**APRIL 2021 | ISSUE #17** 

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# ATOS AND DREAMQUARK ADVANCE RESPONSIBLE FINANCE WITH TRANSPARENT ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Atos and DreamQuark, a French start-up specializing in artificial intelligence technologies applied to the finance and insurance sectors and a member of the Atos Scaler accelerator program, are committed to developing socially responsible investment (SRI) through artificial intelligence. To this end, the two companies today announce the launch of the Sustainable Investment Brain, the first digital platform for banks and insurers that is both dedicated to SRI and compliant with the principles of transparent artificial intelligence as set out in the proposed European regulation published today.

Supported by a growing interest in ESG (environmental, social and governance) issues, global sustainable fund inflows were up 88% in the fourth quarter of 2020 to more than \$152bn1. Their success has since continued to build, supported by the growing demand for meaningful investments during the health crisis.

The Sustainable Investment Brain accelerates this trend by combining DreamQuark's algorithmic know-how with Atos' expertise in data management and decarbonization. Based on artificial intelligence and deep learning, the solution leverages financial and extra-financial data, including accurate and standardized ESG data provided by Atos and EcoAct, an Atos Group company specialized in climate transition. Once integrated and analyzed, this data can be used to identify the investors most interested in responsible investment and to recommend the most suitable assets and investment products, taking into account their individual profile and objectives.

In parallel, the platform ensures end-to-end data processing, from preparation to visualization. The attention paid to data integrity, combined with advanced management tools, allows the design, largescale deployment and management of transparent machine learning models, respecting the European principles of autonomy, interpretability, explicability, transparency, responsibility and robustness. Additionally, the models can be manually modified to take into account company policies and regulatory obligations (e.g. the European regulation on green finance SFDR). SRI is thus becoming a real growth driver for clients, at a time when more and more private players in the finance sector are looking for a reason to exist.

Today, we find ourselves at a crossroads between major technological innovations and the need to move towards decarbonization. Now, we are proud to announce that these two areas are not mutually exclusive. The Sustainable Investment Brain solution from Atos and DreamQuark has been developed with the ambition to put technology at the service of the environment while remaining efficient and financially relevant. We thank Atos for its trust. DreamQuark has always wanted to democratize transparent Artificial Intelligence to the largest number of people, and we are sure that this is possible with Atos, explained Nicolas Mric, founder and CEO of DreamQuark.

SOURCE: DAILY INDEPENDENT



HSBC Holdings has put artificial intelligence to a novel use: It's using different forms of AI to analyze data, choose assets in which to invest, and rebalance the asset allocation weekly for an index called AiMAX, which it launched last week.

AiMAX is geared toward clients of HSBC's wealth businesses where it can be accessed through HSBC structured products as well as insurance and fund vehicles offered by third-party distribution partners. The underlying technology, a combination of the AI and discovery built into IBM Watson and AI modeling software developed by EquBot, can analyze a wide range of data sets, including satellite images of farm crops, shipping containers in the ocean and foot traffic patterns at shopping malls, alongside more traditional data sources like economic reports, news feeds and social media posts to make investment decisions.

"We're trying to offer better indexes with better investment performance, which helps investors grow wealth and save for retirement," said Dave Odenath, head of quantitative investment solutions for Americas at HSBC, which is based in London and has \$2.918 billion of assets. "Al is doing the job a team of analysts would have historically had to do. Being able to leverage that technology and plug it into some of our strategies allows us to do more with less."

It's the latest example of a growing trend in which financial services firm deploy AI to do or to enhance work normally done by humans.

"What's great about this technology is it has the ability to crawl anything and everything in the public domain," Odenath said. "So things like social media that potentially have had an impact on the markets are covered by the Al. The system's ability to read social media gives it a bit of alpha on the sentiment."

