

U.S. Government Takes Equity Stakes in Three Quantum Companies

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C O N T E N T S

Today's Three Things	
Hardware Frontier	
Algorithms and Software	
Industry and Ecosystem	
Academic Frontier	
Today's Impact	
Editor's Note	
Items	23
Sources	8
Reading time	~85 min read

C U R R E N T S O T A

Physical qubits	1,180
2Q fidelity	99.99%
Logical qubits	96 LQ

[Quantum hardware SOTA table →](#)

01 Other

Today's Three Things



1 **Silicon spin qubits move electrons via a "conveyor belt," bypassing the wiring bottleneck** Silicon spin qubits achieve long-range connectivity through "shuttling" (physically transporting an electron to another location), directly reducing circuit depth ^[15]; reading this as "replacing multi-layer SWAP gates with moving electrons" is editorial interpretation — ^[15] states only the reduction in circuit depth. Technical implication: the hardest problem for the spin route is not fidelity but connectivity, and shuttling electrons converts the wiring

challenge of two-dimensional arrays into a timing problem. Landscape impact: the silicon-route figures in this brief's SOTA archive (99.99% two-qubit gate fidelity, SQC donor qubits; >99% on sampled 300mm production wafers; device-level scale around 12 qubits; N_ops executable gate count of 10^2 – 10^3 , the lowest of the five routes) do not come from ^[15], and their definitions await item-by-item verification. If this set of figures holds, shuttling is a key piece in closing the spin route's scale deficit, on a validation timeline measured in years.

- ¹ **US government takes minority stakes in three quantum companies as part of this week's \$300 million CHIPS award** The US government has taken minority equity stakes in D-Wave, Rigetti, and Quantinuum as part of a \$300 million CHIPS Act award finalized this week; GlobalFoundries separately secured \$375 million for domestic quantum manufacturing ^[19] — why it matters: the government has shifted from buying products to holding equity, and the capitalization tables of quantum companies are now written into industrial policy.
- ¹ **GÉANT and the Quantum Internet Alliance sign an MoU to advance cross-border European quantum networking** GÉANT

and the Quantum Internet Alliance (QIA, the European quantum internet research consortium) signed an MoU on September 8, 2026, to carry QIA's quantum networking technology over GÉANT's existing fiber backbone, with the goal of advancing prototypes into operational cross-border trials ^[3] — why it matters: a research backbone network operator is entering the field, moving quantum networking from lab-scale segments to national borders.

02 Hardware

Hardware Frontier



Silicon Spin Quantum Dots

Electron shuttling turns connectivity from a wiring problem into a timing problem

Silicon spin qubits gain enhanced connectivity through "shuttling" — physically transporting the information-carrying electron itself along a

chain of quantum dots to a target location, thereby reducing circuit depth ^[15]. Whether this gain stems from "no longer relying on layer upon layer of SWAP gates to hand off quantum information" is editorial interpretation; ^[15] does not describe this specific mechanism. The reporting explicitly states that the benefit holds for both the NISQ (noisy intermediate-scale quantum, i.e. the current generation of machines without error correction) and fault-tolerant stages ^[15].

Technical implication: the awkward thing about spin quantum dots is that individual metrics look excellent while the full machine stays small. The following set of comparison figures comes from this brief's SOTA archive, not from ^[15], and their definitions await item-by-item verification: this route's two-qubit gate fidelity has reached 99.99% (SQC atomically precise donor qubits), and randomly sampled devices on 300mm production wafers also achieve >99% — on paper a match for trapped ions. What holds it back is device scale, stuck for years at around the 12-qubit level, and N_{ops} (gates executable within the coherence time) of only 10^2 – 10^3 , the lowest tier among the five routes of superconducting, trapped ion, neutral atom, photonic, and spin. Circuit depth consumes the N_{ops} budget directly, so every layer of circuit depth that shuttling saves is

equivalent to lengthening this route's shortest stave.

