presentation

Austrian State of AI

Innsbruck, April 19th 2024

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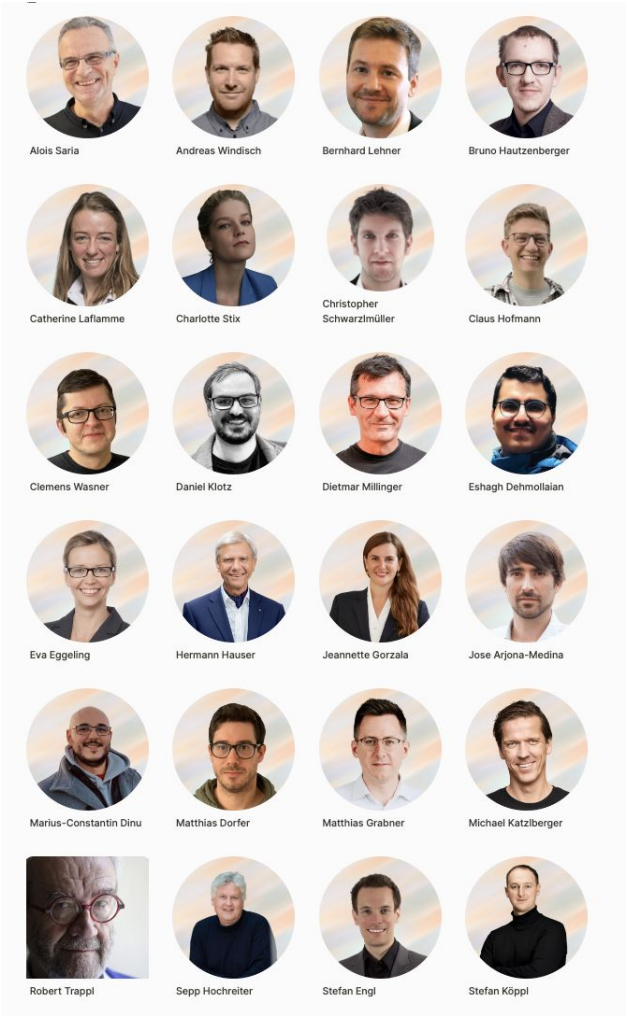
Clemens Wasner

AI AUSTRIA

- Non-Profit to support the development of the Austrian AI ecosystem
- Established in 2018
- Foster Ecosystem development, networking & Policy work
- 100% independent
- www.aiaustria.com



“Wenn die Welt einmal untergehen sollte, ziehe ich nach Österreich, denn dort passiert alles 50 Jahre später.”

Gustav Mahler, (1860 - 1911),
österreichischer Dirigent und Komponist

AI Landscape Austria
Key Facts

300+ Companies & startups[1]

50+ Universities & Research institutions

70+ Ecosystem players
e.g organizations, investors,...

