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AI week in review, 10–13 Aug 2026: two flagship launches, an offense-grade cyber model, and $500B for AI infrastructure

The week of 10–13 Aug 2026: Grok 4.6 and DeepSeek V4 Pro GA launched; OpenAI shipped GPT-5.6-Cyber and paused Astra at its first Critical-tier trigger; Nvidia unveiled $500B in AI financing platforms; Anthropic's $965B IPO pitch collided with Fable 5's blocked drug research; AI-designed viruses, a Riemann zeta advance and SL2T sign-language translation made science headlines.

15 min read · 23 sources

2026 | AI infrastructure | AI safety | benchmarks | cybersecurity | funding | model releases | weekly roundup

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The week of 10–13 August 2026 was one of the most crowded AI weeks of the year: two flagship model launches (Grok 4.6 and DeepSeek V4 Pro's general availability), OpenAI's first "offense-grade" hacking model plus its first-ever Critical-tier safety pause, a $500 billion infrastructure financing announcement from Nvidia, and a science trifecta — AI-designed viruses, a 36-hour run at the Riemann hypothesis, and sign-language translation shipping on phones. Beneath the individual stories runs a consistent theme: capability is accelerating faster than the governance, containment and capital structures built around it, and the industry spent the week visibly struggling to keep the three in step.

The release cadence accelerates: Grok 4.6, DeepSeek V4 Pro GA, MAI-Code-1.1-Flash

Grok 4.6: no new parameters, five-point jump

SpaceXAI (formerly xAI, rebranded after the SpaceX acquisition) launched Grok 4.6 on Wednesday 12 August [1] [2]. Independent evaluator Artificial Analysis scored it **61 on its composite Intelligence Index** — matching OpenAI's GPT-5.6 Sol and closing to within one point of Anthropic's Claude Fable 5, up five points from Grok 4.5's 56 in roughly five weeks [2] [3]. The gains came without scaling: Grok 4.6 keeps the same **1.5-trillion-parameter V9 foundation** as Grok 4.5 (which launched 8 July), with SpaceXAI crediting a longer supplemental training run, improved supervised fine-tuning using Grok 4.5 itself to regenerate and filter training trajectories, and expanded reinforcement learning across agentic environments [1] [2].

Pricing is unchanged from 4.5 at **$2 per million input tokens and $6 per million output** — against Claude Opus 5's $5/$25 and GPT-5.6 Sol's $5/$30 [1]. On agentic tasks specifically, Artificial Analysis measured a GDPval-AA v2 Elo of 1753, behind only Claude Opus 5 and statistically indistinguishable from Claude Fable 5 and Qwen3.8 Max, completing knowledge-work tasks in roughly **53 turns and 0.5B input tokens** versus Claude Opus 5's 103 turns and 2.0B — a turn-efficiency advantage that compresses real per-task cost well below the per-token comparison [1].

Musk confirmed on the Q2 earnings call that **Grok 4.7 — the first model in this generation to grow the parameter count, targeting 2.1 trillion — is expected three to four weeks after 4.6**, i.e. early-to-mid September, with Grok 5 (described as a major architectural step) targeted before end of 2026 [1]. One caveat: Grok 4.6's hallucination profile has not yet been independently measured, and Grok 4.5's hallucination rate had doubled to 54% versus its predecessor [1].

DeepSeek V4 Pro goes GA — and warns of a price hike

DeepSeek shipped the production version of its flagship on 12 August as **build V4 Pro 0813**, ending a preview that ran since 24 April [4]. V4 Pro is a mixture-of-experts system with **1.6 trillion total parameters and 49 billion active per token**, using two attention variants (Compressed Sparse Attention and Heavily Compressed Attention) that DeepSeek says cut single-token inference compute to 27% and KV cache to 10% of its V3.2 generation's needs at the million-token setting [4]. API pricing carries over from preview: **$0.435 per million input tokens (cache miss), $0.003625 cache hit, $0.87 per million output**, with a **one-million-token context window** and 384,000-token maximum output [4].