AiMAX, its creators say, can simulate the work of a large team of global market analysts and traders to come up with market insights that can be used in creating and rebalancing investment portfolios. Principles of modern portfolio theory are combined with predictions generated by Al. The Al software rebalances portfolios every week by following a three-step process. First it provides forecasts based on data. Then AiMAX tests each possible combination of the 15 investable asset classes. Then it selects the portfolio likely to generate the highest return.

"The AI forecasts determine the asset allocation for AiMAX and the individual equities for AiPEX going into the index portfolios," Odenath said.

Some hedge funds, including Renaissance Technologies in East Setauket, N.Y., which has recruited IBM Watson engineers, use AI in their investment decisions. HSBC is the first company to create AI-driven indices.

HSBC first did this with an Al-driven stock market index called AiPEX it launched in August 2019. According to HSBC, the AiPEX Total Return Index outperformed the S&P 500 Total Return Index by 7.60% in 2020 and has outperformed by 4.14% since launching.

AiPEX has an investable universe that's equivalent to the Russell 1000, an index made of the 1,000 largest U.S. companies by market cap. On a monthly basis, the AI is asked to pick a portfolio that's typically around 250 stocks that it predicts will grow the most over the coming month.

AiMAX is a little bit different because it has a defined investment universe of 15 different asset classes that it can invest in. On a weekly basis, Al-generated price forecasts are used to come up with a portfolio expected to appreciate over the coming month. A portion of the portfolio is rebalanced each week.

# ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE TOOL THAT READS CANCER'S DNA MAY LEAD TO NEW TREATMENTS

An artificial intelligence tool that can decipher the DNA of tumours could transform cancer treatment for thousands of patients, scientists have said. Each cancer has its own genetic identity, similar to a fingerprint, created by the mutations that distort the DNA in its cells.

A study led by Dr Serena Nik–Zainal of the University of Cambridge identified patterns of DNA damage that indicate which patients are likely to respond to a powerful class of drugs that allow their own immune systems to attack their cancer. Her team then created an algorithm capable of spotting the same constellations of mutations in new patients.

It is hoped that the new diagnostic technique could be used to tailor treatment to individuals far more quickly than is possible at present. The proportion who could benefit depends on the disease. For bowel cancer it could be 30 per cent, or about 14,000 people a year in the UK. For breast cancer it is likely to be 2-3 per cent, or roughly 1,000-1,500.

For reasons that are not yet entirely understood, these types of cancers are sensitive to a class of drugs known as checkpoint inhibitors. These medicines work by releasing a natural brake on the immune system, so that immune cells called T-cells recognise and attack tumours. The study was published in the journal Nature Cancer

#### **SOURCE: THETIMES.CO.UK**





#### SKEWED FOCUS: EU ON ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Trust is imperative; this is the principle underlying the new regulations unveiled by the European Union to govern the use of artificial intelligence. Trust can only stem from transparency. Therefore, according to the draft rules, companies providing Al services and those using these would have to be able to explain exactly how the AI is making decisions, be open to risk assessments, and ensure human oversight in how these systems are created and used. This is a lofty aim; experts claim that as Al systems get more complex and feed on more data, it may be impossible to put a finger on why the machine is making a particular decision. Regulations to control AI — an ecosystem with no set definition yet either in law or in the industry — will thus have to be fluid and evolve with the times.

More important, a one-size-fits-all approach cannot be used to govern a system that feeds on data from across the world and performs a vast range of functions. The draft rules not only set limits around using Al in these fields, but they also place checks and balances on "high-risk" applications of Al by law enforcement and courts to safeguard people's fundamental rights.

SOURCE: THE TELEGRAPH

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# TRADE FINANCE PLATFORMS PIVOT AS BANKS TAKE RISK-OFF MODE



A NEW exchange will soon come from PrivEx to facilitate the trading of corporate loans among financial institutions. But it is not alone. Other fintechs have taken a stab at digitising loan distribution, though this has chiefly been in trade finance. And as banks take a risk-off mode in trade finance, these nascent platforms have had to make small pivots too.

