Blue Ocean Labs

BOL-E-0001 · NEXT STEPS

Next steps for business leaders

Scan for the full editorial and sources

From the editorial Europe's AI Moment: Relevance Without Capability by Thomas Nimmo, November 9, 2026.

In brief

For European AI companies, the editorial comes down to three needs: growth capital, compute and customers. Public programs exist for each. The question is whether they deliver at your stage and at your speed.

Questions for your own circle

For your leadership team, board and investors:

1. *"Which growth stage will we need to finance next, and is there a European investor able to lead that round?"*
2. *"Public procurement should reward interoperability, data protection, security and resilience. Are we ready to compete on those?"*
3. *"Do we depend on foreign models, cloud or computing for critical services, and what is our plan if access changes?"*

Questions for the next level up

For public investors, public programs, public buyers and regulators:

1. *To public investors (the EIC Fund, the European Investment Fund, national promotional banks): "How long does an investment decision take, and can you lead a round?"*
2. *To AI Factories: "What capacity is available to companies like ours, on what terms and at what cost?"*
3. *To public buyers: "What would it take for a European AI provider to become a reference customer here?"*
4. *To regulators: "What practical guidance will make AI Act compliance manageable for a company of our size?"*

Steel-man questions

Test the editorial's argument against your own reality:

1. *"Is buying from global providers the better choice for our business today, and what would change that?"*
2. *"Would we accept public co-investment, and under what conditions on governance and speed?"*

Three things you can do

- [ ] **Apply the five stages to the programs you rely on:** ask for deployed and operational figures, not announcements.
- [ ] **Check your access routes:** AI Factories, the EIC Accelerator and EIC Fund, and funds backed by the European Investment Fund, which invests through financial intermediaries.
- [ ] **Share your experience:** tell Blue Ocean Labs and your industry association where public programs worked or failed for you. Evidence from companies on the ground makes future assessments stronger.

Who else to ask

Access to AI Factories:
EuroHPC Joint Undertaking, Consult an Expert (https://eurohpc-ju.europa.eu/consult-expert_en).

The EIC Fund:
European Innovation Council, "What is your question about?" (https://eic.ec.europa.eu/what-your-question-about_en).

EIF-backed financing:
European Investment Fund (https://www.eif.org/).

The EU AI Act:
European AI Office (https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/policies/ai-office), European Commission.

Contacts checked on November 9, 2026. Read the full editorial, with all sources: https://blueoceanlabs.io/editorials/europe-ai-capability

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