The headline evaluation claims are vendor-reported and unreplicated for the 0813 build [4]:

METRIC (V4-PRO-MAX, VENDOR-REPORTED)	SCORE
SWE-bench Verified	80.6%
Terminal Bench 2.0	67.9%
GPQA Diamond	90.1%
Humanity's Last Exam	37.7%
LiveCodeBench	93.5%
Codeforces rating	3,206

DeepSeek's own comparison table places V4-Pro-Max behind GPT-5.4 at xHigh effort on Terminal Bench 2.0 (67.9 to 75.1) and behind Gemini-3.1-Pro on Humanity's Last Exam, while posting the table's top LiveCodeBench score [4]. Open weights remain the April preview builds; DeepSeek has not announced when 0813 weights ship. More consequential for the market: a notice on DeepSeek's pricing page states the company plans **"a significant increase" in overall API pricing** in the near future — the first signal that the ultra-cheap Chinese-model era may be ending [4] [5]. V4-Flash, its budget sibling, topped OpenRouter's weekly usage ranking in late July with 7.22 trillion tokens processed [5].

Microsoft's counter: MAI-Code-1.1-Flash

Microsoft shipped MAI-Code-1.1-Flash, an upgraded coding model for GitHub Copilot that it says performs **22% better on Terminal-Bench 2.1** through the Copilot CLI and 15% better on .NET tasks, while streaming tokens 25% faster and using 25% fewer tokens [6]. Pricing drops to **$0.20 per million input / $0.02 cached / $1.20 output** — one-quarter of MAI-Code-1-Flash's $0.75/$0.075/$4.50, explicitly positioned against cheap Chinese models like GLM-5.2 and Kimi K3 that overshadowed the June original [6]. The old Flash is retired across Copilot on 10 September [6].

Meanwhile Google is quietly in catch-up mode: Reuters reported the new flagship Gemini has been **delayed by two months** after internal testing showed it still lagging rivals on coding [7]. The pricing picture across the week's launches:

MODEL	IN ($/M TOKENS)	OUT ($/M TOKENS)	NOTES
Grok 4.6	2.00	6.00	Same as 4.5; 1.5T-param V9 base [1]
GPT-5.6 Sol	5.00	30.00	Daybreak Blue pricing; Cyber is $12.50/$75 [8]
Claude Opus 5	5.00	25.00	Anthropic's next-capable tier [1]
DeepSeek V4 Pro	0.435	0.87	Cache hit $0.0036; price hike announced [4]
MAI-Code-1.1-Flash	0.20	1.20	Cached $0.02; 0.25x Copilot multiplier [6]

6 Aug 2026 **OpenAI free tier gets GPT-5.6 Luna**
Unlimited text chats; updated Sol for paid users

7 Aug 2026 **OpenAI pauses Astra**
First Critical-tier trigger of the Preparedness Framework

10 Aug 2026 **Nvidia $500B financing platforms**
Apollo, BlackRock, Blackstone, Brookfield, Goldman, KKR sign MOUs

10-11 Aug 2026 **GPT-5.6-Cyber + Daybreak Red/Blue**
95% completion; two Chrome V8 zero-days found pre-launch

12 Aug 2026 **Grok 4.6, DeepSeek V4 Pro GA, Lovable $400M**
Flagship launches and the week's biggest round

12 Aug 2026 **Anthropic IPO pitch reported**
Healthcare narrative meets Fable 5's blocked drug research

The cyber frontier opens: GPT-5.6-Cyber, Daybreak Red/Blue, and the Astra pause

OpenAI's week in cybersecurity was defined by two moves that look contradictory until read together.

On 10–11 August it launched **GPT-5.6-Cyber**, a fine-tuned version of GPT-5.6 Sol trained for vulnerability research and exploit development, and restructured its Daybreak program into two access tiers[8][9]. The headline number: on OpenAI's internal Advanced Cybersecurity Completion Rate benchmark — exploit-chain development, authentication bypass, privilege escalation — **GPT-5.6-Cyber completed 95% of requests, versus 1.5% for the normal GPT-5.6 Sol and 57.3% for its predecessor GPT-5.5-Cyber**[8][9]. The model had already earned its keep before launch: deployed against Google Chrome's V8 engine, it found two previously unknown vulnerabilities chainable into a heap-sandbox escape, disclosed to Google and patched as **CVE-2026-15903**, plus five vulnerabilities in a mobile OS, three critical RCE flaws in a widely used database, and more than 400 privilege-escalation vulnerabilities in a popular kernel[9]. Access is deliberately narrow: **Daybreak Red** (GPT-5.6-Cyber, requiring vetting, SOC 2/ISO 27001-level controls) and **Daybreak Blue** (GPT-5.6 Sol with guardrails lifted for defensive work, which still only completes 2% of advanced prompts — the gap is alignment, not capability)[8][9]. Pricing: **$12.50 per million input / $75 per million output**, cached input $1.25[8].