Trade finance covers financial instruments that companies use to facilitate trade, such as letters of credit, performance guarantees, and import/export loans. It has traditionally been a bank-to-bank market managed using text messages and Excel sheets. Figures from Standard Chartered Bank and International Chamber of Commerce estimate that global trade faces a US\$3.4 trillion financing gap.

Covid-19 has worsened the already high rates of rejected applications. More pain is ahead when banks face higher capital requirements next year due to Basel III reforms.

Singapore-based fintech CCRManager offers banks a way to re-distribute trade finance to other banks, credit insurers and fund managers. Its platform, around since 2017, has banks listing assets for distribution, firm up deals, and exchanging documents on a secured channel. But it has also met challenges, said its chief operating officer George Lee. Fund flows via its platform have fallen by about 20-30 per cent over the last two years. CCRManager is now moving upstream to reach out to the corporates.

TA London-based deep tech company backed by former Google, Deepmind, Swiftkey and Nuance leadership has unveiled a new release of its Al platform that allows contact centres to detect issues and trends such as customer's vulnerability, ability to pay or product suitability.

Sentient Machines, which already works with a number of leading challenger banks and other financial services companies, has used the latest thinking in unsupervised self-learning and reinforcement-learning neural networks in its new Sentient Analytics platform.

# RESEARCH-LED START-UP'S AI PLATFORM REVEALS THE CUSTOMER BEHIND THE CALL

As well as transcribing calls using the latest recurrent neural network-based speech recognition engine, the software-as-a-service platform analyses conversations using leading-edge Natural Language Processing (NLP) techniques to provide deep insights into the customers themselves and how well the contact centre agents support their customers on calls and in asynchronous channels.

The Sentient Machines platform combines all forms of communication such as email and on-line chat alongside the voice channel, allowing contact centres to build a rich and all-round understanding of the customer's interaction, allowing them to quickly identify factors that would previously have led to a negative outcome. In this new release, the platform can detect, measure and optimise over 200 topics of interest.

Dr. Danica Damljanovic, CEO and founder of Sentient Machines and an internationally recognised scientist behind more than 50 publications, said: "Our customers asked us to help them gain insight into their contact centre operations to specifically highlight areas of interest and concern, such as Vulnerability, Ability to Pay, Safe-Guarding and Empathy, and with this data they can ensure they are best serving their clients.

SOURCE: M2 PRESSWIRE



#### AI STARTUP FACULTY WINS CONTRACT TO PREDICT FUTURE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE UK'S NHS

Faculty, a VC-backed artificial intelligence startup, has won a tender to work with the NHS to make better predictions about its future requirements for patients, based on data drawn from how it handled the COVID-19 pandemic.

Faculty will work with NHS England and NHS Improvement to build upon the Early Warning System (EWS) developed for the service during the pandemic. Based on Bayesian hierarchical modeling, Faculty says the EWS uses aggregate data (for example, COVID-19 positive case numbers, 111 calls and mobility data) to warn hospitals about potential spikes in cases so they can divert staff, beds and equipment needed. This learning will now be applied across the whole of the service, for issues other than the pure pandemic response, such as improving service delivery and patient care and predicting A&E demand and winter pressures.

I asked Richard Sargeant, COO of Faculty, if he thought Faculty was the "Palantir for the U.K." (Palantir has also worked with the NHS during the pandemic.) "We are, I believe, a really effective and scalable AI company, not just for the U.K. but we're working in the U.S. and in Europe, Asia. I think we will continue to scale. We're growing, and we're going to grow because I believe that AI can make things better for the citizens, for customers. Palantir doesn't really do AI, they do data engineering in a big way. And we've seen them be effective in the NHS. I think Faculty kind of stands on its own."



# THE UNITED NATIONS IS TURNING TO ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN SEARCH FOR PEACE IN WAR ZONES

Artificial intelligence is helping to broker peacekeeping deals in war-torn countries, underscoring how the tech with a bad reputation can have a positive impact, too. Over the past year, the United Nations has worked with the AI start-up Remesh on an algorithm that helped negotiate peace agreements across Yemen and Libya as the two nations grappled with ongoing civil wars and the coronavirus pandemic.

