

Zurich, 17 July 2026

PRESS RELEASE

New AI Technology for Complex Industrial Data: Start-up Aionic Labs Selected for Funding Initiative by Germany's Federal Agency SPRIN-D

- Funding of up to €26.5 million
- An initiative by the Federal Agency for Disruptive Innovation strengthens AI foundation models
- Aionic Labs emerged from a research project at ETH Zurich and Stanford University

The start-up Aionic Labs brings together AI and time series analysis. Now the company has been selected by the Federal Agency for Breakthrough Innovation (SPRIN-D) for the "Next Frontier AI" funding initiative. The goal is to build a European frontier AI lab that develops new foundational AI models and strengthens Europe's technological independence.

"Next Frontier AI" is a multi-stage program running over 24 months, designed to advance novel AI approaches into practically proven technologies. Aionic Labs is one of ten selected teams and will receive around three million euros in funding in the first stage of the program. If the company qualifies for the subsequent stages, total funding can grow to up to 26.5 million euros.

Aionic Labs is led by Dr. Robert Jakob from Germany and Thomas Kaar from Austria. Their shared goal is to turn cutting-edge research into practically deployable technology for Europe. Aionic Labs develops language models, so-called Large Language Models (LLMs), that, unlike well-known LLMs such as ChatGPT, understand time series data.

The range of applications extends from machine sensor data in industrial plants, vital signs of patients in hospitals, load profiles of power grids, and inventory and supply chain data in logistics, to transaction data from banks, insurance companies, and telecommunications providers.

Today, the technology is being further developed in Europe together with partners for concrete applications. The goal is to develop cost-efficient, specialized Time-Series Language Models (TSLMs) that analyze complex time series data within companies and organizations in their broader operational context, detect problems and disruptions early, and support professionals in making critical decisions.

"Europe has excellent research, highly qualified professionals, and decades of specialized experience in critical industries such as manufacturing, healthcare, energy, telecommunications, financial services, and logistics. Our AI models connect Europe's strengths and elevate this strong foundation to the next technological level," says Dr. Robert Jakob, Managing Director and co-founder of Aionic Labs and Director of the Agentic Systems Lab at ETH Zurich.

The technology emerged from a joint open-source research project between ETH Zurich and Stanford University. The starting point was the realization that existing AI language models have



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only a limited understanding of continuously recorded measurement and sensor signals. The resulting approach was published under the name *OpenTSLM* and presented at the renowned *International Conference on Machine Learning (ICML)*.

About Aionic Labs

Aionic Labs is an AI company headquartered in Zurich. It develops language models for continuously recorded measurement, sensor, and operational data from industry, energy, healthcare, and finance. The technology helps professionals identify complex relationships faster and make well-founded decisions. The company is led by Dr. Robert Jakob and Thomas Kaar.

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