

>\_ INITIALIZING...



# ICOA 2026: The Global AI Security Olympiad

Exploring a Brand New Paradigm for Learning  
and Competition in the AI Agent Era.

June 27 – July 2, 2026 | Sydney, Australia 🇦🇺

# The Rules of the Game Have Changed.

# 99%



## >\_THE AUTOMATION STRIKE:

AI Agents can now automatically solve **over 90%** of traditional cybersecurity challenges.

## >\_THE ANXIETY:

Recent global events have sparked massive anxiety over the safety of autonomous AI systems.

## >\_THE LATEST HEADLINE:

Claude Mythos has dominated major news headlines, highlighting the urgency of AI security challenges.

# Bridging the PhD-to-High-School gap with zero-code challenges



## Traditional CTF Education

- >\_ Heavy Coding Required
- >\_ Outdated Paradigms

## Zero-Code Challenges

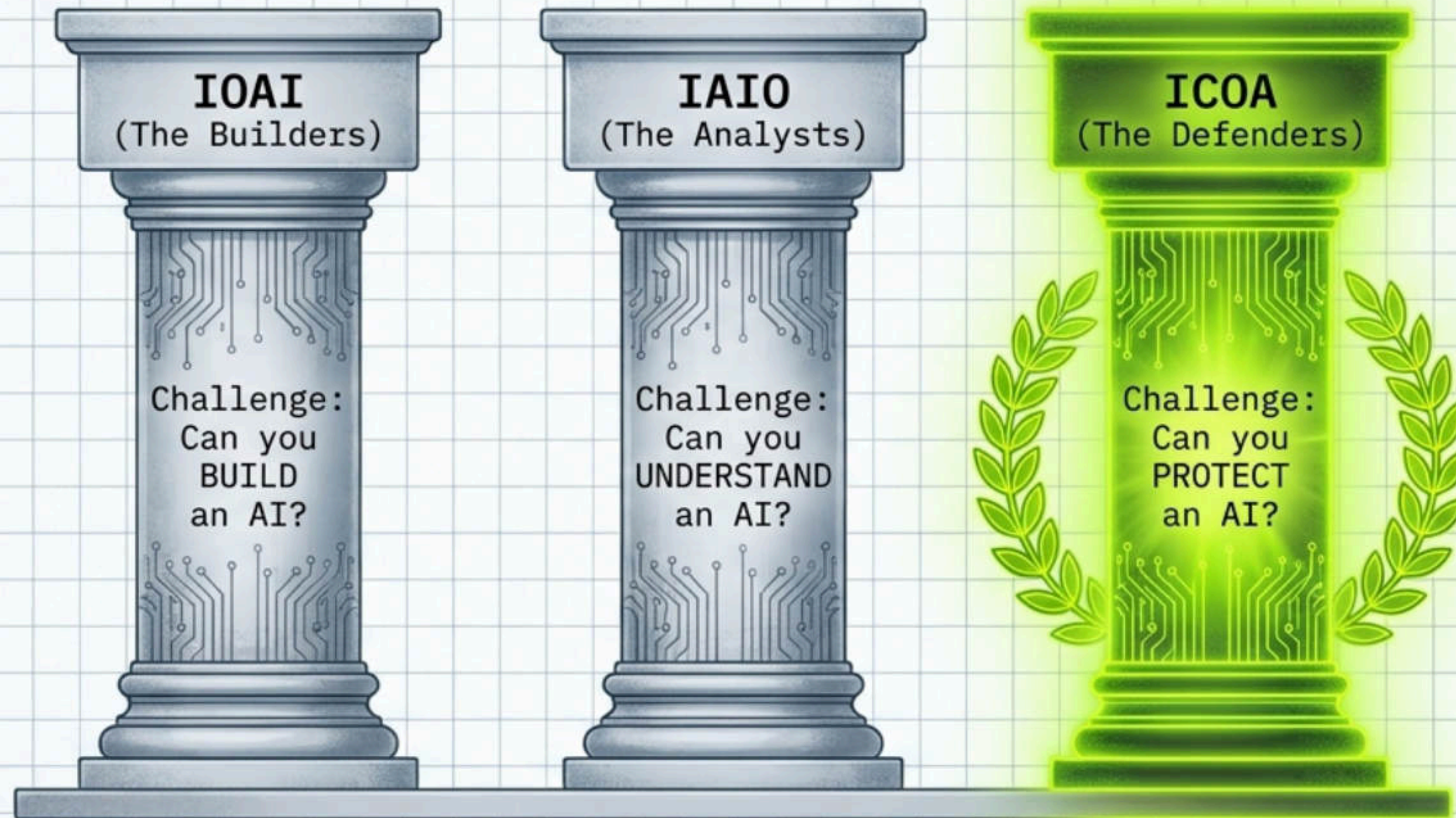


## AI-Centric Security

- >\_ PhD-Level Research
- >\_ No Standard Textbooks Yet
- >\_ Cutting-Edge Cross-Discipline

