EISO KANT

CTO & Cofounder of Poolside

Lucia Sinapi-Thomas, Executive Vice President – Capgemini Ventures Managing Director

I will now turn to you, Eiso, because Poolside is also a very specific assistant for software developers and the new generation of GenAI coding assistants. I must say, it is a very young start-up because it came out of stealth last October and successfully closed a USD 500 million equity round at a USD 3 billion valuation, so a perfect illustration of the new generation of GenAI just 12 months after its creation. What is the magic of Poolside, Eiso?

Eiso Kant, CTO & Cofounder of Poolside

First of all, thank you for having me here, Lucia. Poolside focuses entirely on being the world's most capable AI targeting software developing capabilities. Our view is that in the next 10 years the gap between human capabilities in software development and machine intelligence is going to almost entirely close. However, we were also very aware that the vast majority of software developers in the world and where economic value gets created, sit inside large enterprises. The world does not often realize that JP Morgan has 50,000 software developers. Poolside focuses entirely not just on pushing capabilities in AI in software development but also on making sure that they can actually be deployed securely and put into action inside large, complex enterprises and government environments.

Lucia Sinapi-Thomas

Interesting. You are possibly going to contribute to the problem of labor shortages in that space, which is going to be interesting. What struck me when you went public, Eiso, is that with your co-founder, Jason Warner, by the way the former CTO of GitHub Copilot, now part of Microsoft, you published a manifesto talking about artificial general intelligence. That was very striking so can you tell us some more?

Eiso Kant

When I am in rooms like this, I often like to ask how many people in the audience fully believe that within the next decade we are going to entirely close the gap between what human intelligence is capable of, at least in areas that are economically valuable, and what AI is capable of. We often see a lot of hands in the room go up, but I posit that actually, the vast majority of us are still underestimating what is going to happen in the coming decades. From the point of view of Poolside, when we look at foundation models today, we have extremely large-scale data, the Web for large language models or Elon putting millions of cars on the road to solve full self-driving. These models are fundamentally compression of that data into a neural networker model that forces generalization, essentially what we refer to as intelligence.

The reason I mention this in the context of our manifesto is that we are going to see that gap close first in areas where we have extremely large data or we are able to gather it by putting millions of cars on the road or synthetically generate or verify it in areas that can be simulated, like software development. We believe that the path towards AGI – which I think is a poorly defined term but let us take it as entirely closing the gap between human and machine intelligence in all things we consider economically valuable – is first going to go through closing that gap in software development. I do not want to give a monologue but to summarize, it really comes down to the fact that when we are dealing with the training of these models, as we are generating more and more data, we need to be able to tell them when they are right and when they are wrong. In domains that are deterministic, like code, which we can execute, test and verify, we are able to push these models to more complex reasoning and correct coding capabilities faster than we might in other areas. Our view is that the road to AGI is going to go through building the world's most capable capabilities in software development and coding first, and secondly only in other areas.