What's still missing: the reporting gives no fidelity loss for shuttling itself, no per-transfer duration, and no transportable distance — three numbers that determine whether the gain is net positive or net negative. If the error from moving an electron once exceeds the few layers of circuit depth it saves, the approach does not hold up. What the spin route still lacks for fault tolerance is headroom in the product of T_2 (coherence time, 10–100 μs after ^{28}Si purification) and gate time, plus integration validation spanning from a dozen-odd qubits at device level to several hundred.

Landscape impact: players betting on CMOS production-line reuse — Intel, Diraq, Quantum Motion, imec — benefit most directly, since shuttling structures can be fabricated with off-the-shelf semiconductor processes. But catching up in qubit count to neutral atoms' 1,180 physical qubits or superconducting's 105–120 remains a matter of several years.

Diamond Spin

Fujitsu builds a tin-vacancy center and on-chip photonics integration prototype, but scalability figures are absent

Fujitsu announced it has built the first diamond spin quantum computing prototype integrating tin-vacancy centers (a light-emitting defect in the diamond lattice that can serve as a qubit) with on-chip photonic circuits ^[2]. The reporting also notes that while the fabrication is real, the key metrics needed to validate whether its modular architecture can scale have not yet been provided ^[2].

Technical implication: the long-standing problems with diamond color centers are photonic interface efficiency and uniformity across centers — making one device work is one thing, keeping the parameter spread tight across a hundred devices is another. Compared with the more common nitrogen-vacancy center, the tin-vacancy's advantage is a more stable spectral line for the spin-photon interface; fabricating it together with on-chip waveguides is a necessary precursor to the "connect modules with light" approach.

What's still missing: no two-qubit gate fidelity, no entanglement success rate between color centers, no end-to-end loss budget for module interconnects. For comparison, the photonic route's PsiQuantum Omega reports chip-to-chip interconnect fidelity of $99.72\% \pm 0.04\%$ (42 meters of fiber) with an accompanying note on the conditional-fidelity definition (this brief's archived data, not from this issue's sources,

pending verification); Fujitsu's disclosure here contains no comparable figures, so it is impossible to determine where it lands on any route's SOTA coordinates.

Landscape impact: on Japan's domestic quantum hardware map, Fujitsu's main line has been the superconducting route in partnership with RIKEN; opening a second front in diamond spin amounts to route hedging. For investment judgment, until scalability figures are published, this news should be weighted as a "process demonstration" rather than "architecture validation."

Cryogenic Testing

Cryogenic testing moves from the research lab into the chip production line

As quantum computing and superconducting electronics advance, cryogenic testing is expanding from the research lab into chip manufacturing ^[7].

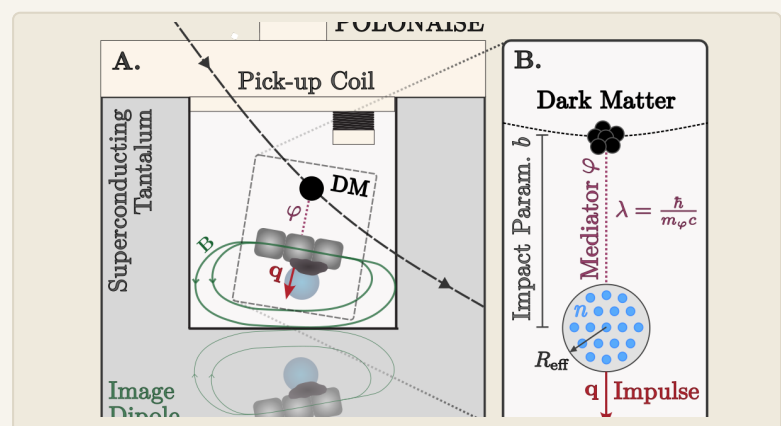
Technical implication: this is a hard signal of industrialization. At the research stage each chip can be cooled slowly to millikelvin and measured once; at the production stage what's needed is cryogenic screening at wafer level at an acceptable cycle time — Quantum Motion previously characterized a 1,024 quantum-dot array in 5 minutes (this brief's archived data,

not from this issue's sources, pending verification), demonstrating exactly this kind of throughput capability.

