MEMO OF SUPPORT:
FY2025 NYS BUDGET PROPOSAL: EMPIRE AI CONSORTIUM

What is Empire AI?

The Empire AI Consortium is a partnership of public and private universities in New York that will establish a state-of-the-art artificial intelligence computing center at SUNY's University at Buffalo to facilitate innovation, research, and development of AI technology. This center will house the advanced computer processing and data storage necessary to power AI programs and data sets that can be developed into leading AI technologies to be used in medical, government, educational, business, and countless other settings. The Empire AI Center will create new jobs, and its partnership with colleges and universities across the state will train a new generation of local AI technology experts in addition to attracting the world's leading AI researchers to New York. The seven founding institutions will collaborate to study and create new AI based technologies, while educating New York's next generation of leaders who will be able to then incorporate these skills into various industries and local economies. This consortium will allow for a significant investment in building and studying AI technology that these colleges and universities would not be able to accomplish individually, while providing thousands of students across New York access to learn about AI. These colleges and universities will in turn be able to provide smaller businesses and entrepreneurs with priceless partnership opportunities, to help develop AI technologies and incorporate AI into businesses across New York - an opportunity that would otherwise be impossible due to high costs and limited access to AI computer processors, data sets, and data storage.

> **"I propose nothing short of making New York the global leader in AI research and development," - New York State Governor Kathy Hochul**

What are the benefits?
- Build a nation leading, advanced AI research center in Buffalo.
- Provide New York colleges and universities with access to AI computing power, research, and development, which would be too difficult and expensive for schools to build individually.
- Ensure that universities, students and faculty across New York keep pace and scale the level of AI development and research needed to remain competitive.
- Prepare the workforce of the future by championing skills and talent that will future-proof the jobs that our economy will rely on.
- Take the national lead on building and attracting the next generation of tech talent right here in New York.

- Solidify New York's stance as an international hub for developing AI technology and AI powered businesses.
- Continue to grow the state's tech workforce and solidify our appeal as a hub for semiconductor chip manufacturers.
- Allow smaller and mid size businesses to develop and access AI technology in partnership with the consortium.
- Develop new AI technologies for public good and that can benefit our state.

Who is in the Consortium?
The Empire AI Consortium will be funded by and comprised of New York state, the State University of New York, the City University of New York, Columbia University, Cornell University, New York University, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, the Simons Foundation, and Bloomberg LP co-founder Tom Secunda.

How Much Does it cost?
Establishing the Empire AI Consortium and funding the construction of a new Empire AI research center at the University at Buffalo will cost roughly $400 million. The funding will be made up by:
- $250 million proposed by Governor Hochul in the FY2025 NYS Budget
- $125 million from private universities and donors
- $25 million from the State University of New York
- $25 million from the City University of New York
- $2.5 million for the operating costs of SUNY's participation in the Empire AI consortium (also proposed by Governor Hochul in the FY2025 NYS Budget)

What is the funding for?
The proposed $250 million in state funding for the Empire AI Consortium will go towards property acquisition, preparation of plans, design, construction, renovation, administration, and other costs incidental to establishing an Empire AI Center at the University at Buffalo.

Tech:NYC's Recommendation to Fund the Empire AI Consortium:
Tech:NYC recommends the New York state Assembly and Senate to both include the Governor's proposed $250 million for the Empire AI Consortium in their FY2025 budget responses, and for this funding to be approved in the final FY2025 New York state budget.

Important Links & Press Coverage:

- [Governor Hochul's Fifth 2024 State of the State Proposal: Empire AI Consortium to Make New York the National Leader in AI Research and Innovation](#)
- [Highlights of Governor Hochul's FY2025 Executive Budget Proposal](#)
- [Governor Hochuls' FY2025 Executive Budget Capital Projects Bill](#)
- [Tech:NYC's Response to Governor Hochul's 2024 State of the State](#)
- [Spectrum News: Hochul unveils plan to create consortium on artificial intelligence](#)
- [The New York Times: Hochul to Propose A.I. Research Center Using $275 Million in State Funds](#)
- [New York Daily News: CUNY receives $75M donation tied to AI — largest gift in system's history](#)
- [The New York Times: A $75 Million Gift for CUNY Dedicated to A.I.](#)
- [Bloomberg Law: California Tech Dominance Challenged By AI Initiatives in NY, NJ](#)
- [Buffalo News: Hochul: Tesla to install $500M supercomputer in Buffalo, while UB will host new AI computing center](#)