



# Building Africa's AI Advantage: Data Centres, Talent, and the Next Digital Economy

Artificial intelligence (AI) is rapidly emerging as one of the defining technologies of our time. Once viewed as an experimental technology, it is now reshaping and powering sectors ranging from transportation, defence, finance, healthcare, education, and e-commerce to manufacturing and agriculture. Globally, AI-related capital expenditure is accelerating at an unprecedented pace, with leading technology companies collectively investing hundreds of billions of dollars annually in computing infrastructure, cloud platforms, and data centre expansion to support the next wave of digital transformation. According to UNCTAD, the global AI market is projected to grow from USD 189 billion in 2023 to USD 4.8 trillion by 2033—a twenty-five-fold increase in just a decade.