Landscape impact: what's affected is capacity planning for test equipment vendors and foundries, not the performance metrics of quantum computers themselves. Cryogenic testing capability is becoming one of the entry requirements for quantum chip foundry work, and points to the same thing as the \$375 million in domestic quantum manufacturing funding GlobalFoundries secured this week ^[19]: the supply chain is starting to treat quantum chips as a class of product requiring standardized yield control, rather than research instruments hand-built one unit at a time.

03 Algorithms

Algorithms and Software



RIKEN-led team computes a 12,635-atom protein model with a hybrid quantum-classical framework

RIKEN, Cleveland Clinic, and IBM used a framework called "quantum-centric supercomputing" to complete the modeling of a 12,635-atom protein system, combining quantum and classical computing in a single pipeline ^[14].

Technical implication: this atom count far exceeds what any purely quantum method can currently handle — the key is the division of labor, with the quantum portion handling only the strongly correlated electronic regions that classical methods struggle with most, and the rest going to the supercomputer. What's notable is that this partitioning was applied to a real biomolecule at the ten-thousand-atom scale rather than a demonstration system of a few dozen atoms; the source makes no "first" claim about this.

To be clear: the persuasiveness of such results depends on how much the quantum portion actually carried, and on how far classical methods get with the quantum portion removed — the reporting provides no such comparison. Until there is one, it should not be read as "quantum advantage"; it is a proof of engineering feasibility for a hybrid workflow.

Landscape impact: pharmaceuticals and biological computation are among the core scenarios in IBM's quantum commercialization narrative, and Cleveland Clinic's participation as a healthcare institution shows the user side is willing to spend compute and time on workflow validation. The practical impact on drug discovery remains early-stage, on a timeline of several years.

NVIDIA CUDA Toolkit 13.4 extends to the Windows on Arm platform

CUDA Toolkit 13.4 adds support for Windows on Arm, where previously CUDA applications on Arm platforms could only run via Linux; the release also strengthens control granularity for shared GPUs and provides early developer support for the NVIDIA Rubin GPU architecture ^[8].

Technical implication: the relevance to quantum is that quantum circuit simulation, tensor network contraction, and real-time decoding all run on CUDA — Quantinuum's real-time decoding runs on NVIDIA GB200 (this brief's archive, not from this issue's sources, pending verification). Extending the development platform from Linux to Windows on Arm lowers the environment barrier for quantum software developers; it does not raise the compute ceiling.

Landscape impact: what's affected is the developer reach of the quantum software toolchain; the improvement in shared-GPU control granularity has direct resource-isolation value for multi-user hybrid quantum-classical scheduling platforms (such as the various hybrid data centers in this week's related coverage).

04 Industry

Industry and Ecosystem

US government takes minority stakes in D-Wave, Rigetti, and Quantinuum

Within the \$300 million CHIPS Act award finalized this week, the US government took minority equity stakes in three quantum companies — D-Wave, Rigetti, and Quantinuum; GlobalFoundries separately secured \$375 million for domestic quantum manufacturing ^[19].

Business implication: beyond the award, the government also took equity this time. The source says only that the minority stakes are part of the \$300 million CHIPS award; it does not state whether the full \$300 million corresponds to these three companies, nor does it disclose the consideration structure between the award and the equity. For the

three companies, what can be confirmed for now is that the shareholder register has gained a holder with policy objectives. The three span three different technology routes — D-Wave is quantum annealing, Rigetti superconducting gate-model, Quantinuum trapped ion — so the government clearly did not bet on a single route but bought a portfolio.

Landscape impact: first affected are these three companies' ownership structures and the pricing of subsequent funding rounds, then their peers who were not selected — government backing itself constitutes a market signal, one that may be further amplified in procurement and export-control contexts. For investors, what's worth watching is the stake percentages, exercise conditions, and whether capacity or domestic procurement commitments are attached; these term details determine whether this is a boost or a shackle. Timeline: term details should surface in regulatory disclosures within weeks.