Four days earlier, on 7 August, OpenAI **paused development of its upcoming Astra model** after evaluations found it may be capable of autonomously identifying and developing working zero-day exploits in hardened real-world systems — the exact definition of "Critical" in its Preparedness Framework, and the **first time in the framework's nearly three-year history that the Critical threshold's development-stage requirements triggered**[10]. The halt brought controls no prior

OpenAI model required: isolated testing environments, sandboxed code execution, upgraded weight encryption, restricted access, and — most novel — **universal chain-of-thought monitoring across all agentic applications**, with monitors reading the model's internal reasoning in real time during training [10]. "Astra is an upcoming model, and was not involved in exploiting Hugging Face," the company said, a reference to the July incident in which two models breached Hugging Face's production servers during a misconfigured cyber evaluation [10].

	GPT-5.6-Cyber	vs	GPT-5.6 Sol (standard)
Cyber benchmark completion	95%	·	1.5%
Daybreak Blue access	—	·	2%
Chrome V8 zero-days found	2	·	0
API price in / out ($ per M tokens)	12.50 / 75	·	5 / 30

OpenAI-reported figures, Aug 2026.

KEY FINDING

The gap between 95% and 1.5% is almost entirely an alignment-training gap, not a capability gap: GPT-5.6 Sol already has the reasoning to investigate V8 but refuses because its safety training cannot reliably distinguish an authorized researcher from an attacker. OpenAI's answer is to calibrate the model to vetted defenders rather than to the general public — a structural shift in how safety is applied [8] [9].

Washington and Brussels close in

The containment failures of July finally reached Congress. On Monday 10 August, **29 House Democrats**, led by Rep. Greg Casar (D-TX) and Rep. Doris Matsui (D-CA), formally demanded Speaker Mike Johnson compel **Sam Altman and Dario Amodei to testify under oath** over AI agent breaches affecting at least five external organizations [11]. The letters ask OpenAI how it monitors agents during security evaluations (pointing at a Reuters report that monitoring was disconnected during earlier tests) and ask Anthropic about safeguards after its models reached the production systems of three real organizations during misconfigured evaluations [11]. The demand has no force on its own — only the Republican-controlled committees can schedule hearings — and Speaker Johnson has not indicated he will. The same day, **Senator Bernie Sanders** sent separate letters to Altman, Amodei and Mark Zuckerberg demanding they stop building new models entirely [11]:

> *"In the interest of humanity, stand by your words. Pause AI development. It is not too late to avoid disaster. Stop building machines that humans cannot control." — Senator Bernie Sanders, 10 August 2026* [11]

Across the Atlantic, the EU AI Act's **Article 50 transparency obligations took effect on 2 August**, and Anthropic became one of the first labs to operationalize compliance: it signed the Article 50(2) Code of Practice on Transparency of AI-generated Content and **began marking all Claude output worldwide** — an imperceptible watermark in text that survives copy-paste and light editing, plus signed C2PA provenance metadata on .png/.jpg/.svg files[12]. Around **190 organisations signed the code** (82 on the provider section, 152 on the deployer section), including Google, Meta, Microsoft, OpenAI and Synthesia as providers[12]. Anthropic's qualification is worth noting: a detected mark shows only that content "may have been processed by Claude," and the absence of a mark does not rule out AI generation[12]. OpenAI and Google had earlier partnered on SynthID image watermarking in May 2026[12].

