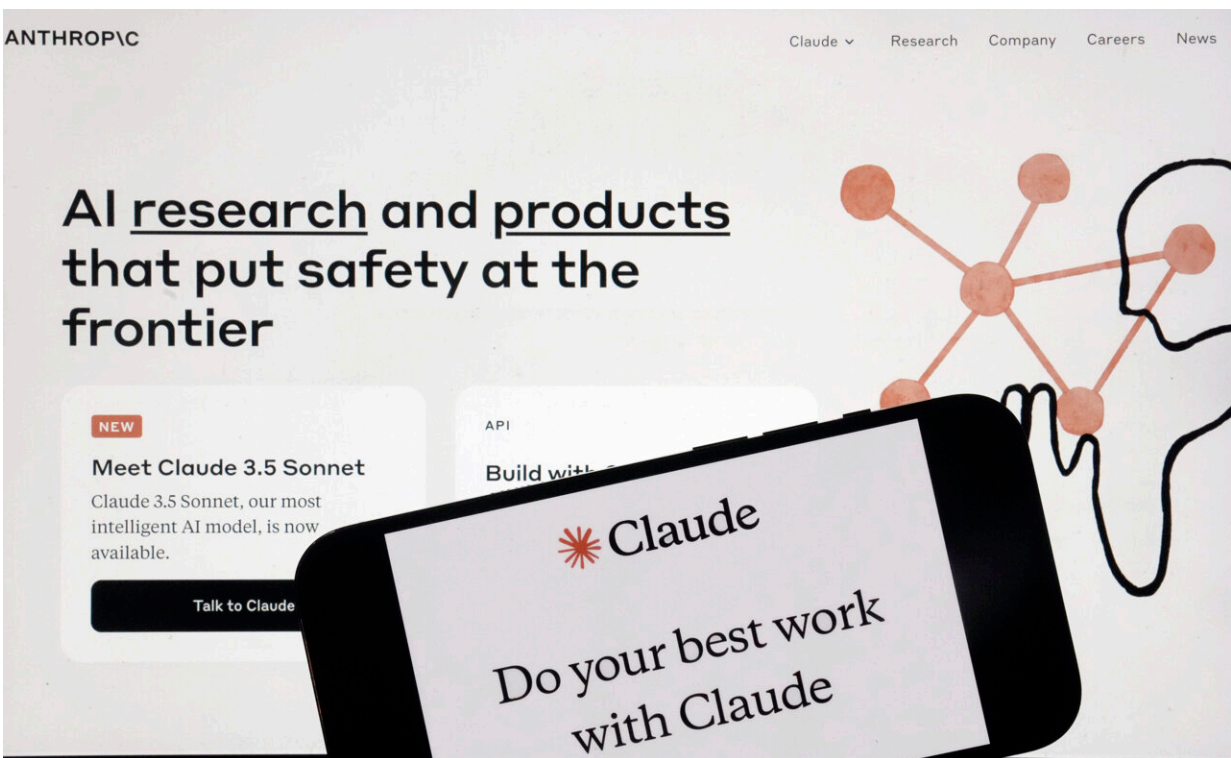


Google's partnership with AI startup Anthropic faces scrutiny from UK competition watchdog

July 30 2024



The Anthropic website and mobile phone app are shown in this photo, in New York, Friday, July 5, 2024. Britain's competition watchdog said Tuesday, July 30, 2024, it's looking into Google's partnership with artificial intelligence startup Anthropic, adding fresh regulatory scrutiny for the investment flooding into the AI industry. Credit: AP Photo/Richard Drew, File

Britain's competition watchdog said Tuesday it's looking into Google's partnership with artificial intelligence startup Anthropic, adding fresh regulatory scrutiny to investment money flooding into the AI industry.

The Competition and Markets Authority said it's seeking comments as it considers whether the [deal](#) between the two companies has resulted in a "substantial lessening of competition" in the United Kingdom for AI services. The watchdog said it will accept feedback from "any interested party" until Aug. 13 before deciding whether to open a formal investigation.

San Francisco-based Anthropic was founded in 2021 by siblings Dario and Daniela Amodei, who previously worked at ChatGPT maker OpenAI. The company focused heavily on increasing the safety and reliability of AI models. Google reportedly agreed last year to make a multibillion-dollar investment in Anthropic.

The U.K. regulator has already been scrutinizing Amazon for investing \$4 billion in Anthropic. It has also been probing Microsoft's multibillion-dollar [partnership](#) with OpenAI and Microsoft's hiring of startup [Inflection AI's](#) key staff over concerns it could thwart [competition](#).

"We intend to cooperate with the CMA and provide them with the complete picture about Google's [investment](#) and our commercial collaboration," Anthropic said in a statement. "We are an independent company and none of our strategic partnerships or investor relationships diminish the independence of our corporate governance or our freedom to partner with others."

Google said it "is committed to building the most open and innovative AI ecosystem in the world."

The company said Anthropic, which is using Google's cloud computing

services, "is free to use multiple cloud providers and does, and we don't demand exclusive tech rights."

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