IonQ launches Superion 256 and raises 2026 revenue guidance to \$450–460 million

IonQ released Superion 256, opening 2027 delivery slots, and following the completion of its SkyWater acquisition raised 2026 revenue guidance to \$450–460 million ^[19].

Business implication: the guidance raise came after the acquisition closed, meaning the figure includes consolidated contribution, and organic growth from hardware itself needs to be broken out separately — the release does not break it out. Acquiring SkyWater (a US domestic foundry) turns IonQ from a pure systems vendor into a company owning a production line, moving in the same direction as the flow of government domestic-manufacturing funding.

Landscape impact: the commercial SOTA for the trapped-ion route is currently held by Quantinuum Helios; to be clear, ^[19] only offers a link to view Quantinuum's Helix data on Helios and lists no specific values, and this brief's archived Helios metrics (98 fully connected qubits, 99.921% two-qubit gate fidelity across all qubit pairs, 99.99% SPAM state preparation and measurement, quantum volume approximately 33.5 million) are company-disclosed figures still awaiting item-by-item verification against the original text. IonQ's Superion 256, named for 256, is a claim an order of magnitude apart in qubit count, but the reporting gives no accompanying fidelity; note that IonQ's AQ (algorithmic qubits) metric incorporates error mitigation and is not directly comparable to all-pairs raw fidelity. Until accompanying metrics are

published, the number 256 can only be read as a scale claim, not a capability record.

Quantinuum management to attend the Piper Sandler "Growth Frontiers" conference

Quantinuum Inc. (Nasdaq: QNT) announced that management will attend the fifth annual "Growth Frontiers" conference hosted by Piper Sandler, held September 14–16, 2026 in Nashville, Tennessee, where the company will join roundtable discussions and hold one-on-one meetings with investors ^[9].

Business implication: a routine post-IPO investor relations action containing no new information in itself; but combined with this week's news of the government equity stake ^[19], what investors are most likely to press on in one-on-ones is the equity terms and the impact of government ownership.

Landscape impact: what's worth watching is whether new guidance or order disclosures follow the conference, with the window falling next week.

GÉANT and the Quantum Internet Alliance sign an agreement to advance European quantum network architecture

GÉANT and the Quantum Internet Alliance (QIA) signed a memorandum of understanding on September 8, 2026, combining GÉANT's

fiber network with QIA's quantum networking technical capabilities to jointly develop infrastructure, standards, and interoperability protocols, with the goal of advancing quantum communication prototypes into operational cross-border trials ^[3].

Business implication: GÉANT is the backbone interconnect provider for Europe's national research and education networks, with cross-border dark fiber already in hand — it already owns the most expensive segment of quantum network infrastructure. The value of this MoU lies not in a technical breakthrough but in plugging quantum networking into a physical network that is already in operation.

Landscape impact: what's affected is European quantum communication equipment vendors and the standards-setting process, particularly the interoperability protocols item — with multiple vendors' equipment needing to work over the same link, the allocation of authority over interface standards begins here. The MoU carries no binding commitments or monetary figures; substantive progress should be judged by whether concrete cross-border trial segments and a participating-vendor list materialize, on a timeline of years.

Academic Frontier



Light's "curveball" measured for the first time: the strongest interaction point of a tightly focused laser is not at the beam center

Researchers have for the first time experimentally demonstrated the optical Magnus effect (the Magnus effect being the phenomenon in which a spinning object deviates from a straight line in a fluid), finding that the position where a tightly focused laser interacts most strongly with atoms is slightly offset from the beam's geometric center, by a mechanism analogous to a spinning ping-pong ball curving in flight ^[18]. The reporting notes that because lasers are precisely the means of manipulating qubits, the effect may introduce gate operation errors, but the same sentence also states that it may offer a new route to coupling qubits together ^[18].

Technical implication: this is both a "new error source" type of result — its value lying in identifying a physical mechanism for one of the error terms previously filed under unknown origin — and possibly a lead on a new coupling mechanism; the source presents both possibilities side by side. Both the trapped-ion and neutral-atom routes use focused lasers to address individual qubits, and an offset between the beam spot center and the atom's actual point of strongest interaction manifests directly as addressing crosstalk and gate phase error.

