
A NATIONAL INVITATION

Founding Partners Prospectus

An invitation to help establish the independent public-interest institution for trustworthy artificial intelligence — through research, policy, critical infrastructure resilience, workforce development, and public-interest innovation.

Ethos AI Registry™

The Trustworthy AI Initiative™

<https://ethosairegistry.org>

Partnerships contact

partnerships@ethosairegistry.org

Version July 2026

Prepared for foundation presidents, corporate executives, government leaders, university partners, and critical infrastructure operators considering a founding-cohort partnership.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A public-interest institution, forming now.

Artificial intelligence is being deployed into public benefits, critical infrastructure, healthcare, education, and national security faster than the institutions overseeing it can keep up. The Trustworthy AI Initiative was formed to close that gap — with independent evidence, published standards, and durable public infrastructure.

Federal policy, state legislatures, foundations, and industry are converging on the same requirements: transparency, evaluation, human oversight, and public accountability. The country needs a neutral institution to translate those requirements into a reusable standard and body of evidence.

Founding partners help shape governance, priorities, and the standards the sector will converge on. Their support during the formative years is what makes the Initiative independent, durable, and citable for the decade ahead.

At a glance

Institution	The Trustworthy AI Initiative™ — an independent public-interest infrastructure for AI accountability.
Programs	Ethos AI Registry™, Critical Infrastructure Center™, National Observatory™, Policy & Public Leadership Center™, Research Program™, Certification, Global Community™.
Cohort	Founding partners across five categories: national foundation, corporate, government, academic, critical infrastructure.
Approach	Scoped conversations, not fixed tiers — commitments align to the partner's mission and the Initiative's priorities.
Contact	partnerships@ethosairegistry.org · https://ethosairegistry.org/founding-partners

THE OPPORTUNITY

Why partner with the Initiative

Advance trustworthy AI Underwrite the standards, benchmarks, and evidence the field organizes around.	Strengthen national resilience Support the AI Resilience Score™ and the Observatory across critical infrastructure sectors.
Support evidence-based policy Fund the implementation guides, procurement toolkits, and briefings public-sector leaders reuse.	Contribute to responsible innovation Help set the standard that lets responsible builders compete on demonstrated trust.
Improve AI workforce readiness Underwrite credentials, applied learning, and a more diverse pipeline of oversight practitioners.	Cross-sector collaboration Convene alongside foundations, agencies, industry, and academia inside working groups and the Summit.
Inform the national dialogue Publish and cite alongside a recognized public-interest institution rather than in isolation.	Independent public-interest research Anchor an institution structurally independent from the firms it evaluates.

FIVE PATHS IN

Partnership categories

Every founding partner enters through a clearly defined participation path with a dedicated point of contact.

National Foundation Partners

Philanthropic capital anchoring independent public-interest AI infrastructure.

- Independent research and flagship reports
- Named fellowships and cohort programs
- Public education and civic engagement
- Workforce initiatives and scholarships

Corporate Partners

Underwriting the flagship programs that define the standard the sector converges on.

- Annual flagship reports and national indexes
- The AI Resilience Score™ program
- The National Critical Infrastructure AI Observatory™
- Sector working groups and convenings

Government & Public Sector Partners

Collaboration on pilots, standards adoption, and workforce readiness. Participation does not imply endorsement or regulatory authority.

- Pilot projects and reference implementations
- Technical collaboration on evaluation frameworks
- Research initiatives on public-sector AI
- Standards adoption support and workforce development

Academic Partners

Joint research, faculty collaboration, student engagement, and shared publications.

- Joint research projects and co-authored publications
- Faculty collaboration and visiting scholars
- Student internships and applied learning
- University-hosted convenings and roundtables

Critical Infrastructure Partners

Sector operators helping benchmark resilience for the systems the public depends on.

- AI Resilience Score™ benchmarking
- Sector working groups and pilots
- Incident analyses and after-action learning
- Cross-sector resilience initiatives

WHAT PARTNERS RECEIVE

Founding partner benefits

Benefits emphasize collaboration and access, not governance authority or influence over independent findings.

Executive briefings	Confidential briefings from Initiative leadership on findings, roadmap, and sector risk.
Early research access	Pre-publication access to flagship reports, indexes, and Observatory outlooks.
Invitation-only leadership roundtables	Closed-door convenings with foundation, agency, and executive peers.
Sector working-group participation	Seats in the working groups shaping benchmarks and reference audits.
Advisory opportunities	Named advisory roles on programs your organization helps establish (subject to independence review).
Pilot and research collaboration	Co-scoped pilots, reference implementations, and joint publications.
Summit invitations	Named seats at the annual Trustworthy AI Summit and regional convenings.
Public acknowledgement	Recognition on the Initiative site, prospectus, and program pages — subject to review and your preferences.

HOW COMMITMENTS ARE SCOPED

Investment opportunity areas

In place of fixed sponsorship levels, founding partners choose the area of impact and we scope commitments together.

