

Russia's AI Strategy: Advancing Amid Sanctions and Global Alliances

The global artificial intelligence (AI) landscape is increasingly shaping economic and geopolitical dynamics, with Russia positioning itself as a key player despite significant external challenges. At the **Digital Almaty Forum**, Russian Prime Minister **Mikhail Mishustin** emphasized that **a nation's success is now directly tied to its digital capabilities and AI integration**. This statement reflects Russia's evolving AI strategy, which continues to develop despite **Western sanctions, technological restrictions, and shifting international partnerships**.

Russia's AI Development Framework: The 2030 Strategy Update

In February 2024, President **Vladimir Putin** introduced amendments to **Russia's National Strategy for the Development of AI until 2030**, reinforcing the nation's long-term commitment to AI-driven transformation. The revised strategy aims to accelerate AI applications across **key sectors including healthcare, education, industry, and defense**, while also fostering an environment conducive to innovation.

This initiative reflects Russia's broader objective of achieving **technological sovereignty** and reducing dependency on Western-developed AI solutions.

 [Read more about Russia's AI strategy update](#)

International AI Collaborations: Russia's Strategic Alliances

Recognizing the limitations imposed by Western sanctions, Russia is actively seeking **international AI partnerships** to

maintain technological progress. In **December 2024**, **President Putin announced plans to establish an AI Alliance Network with BRICS nations and other interested countries.** This initiative focuses on:

- **Joint AI research and development**
- **Establishing regulatory frameworks**
- **Commercialization of AI-driven products and services**

Such alliances enable Russia to **circumvent restrictions on critical technologies** while fostering a collaborative AI ecosystem independent of Western influence.

[Russia's AI alliance with BRICS](#)

Russia-China AI Cooperation: Strengthening Technological Ties

A significant aspect of Russia's AI policy is its **deepening collaboration with China**. In **January 2025**, **President Putin** directed the **Russian government and Sberbank** to **enhance AI cooperation with Chinese partners**. This partnership aims to:

- **Facilitate joint AI research and development**
- **Promote data-sharing agreements**
- **Develop alternative AI solutions outside of Western influence**

This strategic alignment with China is expected to **mitigate the impact of Western sanctions on AI-related technologies and computing power**.

 [**Putin orders Russian government and Sberbank to develop AI cooperation with China**](#)

Domestic AI Policies: Regulatory and Infrastructure Development

Beyond international partnerships, **Russia is prioritizing the expansion of its domestic AI ecosystem.** Key efforts include:

- **Increasing access to AI infrastructure and computing power**
- **Providing financial and institutional support for AI developers and startups**
- **Investing in AI education and workforce development**
- **Establishing comprehensive legal frameworks for ethical AI deployment**

These initiatives align with Russia's broader goal of **ensuring self-sufficiency in AI development while fostering innovation within the country.**

 [More on Russia's AI regulatory updates](#)

Conclusion: Russia's AI Strategy in a Shifting Global Landscape

Russia's AI policy underscores a **dual approach** — enhancing **technological sovereignty** while **building international AI alliances** to counteract external constraints. Although Western sanctions present challenges, **Russia's partnerships with BRICS nations and China**, combined with **domestic AI investments**, highlight a long-term vision for maintaining technological competitiveness.

However, the effectiveness of this strategy will depend on **Russia's ability to overcome infrastructure limitations, regulatory hurdles, and market accessibility challenges.**

As AI continues to redefine global power structures, Russia's trajectory in this domain will serve as a critical test of its ability

to adapt and compete in an increasingly fragmented digital economy.

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