70% of startups received public funding

10% AI Startup YoY growth rate

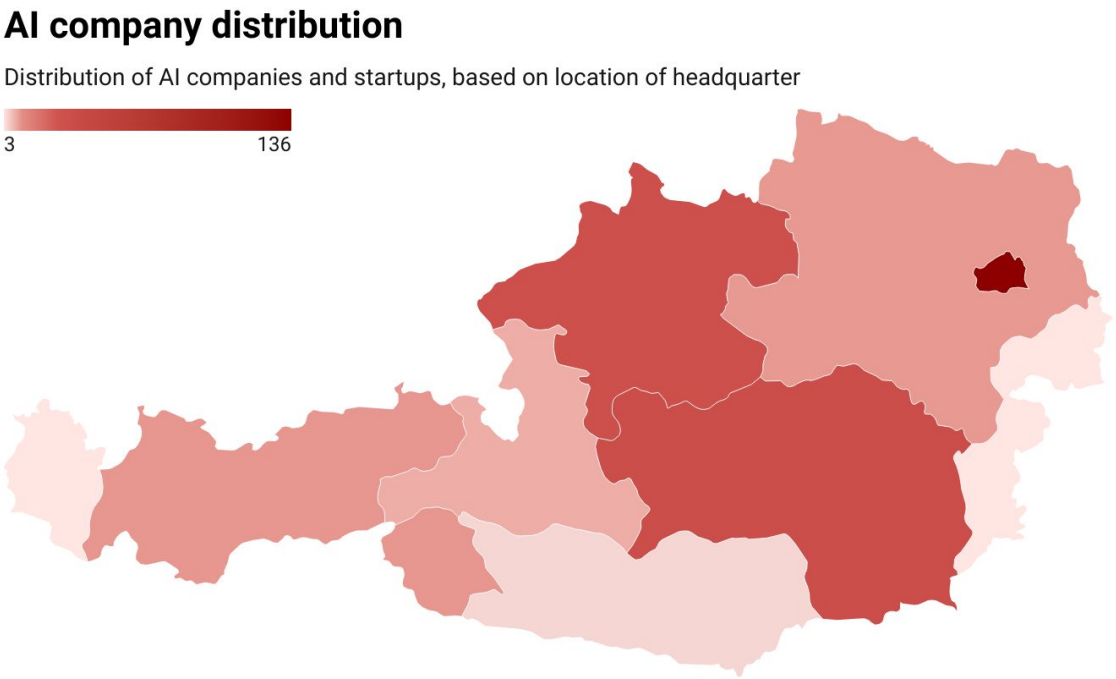
50+ International players

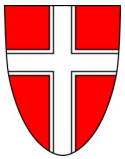
3 Ellis Units[2]

3x huge uptake in female (co)founders in 2022

[1] excluding general IT service providers with AI capabilities
[2] Austria is home to 3 out of 39 Ellis units, making it the country with the highest density of top AI research institutions per capita

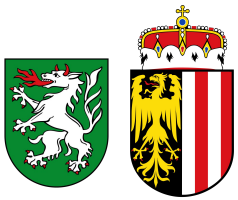
Geographic distribution
85% of all startups located in 3 regional hubs





