

THE AI GOVERNANCE ECOSYSTEM

How policy, oversight, and power intersect across the AI industry · 2026



GOVERNANCE MECHANISMS

- Binding power** — regulation, mandates, export controls
- Soft influence** — advocacy, lobbying, norm-setting
- Information flow** — research, benchmarks, evidence
- Non-governance tie** — relationships between other actors

Policy & Governance — the regulatory core

BINDING REGULATION

EU AI Act
World's first comprehensive AI law · risk-tiered

NATIONAL POLICY

White House OSTP
US executive AI policy · EO on AI safety

RESEARCH INSTITUTES

GovAI
Centre for Governance of AI · Oxford-linked

CSET
Georgetown · national security and AI policy

INTERNATIONAL FRAMEWORKS

OECD / UN
International AI governance frameworks

AI Product Companies

Anthropic
Claude · Constitutional AI · safety-first lab

OpenAI
GPT-5, ChatGPT · largest consumer reach

Google DeepMind
Gemini · largest compute infrastructure

Meta AI
Llama open-weight models · open-source push

xAI
Grok · Musk-backed · lighter safety stance

Mistral
European open-weight competitor

AI Safety Research

CAIS
Benchmarks (HLE, WMDP, HarmBench) · field-building

MIRI
Machine Intelligence Research Inst. · alignment theory

Redwood Research
Adversarial training · interpretability

Apollo Research
Model evaluations · deceptive alignment

ARC / LTFF
Alignment Research Center · alignment theory

AI Testing & Evaluation

METR
Model Evaluation & Threat Research · autonomy benchmarks

UK AISI
UK AI Safety Institute · pre-deployment evaluations

US AISI / NIST
US AI Safety Institute at NIST · federal eval body

Epoch AI
Compute trends · capability forecasting

Scale AI
Data labeling + evals · co-produced HLE with CAIS

Watchdogs & Advocacy

Ctr. for Humane Tech
Tristan Harris · attention economy & AI harms

AI Now Institute
Labor · power concentration · civil rights lens

Alg. Justice League
Bias · facial recognition · equity

Partnership on AI
Multi-stakeholder · labs + civil society

DAIR Institute
Timnit Gebru · structural AI harms · critical lens

Capital & Infrastructure

a16z / Founders Fund
Pro-acceleration VC · opposes heavy regulation

Open Philanthropy
EA-aligned funder · major CAIS + safety org donor

NVIDIA
GPU monopoly · infrastructure chokepoint

Microsoft
OpenAI partner · Azure AI cloud

Amazon AWS
Anthropic investor · cloud infrastructure

* Binding only under the EU AI Act, for GPAI models classified as "systemic risk" (≥10²⁵ FLOPs) — applicable since Aug 2025, fully enforceable Aug 2026. US (CAISI/NIST) and UK (AISI) pre-deployment testing agreements with labs remain voluntary, not statutory.