

News Digest

FRIDAY . JULY 10, 2026

The Brief Today's Headlines

01 SK Hynix sets record with \$26.5B US IPO, signaling confidence in AI chip demand despite market volatility.

02 Apple files major lawsuit against OpenAI alleging trade secret theft by former employees.

03 EU regulators order Meta to disable addictive design features or face massive fines.

04 US-Iran tensions escalate as Washington demands Hormuz Strait remain open amid threat of war.

05 AI ethics concerns surge with university cheating scandals and UN summit warnings on inequality.

Finance 4 dispatches

SK Hynix Raises \$26.5B in Historic US IPO Amid Chip Boom

South Korean memory chip giant SK Hynix completed the largest-ever IPO by a non-American company, raising \$26.5 billion with shares jumping 14% on debut. The capital will fund new factories and upgrades to meet surging demand for AI-specific high-bandwidth memory. US officials are urging the company to build new fabrication plants domestically to reduce reliance on foreign supply chains.

Sources TechCrunch.Bloomberg Markets.MarketWatch

US Orders Iran to Open Hormuz Strait Amid War Threats

The US has issued a Saturday deadline for Iran to declare the Strait of Hormuz open and cease attacks on commercial ships, raising fears of full-scale war. Diplomatic efforts are ongoing in Oman and Qatar, but recent deadly strikes in the Persian Gulf have heightened tensions significantly. Global oil supplies remain at risk as the International Energy Agency warns of potential inventory disruptions.

Sources [ZeroHedge](#)

US EV Sales Rebound as Gas Prices Rise

The US electric vehicle market posted its first sequential sales improvement since federal incentives ended, driven by higher gas prices making EVs more economically viable. Tesla retained dominance with over 50% market share, while Toyota and Kia also saw significant increases despite losses for Ford and Chevrolet. Analysts suggest the shift indicates growing consumer demand for sustainable options when cost-competitive.

Sources [Business Insider](#)

Nuclear Energy Firm Holtec Joins IPO Rush

Nuclear energy services firm Holtec is joining a surge of sector IPOs, seeking public listing amid growing interest in nuclear power solutions. The move reflects broader investor appetite for emerging energy technologies capable of supporting high-demand infrastructure like AI data centers. Market analysts are watching closely for signs of sustained growth in the nuclear services sector.

Sources [Bloomberg Markets](#)

Technology 7 dispatches

EU Orders Meta to Disable Addictive Features or Face Fines

The European Commission preliminarily found Meta's Facebook and Instagram addictive, urging the company to disable features like autoplay and infinite scroll or risk massive fines. Regulators argued current mitigation efforts fail to protect minors adequately, demanding changes to recommender systems to reduce engagement-oriented design. Meta disputes the findings but faces months of scrutiny before a final decision.

Sources [Ars Technica](#)

[Related](#) [Meta Removes Controversial AI Photo Feature After Backlash](#)

Meta Removes Controversial AI Photo Feature After Backlash

Meta pulled a new Instagram AI feature allowing users to modify photos by mentioning public accounts following widespread criticism from talent agencies and users. The company admitted the tool missed the mark regarding potential misuse and creative control concerns. This reversal highlights growing tension between generative AI capabilities and content safety on social platforms.

Sources TechCrunch

[Related](#) EU Orders Meta to Disable Addictive Features or Face Fines

China Successfully Recovers First Reusable Rocket

Chinese company LandSpace recovered its Zhuque-3 rocket booster, marking a significant step in the country's push for reusable launch technology. The achievement positions China to potentially surpass US launch cadence as multiple domestic firms race to develop similar capabilities. However, Western analysts remain concerned about the dual-use military applications of these advancements.

Sources Ars Technica

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NASA Releases Strict Requirements for Private Space Stations

NASA released a draft Request for Proposals with over 3,000 requirements for private space station developers, sparking concerns about stringency among industry players. While the cost-plus contract structure offers financial security, critics argue the guidelines give NASA engineers too much design control. The program represents a critical transition point for US commercial spaceflight policy.