What's still missing: the reporting gives no magnitude for the offset or a corresponding estimate of fidelity loss. This number is critical — if the error introduced by the offset is below the 10^{-5} level, it has no practical impact on current two-qubit gate performance of 99.5%–99.99%; if above 10^{-4} , it eats into the error budget for the trapped-ion route's push toward 99.99% (Oxford Ionics' reported gate error is 8.4×10^{-5} , this brief's archived data, not from this issue's sources, pending verification).

Landscape impact: what's affected is every hardware team using laser addressing and their calibration procedures — the good news is that once the mechanism behind such a systematic offset is clear, it can usually be

compensated via calibration rather than requiring a hardware redesign. Timeline: months to work into calibration procedures.

Stevens team proposes a new laser method improving quantum state control under strong fields

A "Stevens team" has developed a new laser method for precise control of quantum systems, targeting the problem of disturbances caused by strong fields ^[13]; the source does not spell out the full institutional name, so the attribution remains to be confirmed.

Technical implication: this points to the same class of problem as the preceding item on the optical Magnus effect — the non-idealities introduced by the laser itself as a control mechanism. Control precision in the strong-field regime is an unavoidable trade-off when raising gate speed: increasing laser power shortens gate time (superconducting t_2Q is 20–100 ns, trapped ion 10–500 μ s, and trapped ions' slow gate times are precisely one of their scaling bottlenecks), but the disturbances introduced by strong fields eat into fidelity.

Landscape impact: if the method transfers, the most direct beneficiaries are gate-speed optimization paths for trapped ions and neutral atoms; the reporting gives no

quantitative improvement figure, so for now it counts as methodological progress.

Kyushu University proposes a "relativity of spacetime superpositions" framework, noting that quantum gravity experimental signatures may be hard to distinguish from ordinary gravity

Researchers at Kyushu University have proposed a framework called "Relativity of Spacetime Superpositions" for identifying experimental signatures of quantum gravity [4].

Technical implication: the thrust of this result is to dampen experimental enthusiasm rather than fuel it — if the experimental signals of quantum gravity can be mimicked by ordinary gravitational effects, then the criteria used by a whole set of existing "tabletop quantum gravity experiments" will need to be redesigned.

Landscape impact: the scope is limited to fundamental physics experiment design, with no direct bearing on quantum computing engineering; it constitutes a new constraint on proposal review for the relevant experimental groups.

IFAE uses levitated milligram-scale magnets as force sensors to search for ultraheavy dark matter

Research co-authored by Dorian Amaral of IFAE (Institut de Física d'Altes Energies) explores using levitated milligram-scale magnets as force sensors to detect ultraheavy dark matter. ^[11]

Technical implication: this is a classic path by which quantum sensing technology feeds back into fundamental physics — the displacement sensitivity of levitated magnets rests on cryogenics and superconducting quantum interference measurement, sharing the same cryogenic engineering infrastructure as quantum computing ^[7].

Landscape impact: what's affected is the spectrum of experimental approaches to direct dark matter detection, offering a miniaturized route alongside conventional large-volume detectors.

Monash University predicts that Bose-Fermi mixtures can form stable "quantum droplets"

Researchers at Monash University's School of Physics and Astronomy predict that boson-fermion mixtures can form stable "quantum

droplets," a conclusion that challenges existing theory of ultracold particles ^[5].

Technical implication: quantum droplets are a state of matter whose shape is sustained by quantum fluctuations rather than conventional interactions; predicting their stable existence in Bose-Fermi mixtures extends a picture previously established mainly in Bose mixtures.

Landscape impact: this belongs to fundamental ultracold atom theory and shares an experimental platform with neutral-atom quantum computing (the same optical lattice and magneto-optical trap equipment); theoretical progress may in turn inform state preparation schemes for atom arrays.