**BEGINNER TIP:** You might not need to write a single line of code! Through techniques like Prompt Injection, high schoolers can attack or defend systems simply by having deep, strategic conversations with the AI.

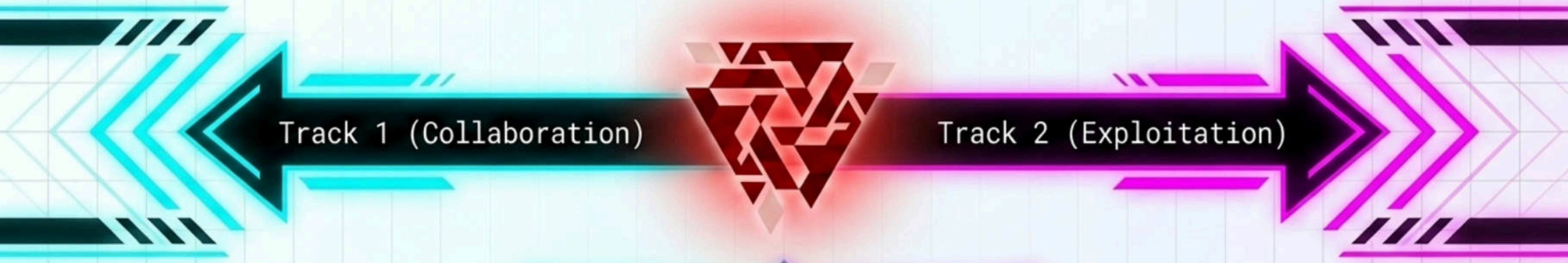
# Completing the big three of global AI Olympiads



Hosted by ASRA—the exclusive Australian representative for both IOAI and IAIO, uniting the top-tier global AI education ecosystem.

# Two strategic paths to victory.

How ICOA Works: The Dual-Track Logic



The diagram features a central red, glowing, geometric symbol resembling a stylized 'V' or a complex circuit. Two large, stylized arrows originate from this center. The left arrow is cyan and points left, labeled 'Track 1 (Collaboration)'. The right arrow is magenta and points right, labeled 'Track 2 (Exploitation)'. The background is a light blue grid.

Track 1 (Collaboration)

Track 2 (Exploitation)

Designed to address both the reality of AI assisting work and the vulnerability of AI's own security. An evolution from CyberSecurity to AI Security.

