

Why sovereign AI has become a national priority

AI is becoming a national infrastructure

Autonomous and remote-operated robots for patrol, hazardous-environment response, and emergency logistics.

Decision-makers are now asking different questions:



Where does the data go



Who controls the underlying infrastructure



What happens when geopolitical relationships

This shift has given rise to Sovereign AI: an approach that gives nations greater confidence over the infrastructure, data and critical capabilities that power AI. What began as a technology strategy has evolved into a cornerstone of national digital resilience.

Why nations are building AI at home¹



Export controls on advanced AI chips are reshaping global supply.



Data residency regulations are becoming stricter.

AI is becoming foundational to healthcare, finance, public services and national security.



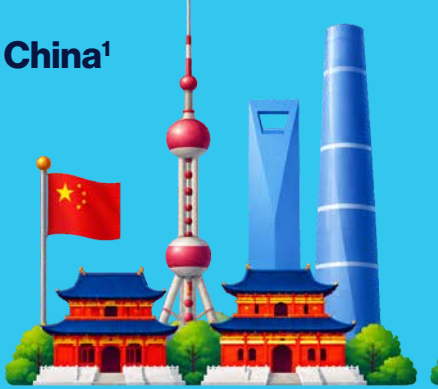
Governments are seeking greater control over critical digital infrastructure.



According to Gartner, by 2027, **35%** of countries will be locked into region-specific AI platforms using proprietary contextual data, up from just **5%** today.²

Sovereign AI, around the world

China¹



China is accelerating its sovereign AI ambitions by **strengthening domestic AI ecosystems, reducing reliance on foreign technologies and investing in home-grown hardware and software capabilities.** It is also positioning itself to shape global AI standards while building greater technological self-sufficiency.

Key takeaway: Sovereignty requires strengthening domestic capabilities while reducing external dependencies.

South Korea³



South Korea has committed **US\$735 billion** towards its sovereign AI initiative, including **US\$230 billion for AI infrastructure through 2030.** The strategy combines large-scale investment in compute, data centres and semiconductor manufacturing with supply chain localisation to strengthen national AI capabilities.

Key takeaway: Sovereign AI requires sustained investment across infrastructure, compute and the broader innovation ecosystem.

Singapore⁴



Singapore's National AI Strategy 2.0 has already seen more than **70 leading companies establish AI Centres of Excellence, driving AI innovation, infrastructure and enterprise adoption.** Partnerships such as the **Singtel-NVIDIA Applied AI CoE** provide enterprises and government agencies with environments to experiment, validate use cases and accelerate deployment.

Key takeaway: Sovereign AI grows through ecosystem collaboration, not infrastructure alone.

5 pillars of Sovereign AI



Sovereign compute

Purpose-built AI infrastructure located within national borders provides greater control, resilience and performance.



Secure connectivity

Private, low-latency networks connect AI workloads securely from edge to data centre while reducing operational risk.



Data governance

Data residency, classification and compliance frameworks ensure sensitive information remains under jurisdictional control.



Quantum-Safe security

As AI systems become long-term national assets, cryptographic resilience protects today's investments against tomorrow's quantum threats.



Ecosystem & talent

Local partnerships, AI Centres of Excellence and workforce development reduce dependency while creating sustainable innovation capacity.

Without trusted infrastructure that brings together compute, networks and security, sovereign AI cannot scale.

Building Sovereign AI from the ground

Sovereign AI starts with the right foundation. As an adopter, provider, and enabler of AI, Singtel helps organisations build AI-ready infrastructure that brings together sovereign compute, secure connectivity, governance and security to support AI adoption at scale.

Its capabilities span:



AIPOD for sovereign compute



AI-ready networks for secure, low-latency connectivity



Trusted governance and security frameworks



AI-ready digital infrastructure that supports enterprise and government adoption at scale

Aligned with **Singapore's National AI Strategy 2.0**, Singtel is also investing in AI talent, governance frameworks and secure

As nations build for the AI era, competitive advantage will come from investing in the digital foundations that support innovation, resilience and trust. Position your organisation on the right side of the sovereign AI shift.

Build your AI infrastructure with Singtel

Contact us

References

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