The tool was deployed as a website link to stakeholders in embattled regions. It was designed to assess open-ended responses on the Internet from up to 1,000 people at a time and derive a consensus in near real-time. The software has helped the U.N. understand what groups in conflict zones are most concerned about during live discussions with political leaders.

The U.N. kicked off the effort last summer in Yemen, where the platform was deployed to understand how people thought the pandemic impacted conflicts on the ground and who they believed was responsible. It was used in Libya in October to determine how participants felt about the U.N. proposing an interim government nearly a decade after the North African nation descended into conflict.

**SOURCE: THE WASHINGTON POST** 



Back in 2018, the "Horizon Scanning Forward Thinking" report from the Law Society of England and Wales offered ideas for a number of ways artificial intelligence (AI) could be used in the legal sector. This included to predict case outcomes or to power Q&A chatbots that would support client queries.

The report also pointed to examples underway, such as document analysis to draw out key findings, review contracts and then presenting their information in dashboards or even acting as a virtual legal adviser, reviewing relevant cases to find key judgements fast.

Three years on, Stuart Whittle, business services and innovation director at national law firm Weightmans, explains: "As it stands, AI solutions tend to do one thing, really well."

The challenge for all those in the AI ecosystem is working out how to stitch these single point solutions together to deliver an end-to-end solution that becomes a seamless part of a lawyer's workflow.

"Achieving this will ultimately empower lawyers to spend more time delivering the valuable work they were trained to do and, importantly, that they enjoy doing."

regulatory, contractual, tortious, fiduciary and commercial constraints when it comes to implementing the technology, and ultimately battle against what can be an inherent scepticism in the industry – and among clients – towards change.

- Stuart Whittle, Business Services and Innovation Director, Weightmans

#### THE FUTURE OF AI IN THE LEGAL INDUSTRY

However, there are now many systems already active and in place. Mark Beer, commercial partner at Keystone Law, highlighted LawGeex for document review, GLS LegalSifter for automated contract drafting and risk analysis, Thomson Reuters Westlaw Edge to give predictive outcomes for disputes and RDO or Jur for resolving disputes online. He also cited an example from China where legal bots are able to address legal issues via massively-popular messaging platform WeChat.

But he said: "Al is already light years ahead of the legal profession's ability to use it. For many firms, Zoom is about as advanced as they want to get right now."

The biggest advancement, and something we are working on at Oxford University's DeepTech Dispute Resolution Lab, is the use of big data to predict disputes years before they crystallise, allowing organisations to avoid [them]. This requires analysis of huge data sets, something quantum processing will assist.

 Mark Beer, Commercial Partner, Keystone Law

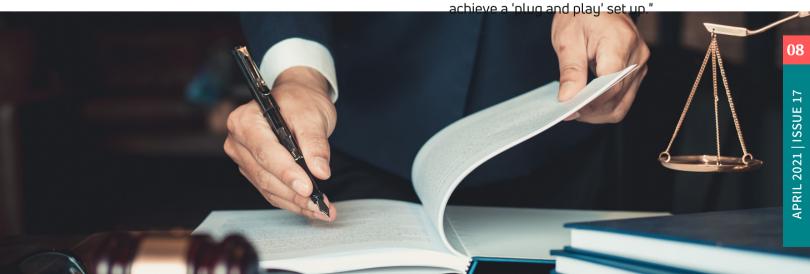
### Al implementations in legal are gaining pace

Another example comes from April King Legal, where a digital legal assistant called Amelia has just been launched through work with IPsoft. The first phase of her implementation will see Amelia handle thousands of inbound customer enquiries for free wills, trusts and probate information packs.

The firm's CEO Paul King said the technology will help "improve our customer experiences and reduce administrative costs. The massive shift towards digital service consumption over the past year has transformed customer expectations for every industry. The legal sector is no exception; digital experience has become the new customer battleground."

