

Letter of intention between Bristol Centre for Supercomputing and GENCI

Paris and Bristol, July 9th, 2025
Ref: CD250702

With the ambition to strengthen the pan European ecosystem of artificial intelligence (AI), the French Ministry of Research represented by GENCI, the national agency in charge of implementing French strategy on computing infrastructures for HPC, AI and quantum and the UK Department of Science, Innovation and Technology (DSIT), represented by the Bristol Centre for Supercomputing (BriCS), have agreed to partner on AI supercomputing.

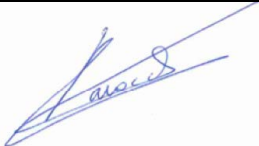
In France, the project proposed by GENCI representing all his Associates and in cooperation with major actors of the French AI ecosystem, was selected by EuroHPC on March 5th 2024 to set up with its partners the project “AI Factory France”, a unique one-stop-shop for access to a continuum of public/private, HPC-optimized infrastructure, dataspace and models, training and education, innovation services for startups (tech transfer, incubators, VC, legal), supported by a distributed pool of experts in HPC, AI/data science and domain science through 13 key applications verticals.

In the UK, BriCS and the AI Research Resource (AIRR) Consortium, which includes the University of Cambridge, was set up in 2024 to deliver leadership-class Digital Research Infrastructure (DRI) to enable the UK’s national AI ecosystem. This consortium now supports hundreds of the UK’s top AI researchers, and with the full deployment of the compute resources completing in summer 2025, this is expected to rapidly grow to thousands of researchers, and hundreds of AI-based startups and SMEs.

Through this letter of intent, both parties will work on building and establishing a collaboration on supercomputing for the benefit of their respective communities and the broader European research ecosystem. This joint initiative will foster bilateral scientific collaborations in the field of AI-specialisation in application verticals including material science, life sciences and medical, cybersecurity, AI security and safety, energy, and engineering, and more globally in AI for Science, sharing best practices on industrial involvement as well as establishing joint training/education tracks, exchange of students/researchers and hackathons, and the organisation of joint scientific seminars.

Finally, within the domain of infrastructures, the UK and France will explore making compute available to support joint missions in the areas listed above, including through Isambard-AI, and Alice Recoque. Both parties will collaborate in assessing new scientific and technical approaches including federated/distributed learning, agentic and frugal (cost efficient) AI, as well as developing a joint hardware/software technology watch.

This unique collaboration in Europe between two of the most advanced countries in the development and the use of AI for science, industry and public services, will significantly strengthen both countries’ national AI ecosystems and the European AI ecosystem. While this Statement is non-binding and does not create legal obligations, it serves as a basis for deepened collaboration and may inform future formal agreements or joint initiatives.

Philippe Lavocat, CEO of GENCI leading AI Factory France	Simon McIntosh-Smith, Director of BriCS
  Grand Equipement National de Calcul Intensif Société civile au capital de 10 euros Siège social : 6 Bis rue Auguste Vitu 75015 Paris 494 686 975 R.C.S de Paris	  University of Bristol, NCC, Feynman Way, Emersons Green, Bristol BS167FS, UK