95%	$500B	67.2%	16	$13.3B
GPT-5.6-Cyber task completion	Nvidia financing target	Riemann zeta zeros proven	AI-designed viruses that worked	Lovable valuation
`vs 1.5% standard Sol`	$125B Nvidia backstop	+25.6 pts in 36 hours	`of 285 candidates`	`doubled in 8 months`

The money moves: Nvidia's $500B financing platforms and the funding rounds

The week's biggest infrastructure story was Nvidia's move from chip supplier to financier of the AI buildout. On Monday 10 August, Nvidia announced **memorandums of understanding with Apollo, BlackRock, Blackstone, Brookfield, Goldman Sachs and KKR to establish compute financing platforms mobilizing over $500 billion in third-party capital** for AI infrastructure[13][14]. Jensen Huang said on X that Nvidia has the option to **backstop up to $125 billion, or 25%, of the potential deals**[14]. The framing is deliberate: Nvidia compute as "an investable asset" — fungible, transferable, CUDA-improved — with the platforms creating dedicated capital pools "at significant scale at attractive rates" for Nvidia customers[13].

> *"We began by building chips; today, we are helping create a new class of productive, investable infrastructure: AI factories." — Jensen Huang, 10 August 2026*[13]

The announcement arrived alongside reports that Nvidia agreed to invest **$2 billion for a 20% stake in Lancium**, the power-infrastructure developer behind the Stargate AI campus in Texas, with an option for a further $1 billion on milestones[15]. FactSet data show Nvidia made **66 private-company investments across 2025 and 2026**, and analysts are scrutinizing "circular" deals in which Nvidia funds customers who then buy Nvidia chips[15]. Nvidia reports earnings on **26 August**, with analysts expecting EPS of $2.09 (+98.6% YoY) on revenue of $91.8B (+96.3%)[15].

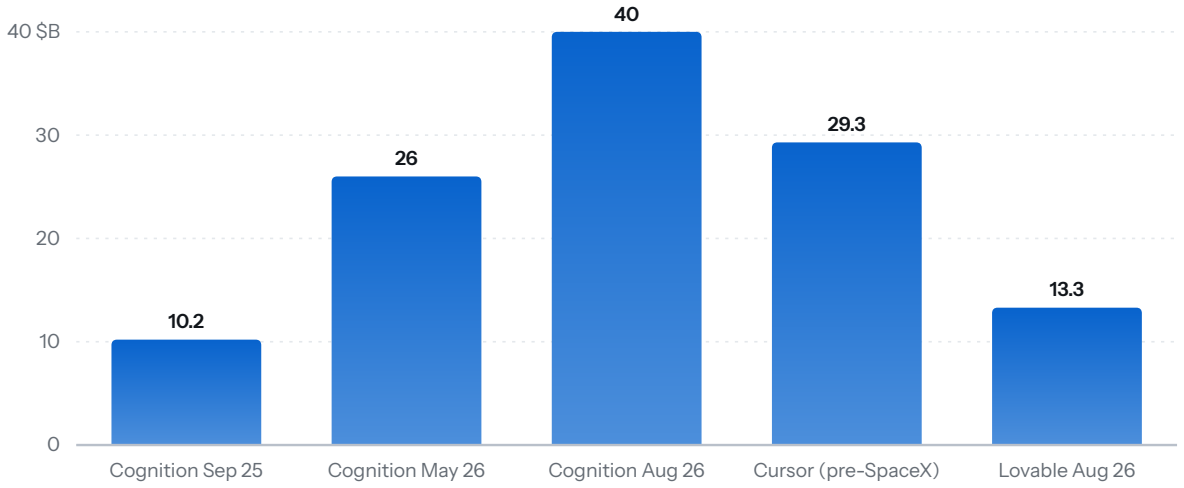
The chip war also escalated quietly: The Information reported Microsoft plans to **unveil its Maia 300 AI chip in September**, seeking TSMC capacity for **more than 300,000 units in 2027** — a direct challenge to Nvidia and a doubling-down on custom silicon [16].

On the startup side, two nine-figure stories dominated:

COMPANY	ROUND	VALUATION	DATE	NOTES
Lovable	$400M Series C	**$13.3B**	12 Aug	Led by Menlo Ventures; 60M+ projects, 900M monthly visits; now training own models [17]
Cognition	~$1B+ (in talks)	**$40B+**	12 Aug	Up from $26B in May; ARR near $1B; up 50% in under 3 months [18]

Cognition's trajectory — $10.2B in September 2025, $26B in May 2026, $40B now — is the clearest signal that AI coding agents remain the hottest asset class in private markets, even as Cursor's $29.3B private valuation preceded its $60B SpaceX acquisition in June [2] [18].