~55%

of startups
located in Vienna

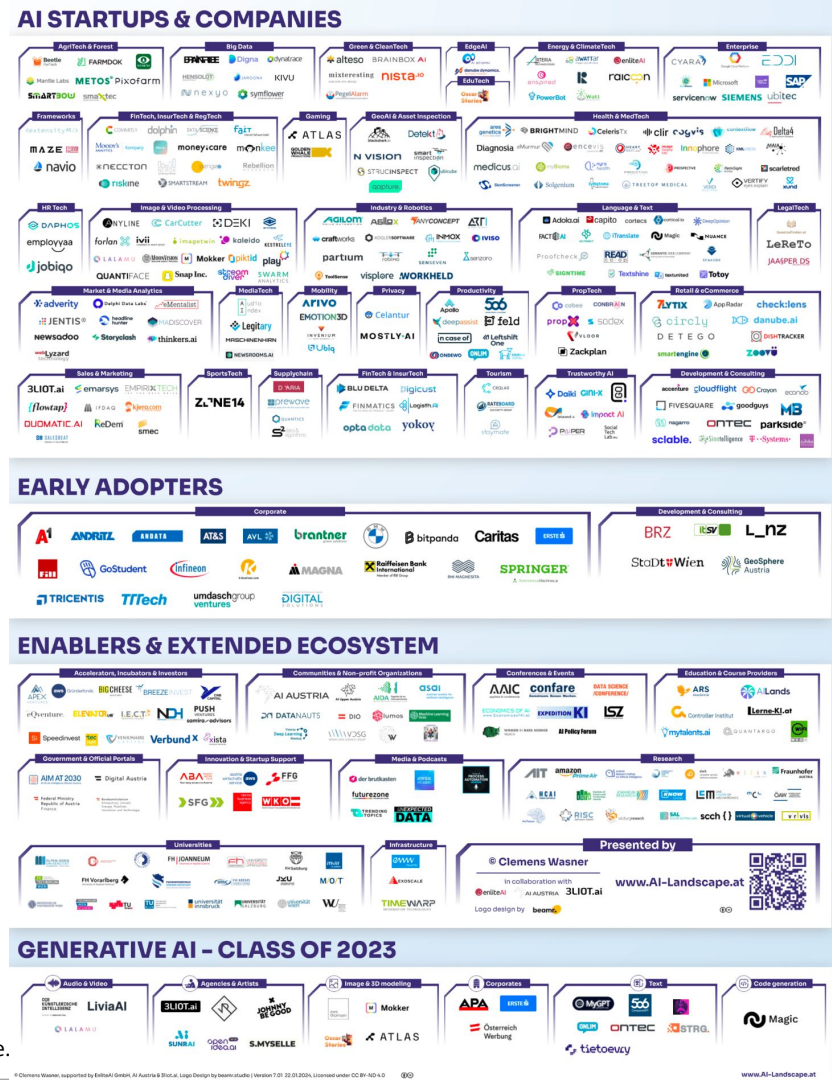


~30%

in Styria
& Upper Austria

LANDSCAPE AUSTRIA 23

www.AI-Landscape.at



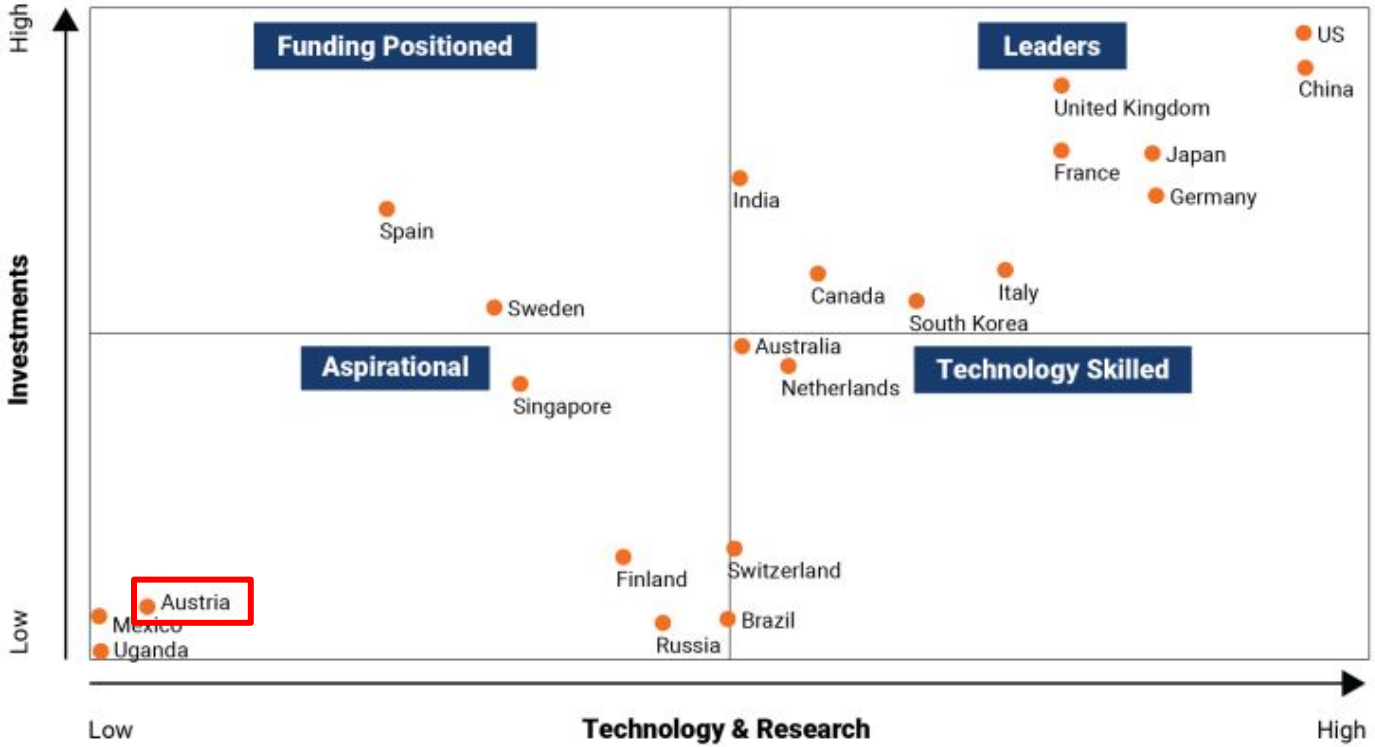
GENERATIVE AI – CLASS OF 2023

Public
How it started

- Focus on Green Energy transition & CO2 reduction
- Fundamental research
- Trustworthy & ethical AI

Public
How its going[1]

Figure 1: State of Technology and Investments By Country



[1] Source: Brookings

Public funding landscape
Local and national grants

vienna business agency

Innovation
- (up to) EUR 200k grant
- Project size: EUR 450k
- 45% quota

austria wirtschafts service aws

AI Adoption
- up to EUR 150k grant
- Project size: EUR 180k
- up to 80% quota

Pre-Seed - Deep Tech
- up to EUR 200k grant

Seed - Deep Tech
- up to EUR 800k grant

FFG Forschung wirkt.

Basisprogramm
- Project size: up to EUR 3 Million
- 50% - 70% quota

AI4Green
- EUR 100k - 2 Million
- 50% quota

ELLIS Units in Europe
Total number and distribution

Ellis consists of 39 units across Europe (as of June 17th, 2023)

Out of these, 3 units are located in Austria

- Ellis unit Linz @ JKU Linz, AI Lab
- Ellis unit Vienna @ IST Austria
- Ellis unit Graz @ TU Graz

Within Ellis, Austria has the highest density of units per capita and the same total number as units as the far larger Netherlands.