Brennan Ong is founder of LawAdvisor, a company working with a number of top international law firms to develop industry-leading technology that addresses specific issues facing today's legal teams. Ong says: "I think the ability to simplify law for the masses remains one of the biggest challenges of legaltech. We have seen this done successfully (if to a limited extent) in the finance and insurance sectors; however, the legal sector continues to remain inaccessible and expensive for a large part of the population. We are hopeful of addressing this area later in the year with a new solution.

"The legal industry is quite bespoke and risk averse. This means high expectations from AI tools in terms of customisability and accuracy. It's not easy to



#### THE FUTURE OF AI IN THE LEGAL INDUSTRY

Other forward-thinking initiatives include Tech Nation's LawTech Sandbox, which according to Matt Shearer, CPO at Data Language, aims to "fast track transformative ideas, products and services in the legal sector, including AI".

He explains: "Legal firms that build their core expertise and differentiation into the design of their information management systems, at a granular and interconnected level, will create an advantage for themselves – both in their ability to adapt rapidly and their readiness to harness AI for new business models."

## Battling bias and trust issues with legal Al

However, legal AI faces many issues, not least if it is programmed by a human with inherent biases. Other problems include trust and security. The following are some of the comments made by legal industry experts to tackle bias and trust issues with legal AI.

- Matt Shearer, CPO at Data Language suggests one route forward may be what's known as explainable AI, as it's able to offer "complete visibility of how and why an AI-powered decision or action is made".
- Sally Mewies, head of technology at international law firm Walker Morris, suggests one of the biggest issues for AI in legal is "that judgement is a big factor in advising a client".
   For example, there are often many solutions to a problem and in certain circumstances, the correct solution can come down to an emotional issue, rather than a logical one.
- "There are also potential security concerns around granting third party AI tools access to confidential information and it's unclear whether it's yet widely trusted in the industry. It becomes a sub-optimal tool if the AI's output needs to be checked by a lawyer prior to sharing with a client."







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# THREE WAYS YOU CAN BUILD & OWN AI WITHOUT CODING

#### $\Theta$

#### You have an idea



Yes - this idea must originate from a pressing need, pain point or an opportunity that is associated with your current operations and/or industry dynamics.

There must be a ready demand for that idea to be transformed into a system - otherwise it has to be incubated or "cook" to be ready for the market.

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We commercialise and launch them to the market based on the pre-agreed specifications and after the full system development is completed by MyFinB. Roles and responsibilities would have been detailed out, and a long-term partnership is forged.

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MyFinB is an award-winning, high growth AI start-up with core operations in KL/SG and serving more than 30 markets globally.

We specialise in Artificial Intelligence and Natural Language Generation & Understanding (NLGU). Our Al-powered solutions translates structured data (financial statements, bank statements, incorporation info) and unstructured data (publications, social media, journals and video images) into decisioning reports.

MyFinB uses its proprietary NLGU and Cognitive Analytics capabilities to serve 10 core segments: Financial institutions, Enterprises / SMEs, Accounting and Auditing Firms / Consultants, Government Agencies, Credit bureaus, Stock Exchanges, Insurers, Trade Associations and Business chambers, Universities and Investment Promotion Agencies.

We manage a "digital factory" model where we help organisations build in-house capabilities via the Digital Al Labs (DIAL) programme. DIAL is a scheme of arrangement that helps organisations build and own A.I. expert systems – to solve a specific issue with a commercial goal in mind.

MyFinB's DIAL Programme offers a unique Al-as-a-Service (AlaaS) platform to overcome the barriers of adopting Al Systems. DIAL targets people without the knowledge of coding and programming to build their own expert systems for their organisations.

## "NOW EVERYONE CAN BUILD AND OWN AI WITHOUT CODING."

TO FIND OUT MORE, PLEASE EMAIL: CEAI@MYFINB.COM



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