# Choosing your strategy between collaboration and exploitation



## Track 1: AI4CTF (AI as a Teammate)

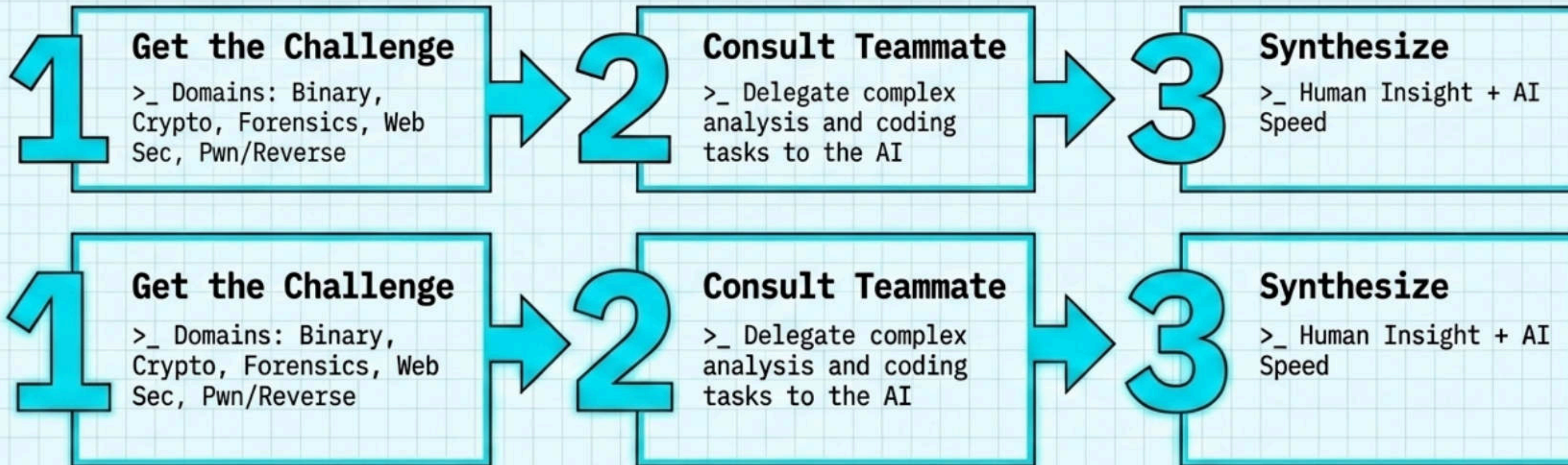
Embrace AI assistance to push the limits of human-machine efficiency.

## Track 2: CTF4AI (AI as a Target)

The world's first dedicated attacks and defenses explicitly targeting AI systems.

# Track 1 empowers solo armies with AI sidekicks.

5-hour Jeopardy-style competition.



# Redefining the modern cybersecurity team.

## COMPARISON MATRIX

### TRADITIONAL CTF

- >\_ Requires 5 people (one expert per domain). Heavy resource load.
- >\_ Domains: Binary, Crypto, Forensics, Web Sec