Metasurface-nanoparticle hybrid structure improves infrared upconversion imaging

Researchers have enhanced infrared-to-visible upconversion imaging using a hybrid metasurface and nanoparticle structure, opening possibilities for quantum infrared sensing by strengthening light-matter interaction ^[6].

Technical implication: the point of infrared upconversion imaging is to bypass expensive infrared detectors — move the infrared signal into the visible band and a cheap silicon-based camera can capture it.

Landscape impact: if the efficiency can be raised, what's affected is the cost structure of infrared imaging, with applications spanning night vision, gas detection, and medical imaging; quantum infrared sensing is a further-out application layer.

Electron microscopes connected to quantum computers, aiming to squeeze more information out of every electron

Researchers are combining electron microscopes with quantum computers, aiming to extract far more information from each electron than is currently possible, so that faint details can be resolved with fewer electrons, protecting fragile samples that conventional microscopy would damage ^[17].

Technical implication: the physical basis for this direction is quantum-enhanced measurement — the limit on measurement precision is set not by the detector but by the quantum state of the probing particles. For biological samples, electron dose is damage dose, and reducing the electron count means extending sample lifetime.

What's still missing: the reporting does not explain the specific role the quantum computer plays or the information-gain factor already achieved. Until these figures appear, this should count as a concept demonstration.

Landscape impact: what's affected are the sample limitations of structural biology methods such as cryo-electron microscopy (cryo-EM); if it holds up, the timeline is several years.

The brain is not a quantum computer: decoherence times are off by ten orders of magnitude

A quantitative accounting of "is the brain a quantum computer" returns a negative verdict: Tegmark's calculation from 2000 gives a superposition lifetime inside microtubules of about 10^{-13} seconds, and about 10^{-20} seconds for superpositions spanning the scale of a single neuron, while neurons operate on timescales from a ten-thousandth of a second to 1 second ^[12]. The gap is ten orders of magnitude — not a close score ^[12].

Technical implication: this is not a new calculation but a way of pulling a recurring public debate back to the numbers. For comparison, engineered quantum systems require extreme measures to push coherence times into a useful range — superconducting T_1 is about 100 μs (Willow, roughly a $5\times$ improvement over Sycamore; this brief's archived data, not from this issue's sources, pending verification), requiring millikelvin cryogenics; trapped-ion clock states can reach

seconds to minutes, requiring ultrahigh vacuum and laser cooling. The human brain is a warm, wet 37°C environment where none of these conditions hold.

Landscape impact: what's affected is the "quantum consciousness" narrative and its associated fundraising rhetoric; it does not negate serious quantum biology (such as avian magnetoreception or photosynthetic energy transfer), where coherence time requirements are far lower.

06 Impact

Today's Impact

1. A government has appeared on quantum companies' shareholder registers

Who's affected: existing shareholders of D-Wave, Rigetti, and Quantinuum, plus every peer currently raising capital ^[19]. What changed: alongside the \$300 million CHIPS award finalized this week, the government took minority stakes in these three companies (the source does not state whether the full \$300 million corresponds to these three, nor does it disclose the consideration structure between the two), adding a policy variable to company valuation logic — government ownership is both endorsement and

constraint. What to watch next: stake percentages, exercise conditions, and whether domestic capacity or procurement commitments are attached; these terms usually surface in regulatory filings within weeks, and their content determines whether this money is fuel or ballast. Note too that the \$375 million in manufacturing funding GlobalFoundries secured separately ^[19] and IonQ's acquisition of SkyWater ^[19] point to the same thing: domestic capacity is being repriced by capital.

2. The silicon spin route may be closing one of its gaps

Who's affected: every spin quantum dot player betting on CMOS production-line reuse ^[15].

What changed: connectivity has been this route's hardest wall after scale — per this brief's SOTA archive (not from this issue's sources, pending verification), fidelity has reached 99.99% (donor qubits) and >99% on sampled 300mm production wafers, but device-level scale is stuck at around a dozen-odd qubits. Electron shuttling turns the wiring challenge into a timing challenge, offering a path to two-dimensional scaling with reduced circuit depth. What to watch next: three numbers — the per-transfer fidelity loss, duration, and maximum distance of shuttling — which the reporting does not provide, and which determine whether this path works.

