

PRESS RELEASE

Europe's largest initiative for excellence in human-centred artificial intelligence opens its headquarters in The Hague, the Netherlands.

The Hague, 10 December 2019 – On the 9th of December 2019 The Hague played host to the launch of the headquarters for the world's largest AI research network CLAIRE (Confederation of Laboratories for Artificial Intelligence Research in Europe). CLAIRE has been established in response to the pressing need for excellence in AI research and innovation that ensures that Europe remains competitive in AI and its applications. With CLAIRE, Europe, the Netherlands and the city of The Hague in particular plan to step up the game in terms of investment in talent, research, technology and innovation in AI, with a focus on AI for good and AI for all.

“CLAIRE is the world’s largest network of AI research laboratories, and we are very happy and proud to have our headquarters in The Hague. Alongside The Hague’s reputation as a city of Peace and Justice, The Hague and the Netherlands more in general, are an ideal home base for CLAIRE, which is going to shape the way AI is going to be used in Europe. The Netherlands is a hotbed for AI research and innovation in Europe, and home to a large number of internationally leading experts in AI.”, says Dr. Holger Hoos, Professor of Machine learning at Leiden University and the co-initiator of CLAIRE.

Game changer

Artificial Intelligence is a global “game-changer” and a major driver of innovation, future growth, and competitiveness. However, to fully realise the benefits and responsibly manage the risks associated with Artificial intelligence, cooperation across Europe (and beyond) is essential. The researchers and stakeholders involved in CLAIRE have identified a pressing need to increase Europe’s strength and position in the area of human-centred, trustworthy AI. CLAIRE aims to ensure the success of European AI through a focus on excellence in research and innovation, on attracting talent from across Europe and around the globe, and in close collaboration with a broad range of application sectors.

During the opening of its new headquarters in The Hague, CLAIRE announced a focus on AI for good - and specifically, the use of AI to help reach the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals. AI for all refers to the broad access to, and benefit from AI, across all of the society, including small, medium-sized and large enterprises, government and public administration, non-governmental organisations and citizens across Europe and the world.

From a European to a national and local focus

Artificial Intelligence is at the top of many national and international policy agendas. Recently, in October 2019 in The Hague, the Dutch Government launched its new nationwide [Strategic Action Plan for Artificial Intelligence](#). The Netherlands has a good starting point when it comes to research on AI and its applications and plays a key role as a country when it comes to laying the foundations to ensure AI contributes in a positive way to society, jobs and income. The aim of the government is to keep the Dutch economy globally competitive by stimulating AI on the basis of the principle that both citizens and businesses can be confident that AI will be used with care.

What makes The Hague a unique place for AI

In recent years, a discernible effort has been made to transform The Hague into an innovative city, seen through the city's focus on fashioning technology and business with positive impacts on society, Tech for Good and AI for Good initiatives. Therefore, a human-centred focus on AI finds a well-established home in The Hague.

"The use of Artificial Intelligence offers many opportunities to potentially improve the lives of our citizens. However, this requires the development of a responsible and transparent approach to the use of AI, which is an important topic for Europe, the Netherlands and The Hague in particular. CLAIRE has set itself the mission to develop that approach for Europe. I am therefore proud and thrilled that CLAIRE has chosen to establish its European headquarters in The Hague. This will contribute to making the international city of Peace and Justice a very relevant place for the development of the responsible use of AI in Europe in the coming years.", says Deputy Mayor of the City of The Hague Ms Saskia Bruines.

The CLAIRE headquarters in The Hague will support CLAIRE activities all over Europe, coordinating the work of existing CLAIRE offices in Prague (CZ), Saarbrücken (DE), Rome (IT) and Oslo (NO), as well as offices soon to be opened in Brussels (BE), Zürich (CH), Paris (FR) and Cork (IE). The CLAIRE office in The Hague will also place special focus on AI in the public sector, AI computing and data infrastructure, and the development of a focus on AI for social good. It will interact and coordinate with the NL AI Coalition, the European Commission, AI4EU, the European AI Association, the Benelux AI Association, CBS, TNO and ELLIS. The opening of the CLAIRE headquarters in The Hague thereby helps CLAIRE to strengthen the position of the Netherlands as a mayor hub on AI in Europe.

Find additional information about this initiative at <https://claire-ai.org/>

Note for the Press

Press photos:

<https://wettransfer.com/downloads/dded95e0dcce97470926f16210791ea820191209194727/dd24d9>

About CLAIRE

CLAIRE (Confederation of Laboratories for Artificial Intelligence Research in Europe, claire-ai.org) is an initiative by the European AI community that seeks to strengthen European excellence in AI research and innovation, with a strong focus on human-centered AI, on AI for good, and AI for all. CLAIRE aims to establish worldwide brand recognition for "AI made in Europe" (on the level of CERN), and to ensure that Europe remains in control of its future.

The initiative was launched in June 2018 and now has the support of more than 3,000 people, most of them scientists, technologists, and researchers in Artificial Intelligence. The supporters represent the vast majority of Europe's AI community, spanning academia and industry, research and innovation. Among the supporters are more than 140 fellows from various key scientific associations. CLAIRE has opened administrative offices in The Hague, Saarbrücken, Oslo, Prague and Rome, with additional offices to be opened over the coming months in Brussels, Cork, Paris, and Zürich. Furthermore, nine advisory groups with 48 members from 18 countries have been established, covering all areas of AI, along with the topics of ethical, legal and social implications of AI.

CLAIRE has built an AI research network comprised of over 330 groups and institutions, covering jointly over 19,000 employees in 34 countries. In addition, CLAIRE is working on setting up an industry network in order to follow up its commitment to foster close links between non-profit research and impactful industrial applications. The initiative has received official letters of support from the governments of nine European countries, from 28 scientific associations across all of Europe, from the European Association for Artificial Intelligence (EurAI, which is the key European association for AI researchers), from the Association for the Advancement of Artificial Intelligence (AAAI, the key international association for AI), and from the European Space Agency (ESA).

CLAIRE is also actively liaising, on an ongoing basis, with other organisations, including AI4EU, the European AI Association, ELLIS, the HumanE AI consortium, the Big Data Value Association, euRobotics, as well as ESA. CLAIRE strongly endorses the general direction mapped out by the European Commission in its communication of 25 April 2018. CLAIRE's bottom-up, community-driven approach complements the top-down process put into place by the European Commission.

The international advisory board of CLAIRE, announced on 9 December 2019, includes leading AI researchers from Australia, Canada, Germany, Japan and the USA; its members bring a broad range of experience from academia, industry and major

European institutions, including the European Commission and CERN, to provide guidance and strategic advice to CLAIRE.

Website <https://claire-ai.org/>

About The Hague & Partners

The Hague & Partners is the umbrella organisation that facilitates the joint efforts of The Hague Convention Bureau (THCB), The Hague Business Agency (THBA) and The Hague Marketing Bureau. THCB acts as a one-stop-shop for all activities relating to the planning and hosting of meetings and conferences in The Hague. THBA is the one-stop-shop for foreign companies, NGOs, social enterprises and startups and offers tailor-made advice to companies considering to establish, relocate or expand their business in The Hague.

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