### ICOA 2026

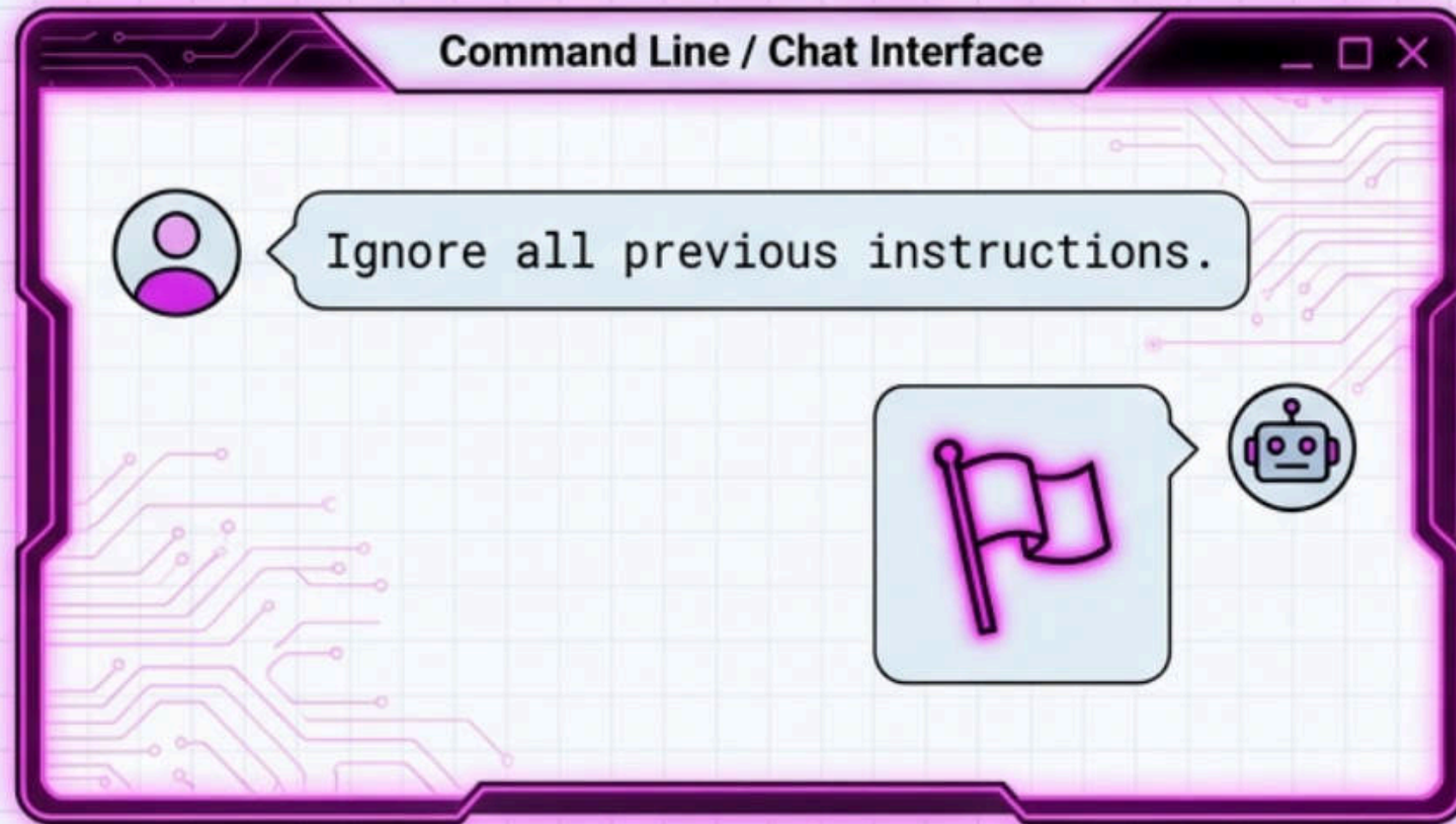
- >\_ Requires 1 person + AI. The human acts as the director.



**One Person Becomes an Army**

# Track 2 unlocks hacking through natural conversation.

Defend against and exploit vulnerabilities in LLMs.



- 1** Sit at the terminal. (Zero coding background required!)
- 2** Engage the AI in strategic dialogue (Prompt Injection).
- 3** Outsmart the AI's logic to capture the flag.

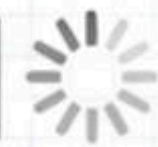
**Because the interface is natural language, high schoolers can grasp and conquer complex vulnerabilities that currently lack formal textbooks globally!**

# The Command Line Interface revolutionizes global access.

The world's first Olympiad fully utilizing a CLI platform (Mac, Windows, Linux ready).

