from the AI Index Report, the most authoritative analysis of AI trends and impact worldwide. Following him, **Luc Julia, Co-creator of Siri and CSO of Renault Group**, and **Simona Capece, Engineering Program Management and Product Management at Google**, who will provide an insight into the AI trends shaping the world.

A special focus will be placed on the role of women in the development of AI with the panel "**Women in AI: Shaping the Future of Technology**", which will also involve **Alicia Hanf, Head of Institutional Ecosystem Partnerships at LG NOVA, @LG Electronics**, and **Grace Park, CEO of Nuleep**, for a discussion on challenges and opportunities in the AI sector and strategies for greater inclusion and female leadership in technology.

The program will also include talks on marketing, innovation, and sustainability, with contributions from **Paolo Dello Vicario, Co-Founder & CIO of Datrix Group**, providing insights into AI's vertical applications in production; **Giorgio Taverniti, Co-Founder, Head of SEO & AI Tech | Consultant at Search On Media Group**, discussing new frontiers in AI research; and **Veronica Pitea, President of ACEPER (Association of Consumers and Producers of Renewable Energy)**, who will offer a view on how AI can accelerate the development of sustainable models, highlighting the link between AI, renewable energy, and the ecological transition. ACEPER is at the forefront of promoting an eco-sustainable transition for businesses, helping companies reduce their environmental impact, optimize resources, and generate economic value. The association supports SMEs across various sectors, believing that investing in eco-sustainable models is a winning strategy for both the planet and economic growth.

AI 4 Future Startup Competition: Startups Meet Investors

One of the most anticipated moments of the day will be the **AI 4 Future Startup Competition final**, where **three Italian startups**—Volumio, Owlise, and Cleverfi—and **three American startups**—Workee, Tweelin,



and EnsolAI—will compete before a jury of leading **venture capitalists and investors**. The selected startups will present their innovative AI-based solutions, illustrating how their technologies can address global challenges and attract capital for growth. **The winning startups will fly to Italy to participate in WMF 2025**, from June 4th to 6th in Bologna, taking advantage of all opportunities for startups during the three-day event, **from B2B meetings** with investors to the chance to be selected to access the Tecnopolo of Bologna.

The event will culminate in a **roundtable on AI investments**, bringing together a panel of **international investors and venture capitalists**. Participants will include **Alex Golod** (*Fusion Software Solutions Co*), **Scott Yusuke Sugino** (*President & CEO @Yamaha Music Innovations*), **Jonathan Speed** (*Chair of Advisory Board Alchemist Accelerator*), and **Zach Coelius** (*Managing Partner Coelius Capital*), who will discuss funding strategies, market trends, and the best opportunities for the AI sector in the coming years.

The day will close with the **award ceremony for the winning startups** and an exclusive **networking aperitif**, providing the perfect opportunity to deepen connections and create strategic relationships with companies, investors, and international stakeholders.

Free Registration and Limited Spots

Participation in *AI For Future* is free, but spots are limited to ensure a high-level networking experience. To register, visit the official website: <https://siliconvalley.wemakefuture.it/>.

The event is also made possible thanks to the support of sponsor ACEPER, which contributes to the realization of this initiative dedicated to the growth of Artificial Intelligence at the international level.

Useful Links:

- [WMF - AI For Future](#)
- [Final AI 4 Future Startup Competition](#)

WMF - International Fair on Artificial Intelligence, Technology, and Digital

June 4th - 6th, 2025, at BolognaFiere, the WMF - We Make Future, the international fair fully dedicated to innovation, returns. A global attraction, it annually gathers the best of digital and social innovation, international players, startups, scale-ups, investors, institutions, universities, and non-profit organizations. With over 70,000 attendees from 90 countries in 2024, over 700 exhibitors, more than 1,000 speakers and guests from around the world, 3,000 startups and investors, and partners involved in a portfolio of investments totaling \$1.3 Billion, over \$60 billion in financed operations, and more than 13,000 investment rounds managed, WMF is the leading international fair for the innovation world.

Search On Media Group - Humans Leading Innovation

Since 2004, the company has aimed to spread digital culture by managing communities, supporting sharing activities, and providing strategic and operational consulting through Search On Consulting in Digital Marketing and Digital Transformation for large companies. From the expertise and professionalism of Search On Media Group, the Education Business Unit was born, organizing WMF and other training events, as well as the ibrida.io platform, managing customizable and flexible online, hybrid, and offline events.

For information and materials

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