NVIDIA Commits $6 Billion to Build a Powerful U.S. Alternative to Chinese AI

Published: August 25, 2026 | Company: NVIDIA Corporation | By: Zoe Andersen

SANTA CLARA, Calif. — August 25, 2026 — NVIDIA is committing $6 billion through a deal with AI startup Poolside aimed at advancing a powerful U.S.-based alternative in the rapidly evolving open-weight artificial intelligence market. The initiative expands NVIDIA's role beyond accelerated computing and reflects a broader effort to strengthen the development of competitive AI models and technologies in the United States.

According to reporting on the agreement, NVIDIA will use the deal to license Poolside's Model Factory technology, the system developed by the startup to support the creation of AI models. NVIDIA will also bring a significant group of Poolside employees into its organization, with the talent expected to contribute to the company's Nemotron open-weight AI efforts.

Expanding NVIDIA's Open-Weight AI Strategy

The agreement comes as open-weight AI models gain increasing attention worldwide. Models developed by Chinese AI companies, including DeepSeek and Kimi, have intensified competition around models that can be more accessible, customizable and economical to deploy than some proprietary alternatives.

For NVIDIA, the Poolside arrangement provides an opportunity to strengthen its capabilities in model development while continuing to support a broader AI ecosystem. The company has already been developing its Nemotron family of open-weight models, and the additional engineering expertise is expected to contribute to future work in this area.

The reported agreement is structured as a technology licensing arrangement rather than an acquisition of Poolside. Poolside is expected to continue operating independently, while NVIDIA gains access to its Model Factory technology and engineering talent. Reporting indicates that 109 Poolside employees are being offered positions at NVIDIA.

A Focus on Open and Customizable AI

Open-weight AI can provide developers and organizations with greater flexibility in how models are deployed, adapted and integrated into their own environments. That flexibility has become an important part of the global AI landscape as organizations evaluate alternatives to closed, proprietary systems.

NVIDIA’s investment therefore represents more than an expansion of its model-development capabilities. It positions the company to participate more directly in the development of AI models while continuing to provide the computing platforms and software infrastructure that underpin modern AI workloads.

The initiative also comes against the backdrop of a growing U.S. effort to strengthen domestic AI capabilities. NVIDIA has separately emphasized expanding American manufacturing, supply chains and AI infrastructure through partnerships across the United States. The company says its broader domestic efforts are intended to increase U.S. capacity for advanced computing and AI development.

Supporting the Next Phase of AI Development

The Poolside arrangement gives NVIDIA access to technology and specialized engineering expertise while allowing Poolside’s remaining organization to continue its independent work. The structure is intended to combine NVIDIA’s scale and computing capabilities with Poolside’s experience in developing AI models.

The move also highlights NVIDIA’s expanding position across multiple layers of the AI ecosystem. While the company remains widely known for accelerated computing, its activities increasingly include AI software, model development, infrastructure and partnerships designed to support the continued growth of artificial intelligence.

As the competitive landscape develops, open-weight models are expected to remain an important area of innovation. NVIDIA’s investment gives the company a stronger position to participate in that market while contributing to the development of U.S.-based AI capabilities.

Availability and Next Steps

The technology and talent arrangement will support NVIDIA’s ongoing work on its open-weight AI initiatives, including Nemotron. Further details regarding specific future models, products, release schedules or commercial availability were not included in the information available for this announcement.

For additional information about NVIDIA and its AI technologies, visit the NVIDIA official website or the NVIDIA Newsroom.

About NVIDIA

NVIDIA (NASDAQ: NVDA) is a leader in accelerated computing and artificial intelligence. The company develops computing platforms, software and technologies used across AI, data centers, graphics, robotics, automotive and other technology markets. NVIDIA is headquartered in Santa Clara, California, and operates across multiple regions worldwide.

NVIDIA has also been expanding its U.S. manufacturing and infrastructure ecosystem, working with partners and suppliers to increase domestic capacity across areas including chips, packaging, optics and AI systems.