When it comes to Sub-Saharan Africa, the media has a tendency to focus on war, famine and disease. Such is the case for Ethiopia, nestled and landlocked between Sudan, Eritrea, Djibouti, Somalia and Kenya. A little is popularly known about its splendid 12th century churches built into the ground and caves in Northwest Lalibela, the exquisitely plateaued Simian Mountains, the ancient city of Gondar, its oldest hominid ambassador, Lucy, but nothing is known about the science and business innovation emerging from its capital, Addis Ababa, and absolutely zilch about the flourishing of artificial intelligence. In fact, the computer science stats for Addis Ababa sweep Silicon Valley, India and China into the dust.

Leading this AI phenomenon, is a group called Addis AI Lab, located in the capital's university region called Sidist Kilo. Addis AI Lab is pioneering unprecedented software programming in machine learning based data analysis, computational linguistics, computer vision, mobile robots, cognitive robotics, cognitive architectures and artificial general intelligence. Its visionary, nonconformist founders, come from far away: OpenCog, an AI foundation in Hong Kong and funds from an inscrutable New York financier and science investor, Jeffrey Epstein.