Austria is an outlier within comparable countries which typically host 1 or 2 units: Switzerland (2), Belgium (1) or Portugal (1)

Source: https://ellis.eu/units

Current Trends
Born global, made in Austria

AI Research

AI Hub

(Europe) HQ

2017 **2019** **2021**

Current Trends
Corporates aiming for digital revenues

Corporate

RHI MAGNESITA

voestalpine
ONE STEP AHEAD.

SPRINGER

brantner
green solutions

Productization

APO

voestalpine High Performance Metals
DIGITAL
SOLUTIONS

AutonomousMachines.ai

HAWKEYE

Second Wave of AI
Magic.Dev

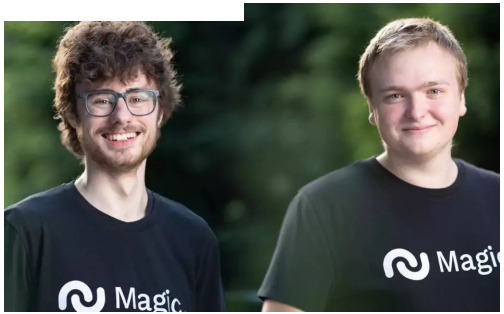
Large Language Models

Magic

- Austrian founders
- raised 140 M USD in venture capital
- Apply large language models to automate code generation

Code-generating platform Magic challenges GitHub's Copilot with $23M in VC backing

TechCrunch




```
// Component that displays today's temperature in London

function LondonTemperature() {
  const WEATHER_URL = "...";
  const [temperature, setTemperature] = useState();
  useEffect(() => {
    fetch(WEATHER_URL)
      .then(response => response.json())
      .then(({daily}) => setTemperature(daily.temperature_2m_max))
  }, []);
  return <div className="p-4 border rounded">
    The highest temperature in London today is
    <span className="font-bold"> {temperature}°C</span>.
  </div>;
  }
```

