

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Cortical Labs appoints co-founder Dr Brett J. Kagan as Chief Executive Officer

Leadership transition provides continuity as biological computing pioneer enters its next phase of commercial growth

Melbourne, Australia – 28 August 2026 – Cortical Labs today announced the appointment of co-founder Dr Brett J. Kagan as Chief Executive Officer, effective immediately, as the company enters its next phase of commercialisation and growth.

Kagan succeeds Cortical Labs co-founder Dr Hon Weng Chong, who has stepped down as Chief Executive Officer after seven years of leading the company.

The appointment follows a considered transition process led by the Cortical Labs Board and provides continuity of leadership, strategy and scientific direction. The Board thanked Dr Chong for his contribution as founder and CEO. Kagan has the full support of the Board and will work alongside the company's existing scientific, engineering and commercial leadership teams.

As a co-founder, Chief Scientific Officer and Chief Operating Officer, Kagan has been central to Cortical Labs' development from its earliest research through to the commercialisation of its biological computing technology.

Kagan led the company's landmark DishBrain research, which demonstrated that biological neurons grown on a chip could learn to perform goal-directed tasks. He has subsequently played a leading role in translating that foundational research into Cortical Labs' CL1 biological computer and Cortical Cloud platform, along with leading the sales and commercialisation of the platform technology.

The leadership transition comes as Cortical Labs moves into a new stage of commercial development. Since launching CL1 in March 2025, the company announced the CL1 system; then by 2026 had established the world's first Biological Data Centre prototype for the Cortical Cloud platform in Melbourne, comprising 120 internet-connected CL1 units; and recently deployed a 20-unit CL1 biological computing system at the National University of Singapore in partnership with NUS Medicine and DayOne.

As CEO, Kagan will focus on expanding global access to CL1 and Cortical Cloud, advancing Cortical Labs' research and product roadmap, and building commercial and academic partnerships across biological computing, neuroscience and drug discovery.



Cortical Labs' strategy, research programs, product roadmap and existing customer and partner commitments continue under the new leadership. This includes the company's collaboration with NUS Medicine and DayOne on the Biological Data Centre prototype at the NUS Life Sciences Institute in Singapore.

Kagan said his priority as CEO was to build on the company's scientific foundations while accelerating the adoption and application of biological computing.

"We have spent years demonstrating that biological computing is possible. The opportunity now is to show what it can make possible at scale," Kagan said.

"Cortical Labs has moved from foundational research to putting biological computing into the hands of researchers and developers. With CL1 and Cortical Cloud, we now have the platform to expand access to this technology and accelerate its application across computing, neuroscience and drug discovery.

"My focus as CEO is clear: continue advancing the science, deliver for our customers and partners, and build Cortical Labs into the company that defines this emerging category of computing."

Long-time investor Atlanta Daniel from Radar Ventures said Kagan's appointment reflected both company and investor confidence in his leadership and the importance of continuity as the company scales.

"Cortical Labs is entering an important new phase. They have moved from proving the foundations of biological computing to building a commercial platform that can put this technology into the hands of researchers and organisations around the world," Daniel said.

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About Cortical Labs

Cortical Labs is a biological computing startup putting live neurons into chips to revolutionize computing. Cortical Labs specialties' include machine learning, neuroscience, neural engineering, brain-computer interface, artificial intelligence, computational cognitive neuroscience, reinforcement learning, deep learning, neural networks, medical artificial intelligence and robotics. For more information, visit: <https://corticallabs.com/>