



Press Release

Soofi Develops Sovereign Foundation Models in Germany with NVIDIA AI

Germany's leading research consortium Soofi collaborates with NVIDIA to advance sovereign, open-source foundation models — trained, owned, and governed in Germany on Deutsche Telekom's industrial AI cloud.

Berlin, Germany, and San Jose, California, March 16, 2026

Soofi (**Sovereign Open Source Foundation Model** initiative) announced an initiative to develop and train sovereign foundation models in Germany with NVIDIA. The initiative brings together Germany's national AI research capabilities with NVIDIA's accelerated computing technology to strengthen German and European digital sovereignty. Sovereign AI enables nations to build and govern their own AI infrastructure, train models rooted in their language, laws, and data, and thereby turn AI-driven economic output into a strategic advantage for long-term national competitiveness. Soofi is a consortium comprising seven leading German research institutions, two AI startups, and the German AI Association (KI Bundesverband e.V.). The project is funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy and aims to establish open, sovereign foundation models designed to meet the needs of industry, public administration, and critical infrastructure operators.

Under the collaboration, Soofi retains full responsibility for model design, training methodology, governance structures, and open-source licensing. NVIDIA provides technical enablement across accelerated computing infrastructure, hardware optimization, and AI software frameworks including [NVIDIA Nemotron](#) to support scalable and energy-efficient model training. Model development builds on established open architectures, adapted and governed entirely by the SOOFI consortium

Strengthening Sovereign AI Capabilities

Foundation models are becoming core digital infrastructure for modern economies. Their



performance and trustworthiness increasingly determine industrial competitiveness, innovation capacity, and digital resilience.

Soofi is designed to ensure that Germany and Europe maintain genuine strategic autonomy in this field, not as recipients of AI capabilities developed elsewhere, but as sovereign architects of their own AI future. All models developed within the initiative remain under German governance structures and are released under open-source licenses aligned with European regulatory frameworks. Model stewardship, lifecycle management, and long-term development remain fully anchored within the German and European ecosystem.

“Developing sovereign foundation models is essential for ensuring that Germany remains competitive in the era of generative AI,” said [Joerg Bienert, Managing Director KI-Bundesverband, Program Manager Soofi]. “Through our collaboration with NVIDIA, we combine world-class research and ecosystem strength with their deep infrastructure expertise, reflected in NVIDIA’s proven Nemotron 3 architecture. Training on the Deutsche Telekom industrial AI cloud provides us with the secure, high-performance environment required to develop trusted and scalable AI systems that meet the highest standards of performance and trustworthiness.

“AI is the new industrial infrastructure,” said Markus Hacker, Senior Regional Director Enterprise & Country Lead DACH at NVIDIA. “Soofi demonstrates how national AI ecosystems can combine governance, research excellence, and advanced computing to build sovereign AI capabilities entirely on their own terms. Our role is to provide the accelerated computing infrastructure and proven model architectures like Nemotron that Soofi’s researchers need — the models, governance, and long-term stewardship remain theirs.”

The collaboration supports Soofi’s commitment to strengthening Europe’s AI ecosystem, with NVIDIA providing the technical infrastructure to do so at scale.

About Soofi

Soofi (Sovereign Open Source Foundation Model initiative) is a German consortium consisting of seven leading research institutions, two AI startups, and the German AI Association (KI Bundesverband e.V.). Funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy, Soofi aims to develop open, sovereign foundation models tailored to the needs of industry and the public sector.