SUGGESTED BY

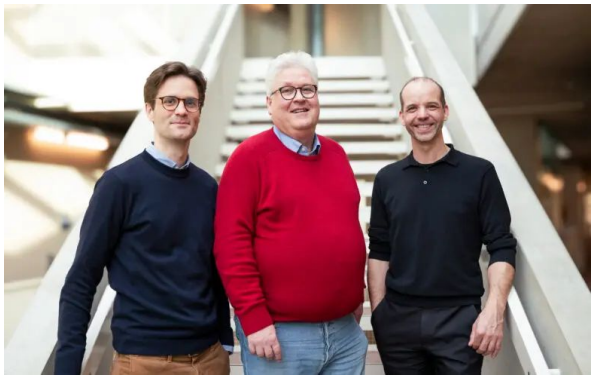
Second Wave of AI
NXAI

Large Language Models

- Sepp Hochreiter, inventor of LSTM and now xLSTM, JKU Linz
- Transform cutting-edge AI research into industrial applications
- xLSTM is faster, needs less compute & memory and scales linearly
- Millions of investment from Pierer
- Product and paper are coming
- 1000 GPUs

NXAI: Sepp Hochreiter will europäische Antwort auf OpenAI erschaffen

heise online



Warum Pierer in Sepp Hochreiters KI-Architektur investiert

INDUSTRIE MAGAZIN

Second Wave of AI
Atlas (fmrly MLxAR)

Diffusion Models

Atlas

- HQ in Vienna
- Raised 3+ MEUR funding
- Atlas builds cutting-edge generative 3D AI technology to enable the creation of virtual worlds in a fraction of the time it takes using traditional methods.

