



AI WEEKLY REPORT

Issue W24/2026 · 12 Jun 2026

Prometheus Raises \$12B for AGI in Physical-World Automation

Investment in AI pivots to ambitious real-world engineering, as Prometheus closes a \$12B round at \$41B valuation. Cloud platforms, agentic adoption, and user growth signal accelerating competition and mainstream deployment.

CHART OF THE WEEK

W24/2026: AI Sector Focus for Executives



LLM milestones (product launches, usage, speed) and enterprise use cases dominate headlines, with funding for AGI and AI agents fueling startups in 2026.



02 · EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Three signals of structural shift this week

3 KEY TAKEAWAYS

- 01 ChatGPT surges past 1B users despite AI backlash**
User adoption rises even as public concern over AI deepens, showing resilient demand.
- 02 Amazon Bedrock adds OpenAI, expands cloud AI access**
OpenAI's GPT-5.5 arrives on Bedrock, ending Azure exclusivity and upping competition.
- 03 Visa's ChatGPT deal launches agent-based commerce**
Direct AI-to-payment integration paves way for autonomous shopping at scale.

WEEK IN CONTEXT

This week was defined by a record-shattering \$12B funding round for Prometheus, Jeff Bezos's new AGI startup aiming to automate heavy engineering and drug design, underscoring a strategic shift towards physical-world AI impact at a \$41B valuation. ChatGPT hit a landmark one billion monthly app users in May, showing robust growth despite increasing public anxiety over AI safety, spotlighting market demand's resilience. OpenAI's GPT-5.5 and Codex models reached general availability on Amazon Bedrock, eliminating Azure exclusivity and intensifying competition in cloud-based AI access for enterprises. DeepMind's Gemma 4 12B and major advances in agentic commerce, including Visa's integration with ChatGPT for autonomous retail transactions, showcased rapid innovation in both model architectures and business workflows.

STAT OF THE WEEK

\$12B

Largest-ever AGI startup round

The \$12B Prometheus funding signals capital rotating from digital-centric LLMs to complex physical automation.

1B

Monthly ChatGPT app users in May 2026

\$41B

Valuation for Prometheus after Series A

12B

Parameters in DeepMind's Gemma 4 12B

Source: aggregated public data · W24/2026



03 · TOP STORIES OF THE WEEK

What moved the market — and what to do about it

FUNDING

Jeff Bezos's Prometheus raises \$12B to build an 'artificial general engineer' for the physical world

FACT

Prometheus raised \$12B in 2026, reaching a \$41B valuation to develop AI that automates heavy engineering and drug design.

IMPLICATION

AGI investment shifts toward physical-world automation as capital pools rival the largest digital-only AI labs.

RECOMMENDATION

Expand AI portfolio exposure to include physical-world automators targeting engineering and biotech verticals.

LLM

ChatGPT hits a billion monthly app users despite souring public AI sentiment

FACT

ChatGPT reached one billion monthly users in May 2026 despite increasing public concerns about AI ethics and sustainability.

IMPLICATION

AI platform user growth is outpacing reputational risks, signaling strong latent demand regardless of negative media cycles.

RECOMMENDATION

Expand investment in popular generative AI channels while paralleling visibility-boosted initiatives on ethics and sustainability.

LLM

OpenAI's GPT-5.5 and Codex Reach General Availability on Amazon Bedrock

FACT

OpenAI's GPT-5.5, GPT-5.4, and Codex are now generally available on Amazon Bedrock, with pricing aligned to OpenAI's direct rates.

IMPLICATION

AWS customers gain direct access to top OpenAI models without Azure exclusivity, intensifying cloud AI competition and compliance options.

RECOMMENDATION

Reassess cloud AI provider contracts to leverage expanded OpenAI model access and optimize spending with new AWS billing structures.

MULTIMODAL

Introducing Gemma 4 12B: a unified, encoder-free multimodal model

FACT

DeepMind unveiled Gemma 4 12B, a unified, encoder-free multimodal model supporting both text and image inputs.

IMPLICATION

Encoder-free multimodal architectures lower inference costs and accelerate integration of vision-language capabilities.

RECOMMENDATION

Pilot Gemma 4 12B in production workflows to assess efficiency gains and multimodal application potential.

AGENTS

Visa ChatGPT integration enables AI agent retail purchasing

FACT

Visa has integrated its payment infrastructure with ChatGPT to enable AI agents to autonomously complete retail transactions.

IMPLICATION

AI-driven autonomous checkout will accelerate the shift to agent-led commerce, disrupting traditional online retail workflows.

RECOMMENDATION

Integrate AI purchasing agents into retail channels and monitor conversion uplift from automated checkouts.

04 · TOOL · CAPITAL · OUTLOOK

What to watch, fund, and pilot next

AI TOOL OF THE WEEK

Gemma 4 12B

Unified text and image model with encoder-free architecture.



Gemma 4 12B is DeepMind's latest multimodal model capable of understanding and generating both text and images through a unified, encoder-free architecture. This innovation simplifies workflows, reduces deployment complexity, and improves model efficiency. Enterprises seeking powerful multimodal AI with modern architecture should evaluate its potential for creative and analytical use cases.

FUNDING & M&A — TOP

COMPANY	STAGE	\$	SECTOR
Prometheus	Series C	\$12B	Physical World AI
Jedify	Series A	\$24M	Enterprise AI
Niteshift	Seed	\$7M	Dev Tools AI
Ona	Acq.	—	AI Infra

Investors are dramatically raising stakes in foundational AI—across physical automation, cloud model delivery, and alternatives to Big AI—as multibillion-dollar rounds signal a shift from digital-only focus to hybrid and infrastructure plays.

LOOKING AHEAD · 2–4 WEEKS

- Prometheus \$12B bet on physical-world AGI will pressure robotics**
 Early partnership or prototype announcements are expected in the next quarter as capital deployment ramps.
- ChatGPT's 1B app milestone cements consumer AI dominance**
 Watch for enterprise adoption updates at anticipated Q2 OpenAI developer events despite ongoing reputational scrutiny.
- OpenAI-AWS Bedrock partnership reshapes cloud AI vendor selection**
 Early migration trends among Fortune 500 customers will signal shifts in multi-cloud AI procurement this month.
- Visa's ChatGPT retail integration to disrupt payment workflows**
 Initial merchant and fintech feedback due in coming weeks will clarify rapid adoption versus regulatory pushback.

SOURCES — THIS ISSUE

- TechCrunch AI · Jeff Bezos's Prometheus raises \$12B to build an 'artificial general...
- CNBC Technology · ChatGPT hits a billion monthly app users despite souring public AI...
- InfoQ AI/ML · OpenAI's GPT-5.5 and Codex Reach General Availability on Amazon Bedrock
- DeepMind Blog · Introducing Gemma 4 12B: a unified, encoder-free multimodal model
- AI News · Visa ChatGPT integration enables AI agent retail purchasing
- DeepMind Blog · DiffusionGemma: 4x faster text generation
- TechCrunch Fundraising · Datadog veterans launch AI coding startup Niteshift on a bet...
- TechCrunch Fundraising · Jedify raises \$24M to help companies

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