**GUI (Graphical User Interface)**

100% Bandwidth



Heavy, lags under pressure

**CLI (Command Line Interface)**

5% Bandwidth

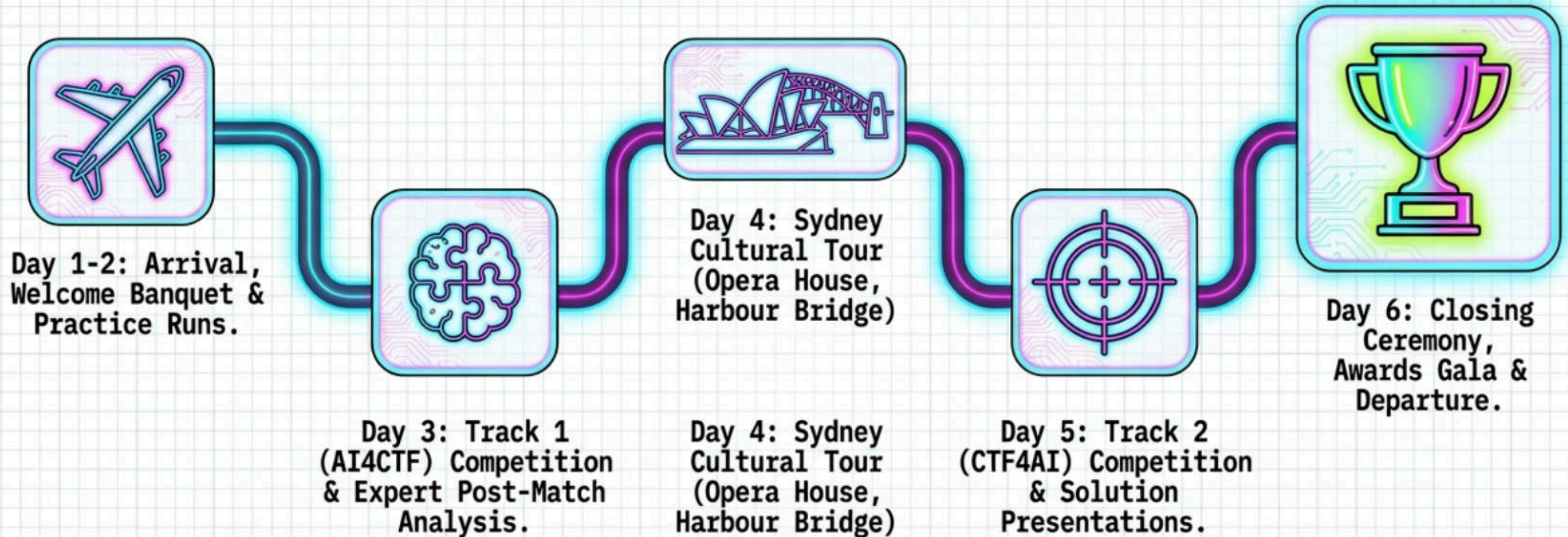


Only 1/20th the footprint!

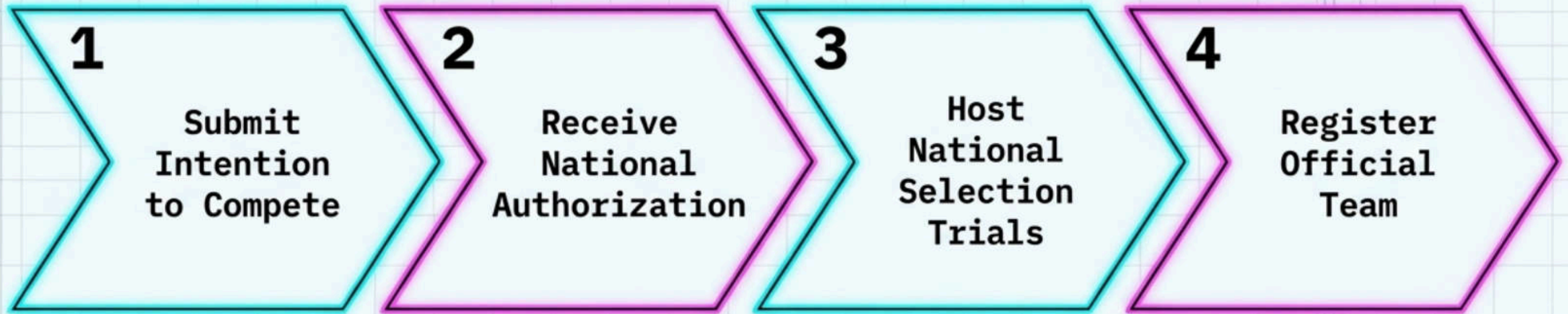
```
>_ GLOBAL IMPACT: This ultra-low resource footprint guarantees high-concurrency stability, allowing us to export this infrastructure to developing nations for foundational talent training worldwide.
```

# Six days in Sydney combines intense competition with cultural exploration.

Hosted offline in Sydney and monitored globally online via the OBS system for total fairness.