3. The error ledger for laser control needs rewriting

Who's affected: every team on the trapped-ion and neutral-atom routes using focused lasers to address qubits ^[18] ^[13]. What changed: the optical Magnus effect has been measured for the first time, showing that the point of strongest interaction between a tightly focused beam and an atom is offset from the geometric center ^[18] — a systematic offset not previously counted in error budgets; the source also notes that this effect might be used as a new route to coupling qubits ^[18].

What to watch next: the magnitude of the offset. The gate error budget for trapped ions' current push toward 99.99% is around 8.4×10^{-5} (this brief's archive, not from this issue's sources, pending verification); if this effect's contribution is comparable, calibration procedures need a new term; if it is two orders of magnitude lower, it can be ignored.

Fortunately, systematic offsets can usually be compensated by calibration — a calibration problem, not a hardware one.

4. European quantum networking enters the infrastructure-integration stage

Who's affected: European quantum communication equipment vendors and participants in standards-setting ^[3]. What

changed: GÉANT is entering with cross-border backbone fiber, so quantum networks need not build their own physical layer. Protocol interoperability is written into the MoU's goals, meaning the allocation of authority over interface standards has begun. What to watch next: which two countries the concrete cross-border trial segment runs between, the list of participating equipment vendors, and whether funding commitments appear — the MoU itself is non-binding, and these three items are the actual progress indicators.

5. Architecture claims with no numbers attached need to be filed separately

Who's affected: investors and technical due-diligence teams who form judgments from vendor press releases ^[2] ^[19]. What changed: two cases of the same kind appear in this issue — Fujitsu's diamond spin prototype lacks scalability validation metrics ^[2], and IonQ's Superion 256 lacks accompanying fidelity ^[19]. Neither is false, but both support only "it has been built," not "capability record." What to watch next: for Fujitsu, entanglement success rate between color centers and the module interconnect loss budget; for IonQ, all-pairs fidelity at 256 qubits, and whether the AQ metric includes error mitigation — a figure that includes mitigation is not directly

comparable to the all-pairs fidelity definition Quantinuum discloses.

07 Other

Editor's Note



The thing most worth chewing on in this issue is how "the government becoming a shareholder" rewrites the industry's valuation language. For the past few years, quantum companies' funding stories were written in technical milestones — how many qubits, how many nines, when fault tolerance gets crossed. Now there is a parallel narrative line: who got picked. Industrial policy plugs directly into the cap table, and selecting three companies spanning three different technology routes is a bet on not betting — it acknowledges that the contest between routes has not converged, while ensuring that whichever route wins, there is a seat on the winner's register. For researchers, this changes not a single physical

metric; for financial readers, it means the weight of policy variables in future quantum company valuation models will keep rising, and such variables are priced in a completely different way from technical milestones: they do not follow a curve of incremental improvement, they jump only on the day the terms are published.

The other thread running through this issue is that the center of gravity in the hardware narrative is sliding from "add qubits" toward "remove error sources." Two academic developments point the same way: identifying error mechanisms that were not previously counted, rather than announcing new records. The optical Magnus effect shows that even the most basic laser addressing conceals an unmodeled systematic offset; the improvement in strong-field control methods shows the trade-offs in raising gate speed have not been exhausted. This kind of work looks unimpressive in a press release — there is no number to make a headline out of — but it is precisely what is actually making progress along the stretch from 99.9% to 99.99%. Meanwhile, cryogenic testing moving from the lab into the production line, and a foundry receiving dedicated domestic manufacturing funding, show that the supply chain has begun organizing production around the logic of

"yield control" rather than "research instruments." Putting the two together yields one judgment: this industry is transitioning from the stage of building prototypes to the stage of building products but not yet having built one. That intermediate state tends to be the longest, and the easiest for an impatient valuation curve to misread.

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- | | |
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- [19] A new cone, FastRényiQKD, boosts quantum key distribution speed
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