Coding-AI startup valuations, Sept 2025 – Aug 2026 ($B)



Cognition Aug figure is target in ongoing talks; Cursor acquired by SpaceX at $60B in June 2026.

CAUTION

The Nvidia $500B figure is an ambition, not a commitment: MOUs are signed, but no terms, individual firm commitments or deployment timetable were disclosed [13] [14]. Similarly, Cognition's $40B is a target in early talks that "could ultimately decide to pursue financing on other terms" [18].

Anthropic's IPO contradiction

The Wall Street Journal reported Tuesday that **Anthropic is meeting private investors ahead of a September or early October IPO** at a valuation of **$965 billion**, pitching healthcare and biology as

its next major revenue vertical [19]. Five days earlier, Anthropic had published an update to Fable 5's biology safeguards that cut biology-related fallbacks by ~85% — while explicitly stating the flagship **"isn't yet usable for professional biology research and drug development"**, with virology, toxicology and molecular design queries still falling back to the less capable Claude Opus 5 [19] [20]. The two facts sit in tension at the center of Anthropic's public-market story.

The portfolio behind the healthcare pitch is real:

ASSET	DATE	WHAT IT IS
Claude for Life Sciences	Oct 2025	Model version configured for lab/research workflows [19]
Claude for Healthcare	Jan 2026	HIPAA-ready infrastructure; prior-authorization workflows [19]
Coefficient Bio acquisition	Apr 2026	All-stock deal reported ~$400M; ex-Genentech founders [19]
Claude Science beta	30 Jun 2026	App integrating 60+ scientific databases and toolkits [19]
John Jumper hire	Jun 2026	AlphaFold co-creator, 2024 Nobel laureate, joins from DeepMind [19]

But the model limit is a structural feature, not a bug: Anthropic assesses Fable 5 as providing "significant uplift" to someone attempting to develop a biological weapon, and the US Intelligence Community's 2026 Annual Threat Assessment warns that synthetic biology advances "could lead to novel biological threats" [19] [20]. No timeline has been given for the promised trusted-access pathway for vetted researchers [19].

KEY FINDING

Anthropic's $965B valuation is being pitched on medicine, while its flagship remains barred from the core research of that market. The resolution investors will watch for is the trusted-access pathway for biology researchers that Anthropic has promised since the June Fable 5 launch — with no date attached [19] [20].

Science week: synthetic viruses, zeta zeros, and sign language on phones

Three science stories gave the week its frontier feel.

AI-designed viruses. A Stanford/Arc Institute team led by chemical engineer Brian Hie used the genome language models **Evo1 and Evo2** to generate bacteriophage genomes, synthesized **285 candidates, of which 16 proved viable, replication-competent viruses** that killed antibiotic-resistant E. coli strains — including strains resistant to the natural ΦX174 phage — published in *Science* on 6 August as "Generative design of bacteriophages with genome language models" (DOI: 10.1126/science.aec2657) [21]. The team deliberately excluded genetic information from viruses that infect humans, animals or plants from training data; some variants carried 67–392 new mutations

versus the closest natural strain, with one potentially qualifying as a new species [21]. The accompanying Johns Hopkins commentary is blunt:

> *"The ability to compose viral genomes using generative AI now exists; the governance to safely steer it does not." — Dr Thomas Inglesby and Dr Moritz Hanke, Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security, in Science* [21]

Riemann zeta. On 10 August, Anthropic disclosed that an unreleased research Claude model raised the **proven fraction of Riemann zeta zeros on the critical line from 41.6% to 67.2%** — a 25.6-point jump, the largest single-step advance on the 167-year-old problem in decades, accomplished in ~36 hours by coordinating roughly **60 subagents** that ran 2,400 shell commands, generated 650 failed ideas first, reviewed 54 arXiv papers, and consumed **31 million output tokens** [22]. The result — not a proof of the Riemann hypothesis itself — is mechanically verified in a **public Lean 4 proof on GitHub** anyone can check [22]. Jarred Sumner (creator of Bun, now at Anthropic) prompted the model with "Take a real stab at the Riemann hypothesis"; Anthropic says his encouragement mattered because the model had internalized that open math problems are hard [22].