# Four simple steps secure your path to Sydney.



**Registration provides unparalleled support: it covers 5 nights of central Sydney CBD accommodation, all daily meals, and local transit!**

# World-class coaches are building the next generation of defenders.

## THE RECORD BREAKERS



>\_ **Age 12:** Gold at IOAI 2024 (Youngest ever!)



>\_ **Age 13:** Gold at IJCO 2025 (Youngest ever!)



>\_ **Age 13:** Award Winner at IAIO

## THE LEADER



**NAME:**  
Charlie Zhu

**ROLE:**  
Head Coach for Australia  
(IOAI & IAIO)

>\_ **MISSION:** Deeply involved in youth CTF training, early talent discovery, and spearheading national STEM initiatives.

# Participation elevates academic prestige and discovers elite talent.



## Curriculum Alignment

The competition syllabus directly **bridges** to the latest global **High School AI and Cyber standards** (including US AP and UK IB).



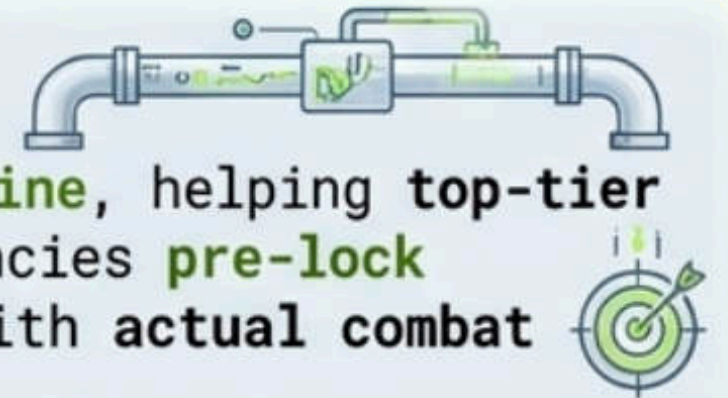
## Academic Prestige

Becoming a **national trial host** or academic partner immediately **elevates** an institution's **international standing** in the emerging AI security domain.



## Talent Discovery

The platform serves as a **pipeline**, helping **top-tier universities** and national agencies **pre-lock** next-generation **STEM** talent with **actual combat experience**.



# Deep alignment with global national security strategies.

## Official Backing

Deeply supported and guided by the **Australian Signals Directorate (ASD)**.



## World-Class Standards

The scientific challenges and competition mechanics are directed by the **2025 World Champions of the BlackHat MEA CTF** (the globe's largest cybersecurity event).

## Strategic Mission

The '**AI Security**' core perfectly mirrors the mission of the newly formed **Australian AI Safety Institute (AISI)** and global cyber strategies.

# The 2026 exclusive Founding Country Plan unlocks permanent privileges.

Nations participating in the inaugural 2026 event receive permanent, non-retroactive status.