Sources Ars Technica

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Brown Professor Finds Majority of Class Cheated Using AI

An economics professor at Brown University discovered widespread AI cheating on take-home exams, with average scores plummeting after switching to in-person testing. The incident highlights the challenges universities face in adapting assessment methods to the prevalence of generative AI tools. Administrative responses have been criticized as insufficient by faculty members.

Sources Slashdot

[Related](#) UN AI Summit Highlights Risks of Inequality and Surveillance

Russian Hackers Spy on NATO Bases Via Doorbell Cameras

Dutch intelligence agencies discovered Russian hackers hijacking unsecured internet-connected doorbell cameras to surveil NATO military bases and transport routes. The exploit relies on outdated firmware and default passwords, offering a cheap alternative to satellite reconnaissance. Authorities are urging organizations to secure IP cameras immediately to prevent further intelligence leaks.

Sources Slashdot

US Cities Use Drones to Fine Illegal Fireworks

Police and fire departments across California utilized drone surveillance to issue hundreds of thousands of dollars in fines for illegal fireworks on July 4th. New FAA regulations enabling beyond visual line of sight flights have accelerated the adoption of this technology by first responders. The trend underscores the expanding role of drones in local law enforcement and safety monitoring.

Sources Ars Technica

General 2 dispatches

Apple Sues OpenAI Over Trade Secret Theft

Apple filed a federal lawsuit accusing OpenAI of stealing trade secrets through hired former employees who allegedly emailed internal information to themselves. The suit claims this theft gave OpenAI an unfair advantage in developing consumer hardware to compete with Apple. This legal battle marks a significant deterioration in relations between the tech giants amidst OpenAI's planned IPO.

Sources BBC News

[Related](#) Brown Professor Finds Majority of Class Cheated Using AI

Passenger Partially Sucked Out of Ryanair Window After Engine Failure

A Ryanair flight from Salonica to München made an emergency landing in Greece after engine fragments shattered a window, partially sucking out a passenger. Fellow passengers held the injured individual back until the plane landed safely, and the victim was hospitalized with minor injuries. The incident has renewed discussions on aircraft maintenance and cabin safety protocols.

Sources Biziday

AI 2 dispatches

UN AI Summit Highlights Risks of Inequality and Surveillance

The UN's AI for Good summit in Geneva focused on responsible AI deployment to solve global issues like hunger and climate change without exacerbating inequality. Speakers warned against overreliance on big tech by humanitarian organizations and called for more inclusive development infrastructure. Protests regarding technology use in conflict zones underscored the ethical complexities facing the industry.

Sources Wired AI

[Related](#) Brown Professor Finds Majority of Class Cheated Using AI

China and Russia Launch Anti-AI Propaganda Campaign in US

Intelligence reports indicate Russia, China, and Iran are running influence campaigns to inflame US debates over AI data center energy consumption. The operation uses state media to suggest American opposition to infrastructure projects, aiming to weaken US technological competitiveness from within. Similar propaganda structures are emerging in Romania as AI infrastructure develops locally.

Sources HotNews.ro

Romania 2 dispatches

German Subsidiary Weidmüller Returns to Profit in Romania

Weidmüller Interface România reported a return to profit in 2025 with revenue exceeding 365 million lei, driven by expansion in Maramureş county. The company increased its workforce to 849 employees, signaling positive trends for the local automotive and electrical sectors. This growth contrasts with broader inefficiencies seen in other Romanian industrial sectors.

Sources Ziarul Financiar

Warsaw Clean Transport Zone Improves Air Quality

Nitrogen dioxide concentrations in Warsaw decreased by 18% in restricted emission zones following the introduction of clean transport measures in 2024. The success has prompted plans to tighten restrictions further by 2032 to protect public health. Data from Clean Cities Polska highlights the effectiveness of limiting older vehicles and improving public transit.

Sources Antena 3