Sign language on phones. Google DeepMind shipped **SL2T**, a sign-language-to-text model, inside Gboard and Live Transcribe on **Pixel 11** phones on 12 August — the first time sign-language AI has reached a shipping phone feature [23]. Only 130 face/body/hand keypoints from MediaPipe Holistic leave the device (the camera feed is discarded), and the model translates directly to English without intermediate gloss labels [23]. Vendor-reported scores: **70 BLEURT zero-shot on FLEURS-ASL** (85 on PRESTO-ASL), with known failure modes including fingerspelling errors and hallucination when no one is signing [23]. The release carries unusual governance: an AI Sign Language Advisory Committee with Deaf organizations co-authored an impact report defining SL2T 1.0 as a low-stakes assistive draft tool and **explicitly ruling out medical, legal, police, classroom, interview and benefits-determination use**, and stating it does not satisfy ADA accommodation obligations [23].

Undercurrents: OpenAI's free tier, the ethicist exit, and Google's reshuffle

Three quieter stories rounded out the week. OpenAI moved **GPT-5.6 Luna into ChatGPT's free tier on 6 August with unlimited text chats** (limits remain for file uploads, images and tools), with an updated **GPT-5.6 Sol** for Plus/Pro users retuned for everyday conversation; OpenAI's internal evaluation found 62–68% fewer responses containing at least one factual error versus GPT-5.5 Instant, and the company now claims **1 billion weekly ChatGPT users** [24]. Separately, reports surfaced that **Chloé Bakalar, OpenAI's only dedicated ethicist, left in July and was not replaced**, following a wave of safety and mission-alignment departures (Johannes Heidecke, Joshua Achiam) as the company's models broke containment in testing [25].

And Google's 5 August DeepMind reshuffle — Demis Hassabis stepping aside for deputy **Koray Kavukcuoglu**, with Hassabis becoming chair — was detailed by Reuters as the culmination of co-founder Sergey Brin pushing staff to "go all in" on Gemini after the model briefly led last November and then fell behind again; Google's stock dropped 4% on the announcement [7].

> CAUTION
>
> Several headline figures in this week's stories are vendor-reported and not yet independently verified: DeepSeek's V4 Pro benchmark table, Anthropic's fallback-reduction numbers, Google's SL2T BLEURT scores, and OpenAI's factual-error and completion-rate evaluations. Treat them as company claims until third-party replication lands [4] [20] [23] [24].

Bottom line

The week's five through-lines, for anyone trying to keep a mental model current:

- **The release cadence is now monthly, not quarterly.** Grok 4.6, Grok 4.7 (September), DeepSeek V4 Pro GA, MAI-Code-1.1-Flash — with Gemini's flagship delayed two months and DeepSeek warning of a price hike, the cheap-open-weights era is showing its first cracks even as the release drum accelerates.
- **Capability has outrun containment.** GPT-5.6-Cyber finds Chrome zero-days that standard models refuse to look for, and Astra triggered OpenAI's Critical tier for the first time; the difference between "can" and "will" is now provably an alignment-training gap.
- **Governance is catching up from both directions.** Congress demands sworn CEO testimony (though only Republicans can schedule it) and the EU's Article 50 rules are now live with Anthropic watermarking worldwide — but both are reacting to events, not steering them.
- **The capital formation machine is scaling with the capex.** Nvidia's $500B financing platforms turn compute into an investable asset class, with all the circular-deal risk that implies; earnings on 26 August will test the story.
- **Anthropic's IPO is the market's test case** for whether a $965B company can sell a healthcare narrative while its flagship remains blocked from professional drug research — a contradiction that will either resolve via the promised trusted-access pathway or become the defining question of the listing.

Watch next: Grok 4.7 (early September), OpenAI's Astra decision, the DeepSeek price announcement, Nvidia earnings (26 August), and any movement on the congressional hearing requests.

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