



Key Moments from Musk v Altman Trial This Week

Description

Day Four of the civil trial involving Elon Musk's lawsuit against Sam Altman commenced on Thursday, featuring Musk on the witness stand. This high-profile case raises important questions about the relationship between Musk and OpenAI, a company he co-founded.

Musk faced intense questioning from William Savitt, the lead lawyer for OpenAI, along with brief inquiries from Microsoft's attorney, as Microsoft backs OpenAI in this case. Jared Birchall, Musk's business manager, was called as the next witness by Musk's legal team.

During his testimony, Musk stated that his company xAI poses no threat to OpenAI. He characterised xAI as "the smallest" company among its competitors, ranking OpenAI second in size after Anthropic and followed by Google. Musk claimed that xAI is about one-tenth the size of OpenAI.

Musk's efforts to bolster xAI have included a merger with SpaceX and a \$60 billion acquisition deal with the AI coding startup Cursor. Furthermore, Musk has indicated that he does not wish to create a "robot army" and distanced himself from ideas suggesting a potential AI-related disaster.

Birchall testified that Musk donated \$38 million to OpenAI, alleging that these funds were misused. Savitt questioned whether Musk had provided specific instructions for these donations. Birchall clarified that there was a general understanding among OpenAI's founding members regarding the intended use of the funds.

Looking ahead, the trial will pause on Friday, with the jury expected to hear from Greg Brockman, OpenAI's president, next week. Brockman's testimony is anticipated to be crucial, as it may reveal insights into Musk's departure from OpenAI in 2018.

Vocabulary List:

1. **commenced** //kə'mɛnst// (verb): began; started an action or event
2. **witness** //ˈwɪtnəs// (noun): someone who saw or gave information about events
3. **testimony** //ˈtɛstə,məʊni// (noun): words a person says to give information in court
4. **acquisition** //,ækwiːzɪʃən// (noun): when one company buys or gains another
5. **misused** //mɪsˈju:zd// (verb): used in the wrong or harmful way
6. **crucial** //ˈkru:ʃəl// (adjective): extremely important for a result or decision

Comprehension Questions



Multiple Choice

1. Who was the lead lawyer for OpenAI in the trial?
Option: Elon Musk
Option: William Savitt
Option: Jared Birchall
Option: Greg Brockman
2. Which company is backed by Microsoft in this case?
Option: xAI
Option: SpaceX
Option: OpenAI
Option: Cursor
3. How much did Musk donate to OpenAI according to Birchall?
Option: \$50 million
Option: \$38 million
Option: \$60 million
Option: \$40 million
4. What is Musk's claim about the size of his company xAI compared to OpenAI?
Option: xAI is larger
Option: xAI is the same size
Option: xAI is smaller
Option: xAI is twice as large
5. What acquisition deal is Musk pursuing for his company?
Option: A merger with Google
Option: A \$60 billion deal with Cursor
Option: An acquisition of OpenAI
Option: A partnership with SpaceX
6. When did Musk depart from OpenAI?
Option: 2016
Option: 2018
Option: 2020
Option: 2014



True-False

7. Musk expressed a desire to create a 'robot army'.
8. The trial will continue without a break on Friday.
9. Jared Birchall was called as a witness by Musk's legal team.
10. Musk stated that xAI is much larger than OpenAI.
11. Greg Brockman is the president of OpenAI.
12. Musk's donations to OpenAI were explicitly guided by written instructions.

Gap-Fill

13. Musk stated that his company xAI poses no threat to _____.
14. Musk's company xAI is about one-tenth the size of OpenAI and is the _____ company among its competitors.
15. Jared Birchall testified that Musk donated \$38 million to OpenAI, alleging that these funds were _____.
16. The trial will pause on Friday, with the jury expected to hear from _____ next week.
17. Musk's efforts to bolster xAI have included a merger with _____.
18. Musk has distanced himself from ideas suggesting a potential AI-related _____.

Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. William Savitt 2. OpenAI 3. \$38 million 4. xAI is smaller 5. A \$60 billion deal with Cursor 6. 2018

True-False: 7. False 8. False 9. True 10. False 11. True 12. False

Gap-Fill: 13. OpenAI 14. smallest 15. misused 16. Greg Brockman 17. SpaceX 18. disaster

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