
PRESS RELEASE

LightOn launches LightOn Cloud 2.0 featuring Aurora OPU

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by Igor Carron, CEO, LightOn



Since 2016, LightOn has been at the **forefront of the “beyond-pure-silicon”** AI accelerator effort. Its Optical Processing Unit (OPU) is the first low-power, large scale photonic AI co-processor available in the cloud.

Today, LightOn is proud to announce a **major upgrade** to its LightOn Cloud service, now available for the **AI community** worldwide. LightOn Cloud 2.0 features a substantially increased capacity with **Aurora 1.5 latest-generation OPUs**, the latest version of LightOnML library and **simpler pay-per-use payment**, booking and support processes.

LightOn technology is now deployed in two datacenters through partnerships with France's largest cloud providers, OVHcloud and Scaleway.

LightOn Cloud 2.0 users will now have access to increased power and flexibility for the creation of their machine learning models, combining LightOn's OPU with a high-end Intel CPU and a V100 NVIDIA GPU. In the past few months, LightOn Cloud users have built a **portfolio of use cases** with the OPU technology, highlighting its advantage on several neural network architectures. Such examples include Natural Language Processing, Computer Vision, Computational Chemistry or Reinforcement Learning. Most of these examples are explained step-by-step on **LightOn Blog** with code directly accessible through **LightOn AI Research public GitHub**.

In such highly-demanding problems, typical training **speedups are x8 to a whopping x40 compared to GPU only**, at similar accuracies: results are obtained in minutes instead of hours, making LightOn Aurora OPU the perfect technology for data or architecture exploration.

LightOn supports research through its **LightOn Cloud for Research Program**. Machine learning researchers working in academia or non-profit organizations can apply for free LightOn Cloud access. In particular, any use of LightOn's technology on COVID19 related problems will be prioritized - LightOn AI Research team has already demonstrated how the OPU can be used to detect conformational changes in coronavirus-related HPC simulations.

LightOn Cloud 2.0 demonstrates that a hybrid approach, featuring beyond-pure-silicon technology, is already here to enhance large scale AI workloads while at the same time lowering data centers power consumption.



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LightOn web site <https://www.lighton.ai/>

LightOn Cloud <https://cloud.lighton.ai/>

LightOn AI Research GitHub: <https://github.com/lightonai>