Observatory Sponsor

Underwrite the National Critical Infrastructure AI Observatory™ — the Initiative's flagship national research program.

Expected public impact — A durable, independent evidence base on AI risk and resilience across the sectors the public depends on.

- Annual Observatory Report
- Quarterly sector outlooks
- Incident analyses and after-action briefs
- Public dashboards and datasets

AI Resilience Score™ Sponsor

Fund the benchmark that measures how resilient AI systems in critical infrastructure actually are.

Expected public impact — A shared, citable measure that operators, regulators, and insurers can use in procurement and oversight.

- Score methodology development
- Reference audits across sectors
- Public leaderboards and case studies

National Summit Sponsor

Underwrite the annual Trustworthy AI Summit — the Initiative's cross-sector convening.

Expected public impact — A neutral venue where foundations, agencies, industry, and researchers set the year's public-interest agenda.

- Keynote and plenary programming
- Working-group intensives
- Executive roundtables

Fellowship Sponsor

Establish a named fellowship cohort in governance, ethics, resilience, or workforce.

Expected public impact — A pipeline of practitioner-researchers with a public body of work tied to the Initiative's evidence base.

- Named annual fellowship class
- Public research outputs
- Placement with partner institutions

Research Sponsor

Fund a flagship report or national index in the Ethos Research Program™.

Expected public impact — A yearly, comparable, publicly citable dataset the field organizes around.

- Report methodology and fielding
- Data collection and independent review
- Publication, briefings, and follow-on convenings

Workforce Sponsor

Underwrite training, credentials, and applied learning for the trustworthy-AI workforce.

Expected public impact — A larger, better-prepared bench of practitioners in governance, oversight, and evaluation roles.

- Curricula and open training materials
- Practitioner credentials
- University and community-college partnerships

Sector Initiative Sponsor

Anchor a sector workstream — energy, water, healthcare, transportation, finance, or another CISA-designated sector.

Expected public impact — Sector-specific benchmarks, reference audits, and playbooks operators can adopt.

- Sector working group
- Reference audits and pilots
- Sector playbooks

WHERE PARTNERS ACCELERATE US

Current institutional priorities

Founding partners help move these existing programs from launch to recurring, national-scale operations.

The Trustworthy AI Standard	Public, machine-readable standard for evaluating AI systems. https://ethosairegistry.org/standard
Ethos AI Registry™	Independent public registry of AI systems and audits. https://ethosairegistry.org/registry
Critical Infrastructure Center™	Trustworthy AI research and benchmarking across the CISA-designated sectors. https://ethosairegistry.org/critical-infrastructure
National Observatory™	Ongoing, independent monitoring of AI risk and resilience across critical infrastructure. https://ethosairegistry.org/observatory
Policy & Public Leadership Center™	Implementation guides, procurement toolkits, and briefings for public-sector leaders. https://ethosairegistry.org/policy-leadership
Ethos Research Program™	Annual flagship reports and national indexes the field cites. https://ethosairegistry.org/research
Certification & Trust Marks	Independent certification against the Ethos Trust Standard. https://ethosairegistry.org/certification
Global Community™	Members, fellows, universities, and chapters advancing trustworthy AI. https://ethosairegistry.org/community

WHY NOW

Founding-year participation is a different opportunity than joining later.

The Initiative is moving through the stages below during the founding cohort. Partners entering now help shape the direction, governance posture, and priorities that later partners inherit.

Stage 1 — Formation	Board, governance posture, and public commitments established with founding-partner input.
Stage 2 — Anchor programs	Standard, Registry, Observatory, and Resilience Score move to durable operations.
Stage 3 — National footprint	Sector working groups, Summit, fellowships, and indexes established.
Stage 4 — Institutional maturity	Multi-year research plan, endowment-track fundraising, permanent staff.
Stage 5 — Sector standard	The Initiative is the reference institution that agencies, foundations, and industry organize around.

NEXT STEPS

Start with a scoped conversation.

Every founding partner begins with a confidential executive briefing — not a contract. We'll review the roadmap, listen to your priorities, and identify where a partnership could meaningfully advance the public interest.

1. Request an Executive Briefing

Reach out at partnerships@ethosairegistry.org or via <https://ethosairegistry.org/founding-partners>.

2. Scope the partnership

Together we identify the opportunity area and the appropriate participation path.

3. Commit and announce

Founding partners are announced publicly (subject to your preferences) and onboarded to briefings, roundtables, and working groups.

Partnerships contact

partnerships@ethosairegistry.org

<https://ethosairegistry.org/founding-partners>

Version July 2026

© Ethos AI Registry™ — The Trustworthy AI Initiative™. The Trustworthy AI Initiative™, Ethos AI Registry™, AI Resilience Score™, National Critical Infrastructure AI Observatory™, Ethos Research Program™, and Global Community™ are trademarks of the Algorithmic Accountability Project.