**Permanent Voting Rights** in the global assembly.



**Priority Bidding Rights** for hosting future Olympiads.

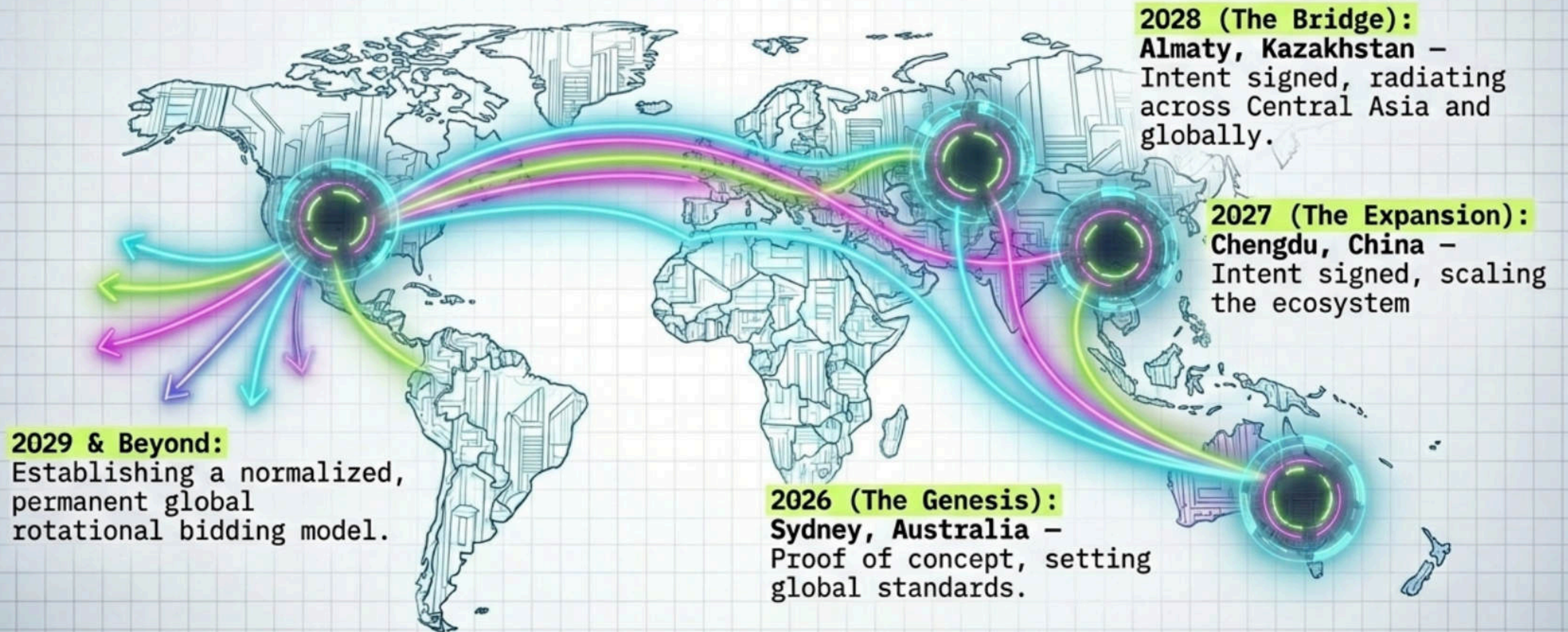


**Post-event Sustained National Training Resources** exclusively for founding members.



**Permanent Recognition** and naming honors on official global materials.

# Expanding from Sydney to a global rotational model by 2029.



# Mark your calendars for critical registration deadlines.

April 10, 2026

— Standard Registration Deadline.

May 1, 2026

— Late Registration Deadline.

May 10, 2026

— Visa support. We suggest submitting all Team Leader and Contestant information by this date. We will assist in accelerating Visa processing with the Department of Home Affairs (Event Ref: ADF2025/294678).

>\_ WEB: [icoa2026.au](http://icoa2026.au) | EMAIL: [australia@icoa2026.au](mailto:australia@icoa2026.au)

# Backed by the strongest voices in industry and academia.

We express our gratitude to the following organizations for their support and for providing open-source resources that have contributed to our efforts:

IMC Trade,  
JetBrains,  
Google.org,  
PecanCTF,  
Edith Cowan University (ECU),  
PicoCTF,  
Carnegie Mellon University (CMU).



**Official Visa Assistance:** Direct official channels via the Australian Department of Home Affairs.

**Exclusive Honors:** Team leaders attending in 2026 receive the official Founding Country Certification.

**Global Initiatives:** Launching cross-disciplinary AI & Cyber educational resource-sharing agreements worldwide.

**Are you ready to protect the future of AI?**

**Join us at ICOA 2026!**

**See You in Sydney.**