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Answer given by Executive Vice-President Virkkunen
on behalf of the European Commission
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The Commission acknowledges the structural risks of relying on a limited number of global suppliers for critical AI infrastructure, affecting both hardware and software. Exacerbating this dependency must be avoided. The Commission addresses this on multiple fronts. For example, initiatives like the European Chips Act aim to boost domestic capacity and foster a diversified ecosystem inclusive of small and medium-sized enterprises.

As currently envisioned, the AI Gigafactory (AIGF) initiative¹ intends for procurement evaluation criteria to structurally incentivise the integration of European technology, rewarding consortia that propose European hardware and sovereign software stacks. Additionally, to reduce third-country dependencies and actively prevent lock-in, the Commission's proposal strongly encourages deploying European open-source software solutions in these procurements.

AIGFs will not be experimental platforms; they must rely on currently available, state-of-the-art technology to immediately deliver competitive services. However, the AIGF initiative will utilise a phased implementation strategy, allowing facilities to progressively integrate newly emerging yet mature European hardware in subsequent phases. This will diversify the supply chain and integrate European suppliers over time without compromising immediate industrial capabilities.

¹ https://www.eurohpc-ju.europa.eu/ai-gigafactories_en.