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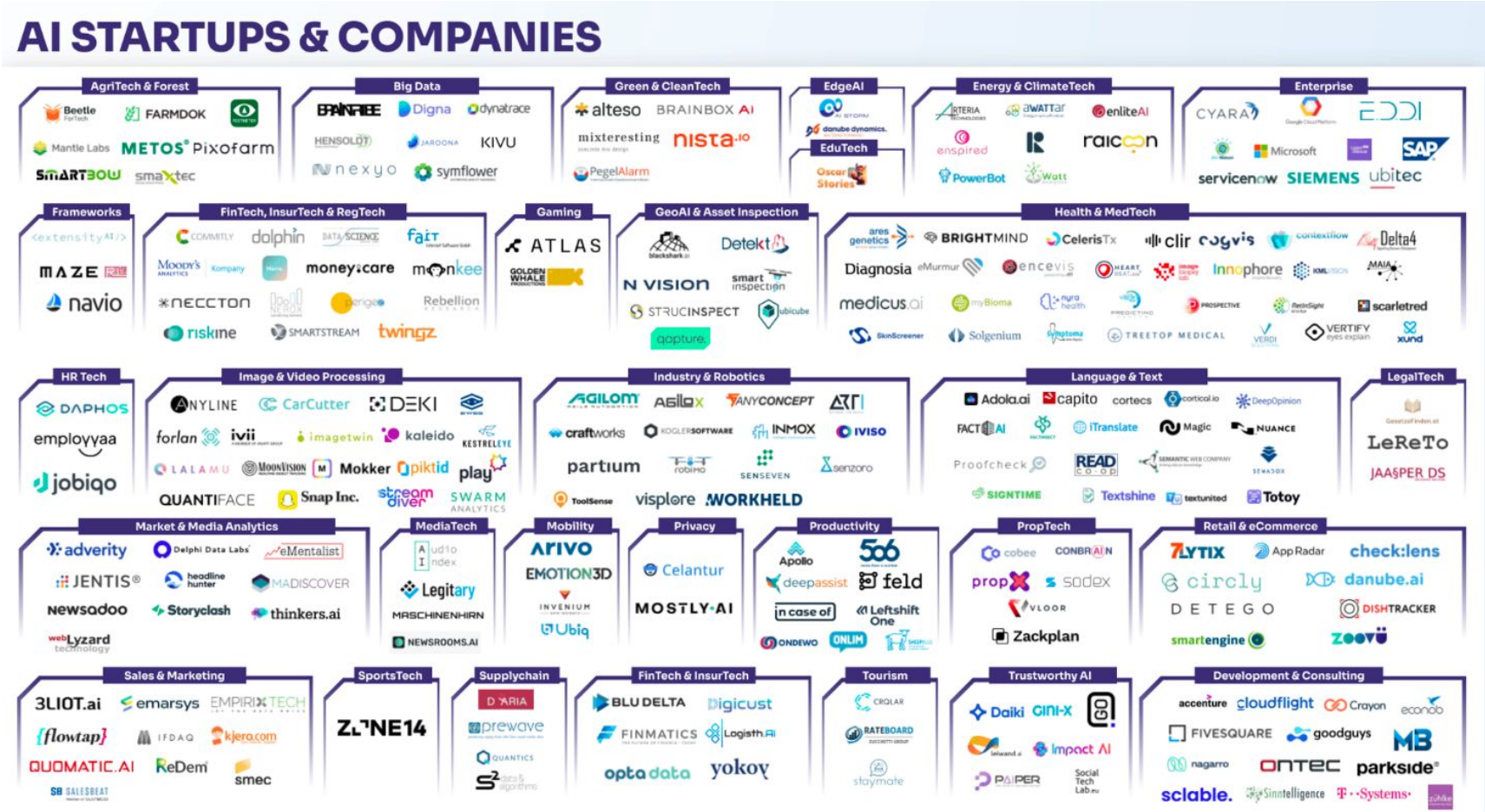
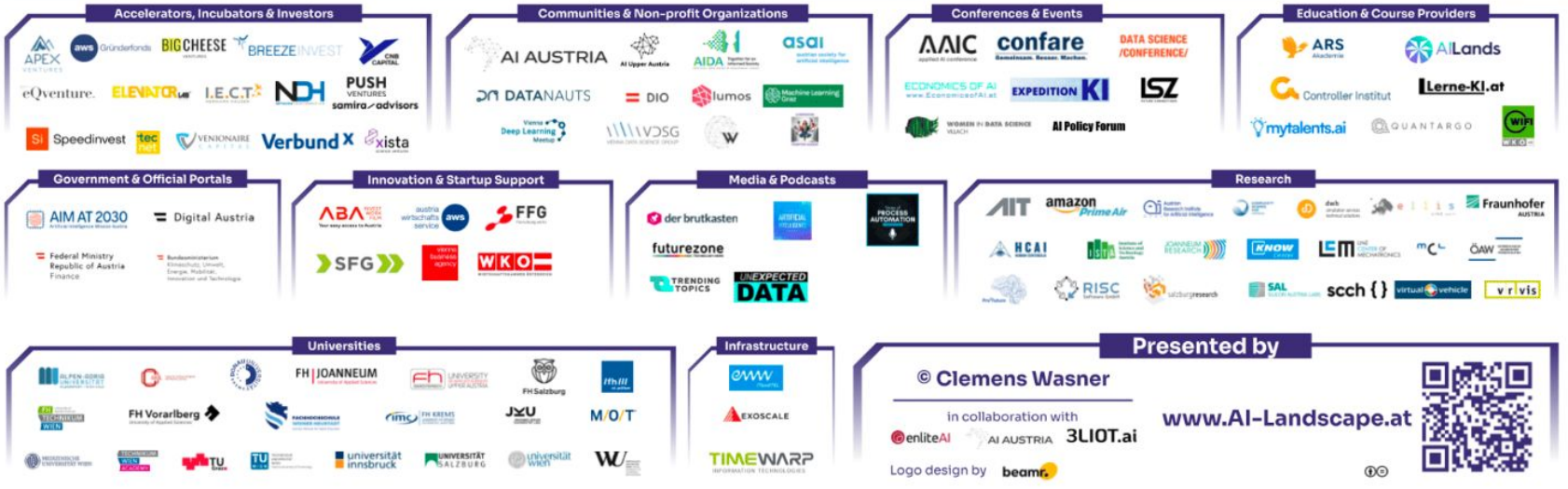
AI STARTUPS & COMPANIES



EARLY ADOPTERS

ENABLERS & EXTENDED ECOSYSTEM