

Did OpenAI discovery that could threaten humanity spark ouster?

Researchers At Maker Of ChatGPT Warned Co Board Of Powerful AI Breakthrough Ahead Of Altman Firing: Report

Ahead of OpenAI CEO Sam Altman's four days in exile, several staff researchers sent the board of directors a letter warning of a powerful artificial intelligence discovery that they said could threaten humanity, two people familiar with the matter told Reuters.

The previously unreported letter and AI algorithm was a catalyst that caused the board to oust Altman, the poster child of generative AI, the two sources said. Before his triumphant return late Tuesday, more than 700 employees had threatened to quit and join backer Microsoft in solidarity with their fired leader. The sources cited the letter as one factor among a longer list of grievances by the board that led to Altman's firing. Reuters was unable to review a copy of the letter. The researchers who wrote the letter did not immediately respond to

Artificial General Intelligence: Smarter Than Humans?

➤ Long-time executive **Mira Murati** mentioned the project, called **Q*** (pronounced Q-Star), to employees on Wednesday and said that a letter was sent to the board prior to last weekend's events

➤ The letter and AI algo was a **catalyst** that caused the board to oust Altman, sources said

➤ OpenAI made progress on Q*, which some internally believe could be a **breakthrough** in the startup's search for **superintelligence**, also



known as **artificial general intelligence (AGI)**

➤ OpenAI defines AGI as an artificial intelligence system that is **smarter than humans**

➤ Given **vast computing resources**, the new model was able to solve certain mathematical problems

➤ Though only performing math on the level of grade-school students, acing such tests made researchers **very optimistic** about Q*'s future success, sources said

Reuters

requests for comment. OpenAI declined to comment.

According to one of the sources, long-time executive Mira Murati mentioned the project, called Q* (pronounced Q-Star), to employees on Wednesday and said that a letter was sent to the board prior

to last weekend's events.

After the story was published, an OpenAI spokesperson said Murati told employees what the media reports were about but she did not comment on the accuracy of the information.

The maker of ChatGPT

had made progress on Q*, which some internally believe could be a breakthrough in the startup's search for superintelligence — also known as artificial general intelligence (AGI) — one of the people told Reuters. OpenAI defines AGI as AI systems that are smarter than humans.

Given vast computing resources, the new model was able to solve certain mathematical problems, the person said on condition of anonymity because they were not authorised to speak on behalf of the company. Though only performing math on the level of grade-school students, acing such tests made researchers very optimistic about Q*'s future success, the source said. Reuters could not independently verify the capabilities of Q* claimed by the researchers. REUTERS