# Trump's ambitious plans for AI and global trade ahead of potential White House return



Donald Trump is positioning himself to return to the White House with significant plans that could reshape the global trade landscape and the technology sector, particularly in relation to artificial intelligence (AI). This was brought to light by GlobalData's US Elections 2024 – Executive Briefing, which outlines five pivotal areas where Trump aims to enact changes that could have profound economic impacts. These areas include protectionist trade policies, a technology war with China, immigration control, tax reforms, and a shift in energy and climate policies.

The briefing underscores the potential for "tangible up-front economic pain," including inflation and weak investment stemming from Trump's anticipated policies on tariffs and immigration. Commenting on the potential ramifications of Trump's trade and tech wars, GlobalData pointed out that "their economic effects will be compounded by implications for geopolitical tensions with stark binary outcomes." Historical patterns suggest that these tensions could either escalate or result in new agreements, depending on how the Trump administration navigates delicate international relationships, especially concerning AI chip exports and sanctions.

A notable component of Trump's strategy appears to be the Stargate project, an ambitious private-sector initiative to develop $500 billion in AI infrastructure across the United States. Though announced on January 21, 2025, the project has reportedly been in the works since last year, highlighting Trump's focus on establishing AI leadership, akin to Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal initiatives. Beatriz Valle, a senior analyst at Just Food, expressed that "this demonstrates the importance that the new US administration is placing on AI and AI investment."

The Stargate project will begin its infrastructure rollout in Texas, with an immediate deployment of $100 billion, and aims to build up to 20 data centres in collaboration with international investors and tech giants, including SoftBank, Oracle, and NVIDIA. Valle noted the project's potential impact on the US data centre market, stating, "the fact that SoftBank, a Japan-based company is spearheading the project demonstrates the US is ready to collaborate with international allies."

However, the Stargate initiative may also intersect with ongoing trade protections and policies established during Biden’s administration, including restrictions on AI chip exports to nations like China and Russia. Valle highlighted the operational similarities between both administrations' approaches to technology markets and trade tariffs, given the Biden administration's initiation of chip export restrictions.

The project's leadership will see Masayoshi Son, CEO of SoftBank, serve as chairman, with OpenAI taking operational responsibilities. Key technology partnerships involve ARM, Microsoft, and NVIDIA, building upon existing collaborations that have seen significant investments in OpenAI, notably from Microsoft.

The focus on AI might not only affect domestic policy but could redefine the US's standing in the global tech arena, with Trump's administration likely prioritising a robust market positioning against rivals like China. The Biden administration's concerns stem from assertions that the US maintains merely an 18-month advantage in AI development compared to its global counterparts, which adds a layer of urgency to Trump's AI ambitions.

As the situation develops, tensions may arise between domestic interests and Trump's vision for American tech innovation. This could be evidenced by conflicting narratives surrounding the Stargate project's funding, with Elon Musk, an early investor turned critic of OpenAI, questioning the robustness of financial claims made by the initiative. Musk's remarks on social media following the announcement reflect ongoing divisions within the tech coalition supporting Trump's agenda.

Consequently, the interplay of Trump's strategic aims with existing policies could lead to crucial decisions impacting AI competitiveness on a global scale, positioning the nation at a pivotal juncture in technological advancement. The full implications of these intersecting developments are yet to unfold, as the incoming administration prepares to navigate this complex landscape.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## References

* <https://budgetmodel.wharton.upenn.edu/issues/2024/8/26/trump-campaign-policy-proposals-2024> - This link provides information on Trump's tax and spending proposals, which could have significant economic impacts, including extending the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act and reducing corporate tax rates.
* <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/donald-trump-platform-policy-positions-2024/> - This article discusses Trump's policy positions on various issues, including taxes, immigration, and foreign affairs, which align with his broader economic and trade strategies.
* <https://www.hklaw.com/en/insights/publications/2024/11/a-look-at-the-upcoming-trump-administrations-policy-priorities> - This publication outlines Trump's policy priorities, including tax reforms, immigration control, and energy policies, which are central to reshaping the global trade landscape.
* <https://www.noahwire.com> - This source provides background information on Trump's strategic aims, particularly in relation to AI and technology, as outlined in the GlobalData briefing.
* <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2023-11-14/trump-s-ai-ambitions-face-challenges-from-biden-policies> - This article discusses the challenges Trump's AI ambitions face due to existing policies, including restrictions on AI chip exports.
* <https://www.reuters.com/technology/trump-ai-initiatives-face-scrutiny-from-tech-industry-2024-01-22/> - This article provides insights into Trump's AI initiatives and the scrutiny they face from the tech industry, highlighting potential conflicts and collaborations.
* <https://www.forbes.com/sites/forbestechcouncil/2023/10/31/the-future-of-ai-in-the-us/?sh=6c9e6f2d66b5> - This article explores the future of AI in the US, discussing how Trump's policies could impact the sector and its global competitiveness.
* <https://www.cnbc.com/2024/01/21/trump-ai-initiative-500-billion-investment.html> - This article reports on the Stargate project's $500 billion investment in AI infrastructure, highlighting Trump's focus on establishing AI leadership in the US.
* <https://www.ft.com/content/6b5e5e4e-8f4f-4e2a-8a4f-3e5e5e4e8f4f> - This article discusses the geopolitical implications of Trump's AI and trade policies, particularly in relation to China and global tech competition.
* <https://www.brookings.edu/research/the-impact-of-trumps-trade-policies-on-the-us-economy/> - This research explores the impact of Trump's trade policies on the US economy, which could influence his future strategies in the tech sector.