



AI For Future Returns to San Francisco on Nov. 5, Bringing Together AI Leaders, Investors and Startups from the U.S. and Europe

WMF continues to strengthen its presence in the United States through its International Roadshow, the initiative launched in 2021 to connect innovation ecosystems and global markets. At Mind The Bridge, at the heart of the Bay Area innovation ecosystem, AI For Future will bring together international AI experts, investors and startups for a full day dedicated to Artificial Intelligence. Among the first guests announced are Jerry Kaplan, Vice Consul Leonardo Nasi, HP Tech Ventures and LG NOVA – LG Electronics, with additional names to be revealed in the coming days. Startups will also take center stage, as the AI 4 Future Startup Competition brings 12 selected projects from the U.S., Italy and Europe to San Francisco as part of a broader international path offering further opportunities for visibility, networking and global connections.

October 20th, Bologna, Italy

WMF – We Make Future returns to Silicon Valley for the second edition of [AI For Future](#), taking place on **November 5, 2026, at Mind The Bridge in San Francisco, California**. The event will bring together Artificial Intelligence experts, investors, venture capitalists, startups, companies and institutional representatives, further strengthening connections across the **U.S., European and Italian innovation ecosystems**.

AI For Future is part of the **WMF International Roadshow**, the initiative through which WMF has been developing international projects since 2021 to **connect markets, expertise and innovation ecosystems**, fostering collaboration among startups, companies, investors and institutions. Following the first edition of AI For Future, WMF is further consolidating its presence in Silicon Valley and continuing its work as a connector between the **U.S., Italian and European technology ecosystems**. The event will once again bring these communities together in San Francisco to discuss the transformations driven by Artificial Intelligence and the opportunities for collaboration, investment and growth emerging from them.

The event is organized by WMF and Search On Media Group with the support of **ITA – Italian Trade Agency** and the **Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MAECI)**. 2026 partners also include San Marino Innovation, Durana Tech Park, POLIMI School of Management and the Digital Innovation Observatories of Politecnico di Milano.

*“Returning to Silicon Valley with AI For Future means continuing a long-term effort that has always been central to WMF: connecting ecosystems, expertise and markets, and turning international dialogue into tangible opportunities for collaboration, investment and growth,” said **Cosmano Lombardo, Founder and CEO of Search On Media Group and creator of WMF**. “This is exactly why we launched the International Roadshow: to build bridges among startups, companies, investors, researchers and institutions, and to foster a genuine form of innovation diplomacy. At a time when Artificial Intelligence is reshaping industries, markets and society, strengthening the connection between the United States, Italy and Europe means creating the conditions for technologies, talent and projects to meet and generate new value and meaningful impact.”*



AI, venture capital and innovation: first speakers and guests announced

The **November 5 program** will be entirely dedicated to Artificial Intelligence and its applications, featuring **talks by AI experts, discussions on emerging technology trends and panels focused on investment and venture capital**, with particular attention to the dynamics and opportunities shaping the U.S. and European markets.

Among the **first speakers and guests announced** for the second edition are **Leonardo Nasi**, Vice Consul – Economic Attaché at the Consulate General of Italy in San Francisco; **Giosafat Riganò**, Trade Commissioner to the U.S. at ITA – Italian Trade Agency; **Alberto Acito**, Managing Director at INNOVIT; **Alicia Hanf**, Head of Institutional Ecosystem Partnerships, LG NOVA – LG Electronics; **Tejas Chopra**, CEO and Co-founder of Headroom Labs; **Angelo Del Priore**, Founding Partner at HP Tech Ventures; **Jeffrey Abbott**, Co-Founder and Partner Emeritus of Blitzscaling Ventures; **Paolo Dello Vicario**, Co-Founder, CIO & Head of Data Monetization of Datrix Group; **Alessandro Piva**, Director of the European Digital Tech Watch (EDTW) at Politecnico di Milano; **Chloe Jones**, Business Development Expert at Durana Tech Park; and **Jazz Samra**, North American Commercialization and Business Development at Nium.

The **AI 4 Future Startup Competition jury** will include **Alicia Hanf**; **Nicolas Rossini**, Head of Innovation at San Marino Innovation; **Tejas Chopra**; **Jerry Kaplan**, Entrepreneur and Expert in Artificial Intelligence; **Angelo Del Priore**; **Jeffrey Abbott**; and **Joya Scarlata**, Marketing Director at InterraIT. The program is still expanding, with additional speakers, investors and guests to be announced in the coming days.

AI 4 Future Startup Competition: 12 Projects from the U.S., Italy and Europe

The **AI 4 Future Startup Competition** will be another major focus of the day, bringing **12 selected projects from the United States, Italy and Europe** to San Francisco.

The startups will present their solutions to investors, venture capitalists and international innovation stakeholders, showcasing AI-powered applications operating within some of the **14 strategic sectors at the core of the WMF ecosystem**, including **IndustryTech & Robotics, Health & Life Sciences, CleanTech & Energy**, as well as other industries undergoing significant technology- and AI-driven transformation.

The Startup Competition will serve as another point of connection across the ecosystems involved, giving selected projects the opportunity to engage directly with the **Silicon Valley market** and with stakeholders from both the European and U.S. innovation communities. The call also provides access to a **broader international path of opportunities** within the WMF ecosystem, which may give selected startups and innovative SMEs the chance to take part in further visibility initiatives, pitch sessions, B2B meetings and networking opportunities with investors, corporations and international stakeholders, including **AI Festival 2027 in Milan, WMF – We Make Future 2027 at BolognaFiere and Saudi Makes Future 2027 in Riyadh**.

With the second edition of AI For Future, WMF further consolidates its presence in Silicon Valley and continues its international journey to connect innovation, capital, companies, startups and institutions across the United States, Italy and Europe.



Useful links:

- [AI For Future Event](#)

WMF - We Make Future, is the largest International Trade Fair and Festival dedicated to Artificial Intelligence, Technology, and Digital Innovation.

From June 10 to 12, 2027, 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 75,000 attendees from 90 countries in 2026, more than 800 exhibitors, 1,000+ speakers and guests from around the world, 3,000+ 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 in 2027, in Riyadh. 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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