SESAME Digital & AI Symposium 2026

From the Internet to Artificial Intelligence: The Evolution of the Digital World

SESAME University, 4 November 2026

Symposium Overview

The **SESAME Digital & AI Symposium 2026**, taking place on **4 November 2026 at SESAME University**, in **partnership with ATUGE and DIGITAfrica**, will bring together internationally renowned researchers, academic experts, business executives, entrepreneurs, representatives of associations and institutions, as well as **students**, around the theme **"From the Internet to Artificial Intelligence: The Evolution of the Digital World."**

This first edition will explore the major developments shaping the digital world, from **the Internet and its underlying infrastructure to recent advances in Artificial Intelligence**. It will examine their impact on **knowledge, education and various sectors**, as well as emerging challenges related to **trust, sovereignty, skills development and the growth of the digital and AI ecosystem**.

The symposium aims to foster dialogue between **academia, industry and stakeholders across the digital and AI ecosystem**, while contributing to broader discussions on the major transformations driven by digital technologies and Artificial Intelligence.

Programme

08:30 – 08:50	Welcome and Registration
Opening Session	
09:00 – 09:30	• Welcome Address *Dr Lassaad Essafi, Director General, SESAME University* • Remarks from Partners ○ *Amine Aloulou*, ATUGE, Association of Tunisians from Grandes Ecoles ○ *Serge Fdida*, DIGITAfrica, Pan-African research infrastructure in digital sciences, Horizon Europe • Presentation of the Symposium Programme *Prof. Farouk Kamoun, SESAME Advisory Board*
Session 1 – From the Internet to Next-Generation Digital Infrastructure	

09:30 - 10:45	Session Chair: Prof.Farouk Kamoun, SESAME Advisory Board • Evolution of the Internet and Data Centres *Dr Christophe Diot, University of Massachusetts Amherst* • Evolution of Mobile Radio Networks *Prof. Serge Fdida, Sorbonne University* • *Towards the Internet of AI Agents* *Fayçal Boujemaa,* Consultant, Ex-Technology Strategist « Data & AI » Orange Innovation
10:45 – 11:05	**Coffee Break**
Session 2 – The Evolution of AI: From Foundation Models to Autonomous and Trustworthy Systems	
11:05 – 12:20	Session Chair: Dr Nozha Ben Hajel-Boujemaa, Senior AI Advisor • Next-Generation AI Models *Prof Brahim Hnichi, Faculty of Sciences of Monastir* • AI and Autonomous Vehicles: What Guarantees for Physical Safety and Cybersecurity? *Dr Gérard Le Lann, INRIA* • Foundation Models for Robotics *Dr Martin May, Duxbury Networking*
Session 3 – Knowledge, Research and Education in the Age of AI	
12:20 – 13:10	Session Chair : Prof. Ana Cavalli, Ex Télécom SudParis • Teaching in the Age of Large Language Models *Prof Jim Kurose, University of Massachusetts Amherst* • Organising Knowledge Dissemination in the Age of AI *Ernst Biersack, Expert International*
13:10 – 14:30	**Lunch Break**
Session 4 – Digital Transformation Across Industries Through AI	
14:30 – 15:30	Session Chair: Jamel Abed, Senior Developer Advocate • AI-Augmented Testing Solutions *Bacem Chelly, Teamwill Automotive Practice* • AI Speed, Banking Rigour: Our Transition to an AI-Native Software Development Lifecycle *Sami Belhaj, ODDO BHF* • AI for Software Development in Industrial Products: What Impact on the V-Model? *Sofiane Sayahi, ACTIA Engineering Services*
Roundtable Discussion – Strategic Horizons : Building the Digital and AI Ecosystem	
15:30 – 16:45	Moderator: Serge Fdida, Sorbonne University • *Nozha Ben Hajel-Boujemaa*, Senior AI Advisor – Innovation and Trust in AI • *Maledh Marrakchi*, Expert, ATUGE – TunisIA, Building Our Future in the Age of AI • *Maher Kallel*, Carthage Business Angels – AI Challenges and Sovereignty • Walid Dabbous, INRIA / DIGITAfrica – *Data & AI Services for Digital Sciences* • Hatem Mestiri, Senior Advisor & Consultant – *AI in Business* • *Sana Ghardadou*, SESAME University – Preparing Skills and Talent for the Age of AI