



PRESS RELEASE
Ghent & Brussels, 5 August 2026



Aikido and Belfius are building the next generation of cybersecurity together

Aikido and Belfius are teaming up on **Aikido Machine**: a physical AI machine in the bank's data centre, designed to counter a new generation of AI-driven attackers. With this initiative, Belfius is taking the next step in its digital strategy.

Artificial intelligence is changing everything. Cybercriminals no longer hack software manually: they unleash the most powerful AI models on software applications, 24/7, without interruption. Against an attacker that never sleeps, traditional defences are no longer enough. Belfius and Aikido Security have chosen to tackle this challenge differently. Together.

Today, the bank-insurer and the Ghent-based cybersecurity unicorn are announcing a partnership around **Aikido Machine**: a dedicated AI server with Nvidia GPUs, which will be located within the bank's own premises and will deploy more than 200 ethical AI hackers to test and challenge its own systems.

The AI agents will search for vulnerabilities 24/7, enabling these advanced security tests to be performed continuously. Potential risks can therefore be identified and addressed quickly. As a result, the bank's cyber resilience will be continuously tested, challenged, and strengthened.

Two Belgian pioneers, one mission

This collaboration goes beyond a traditional customer-supplier relationship. Belfius and Aikido will refine the Machine together, tailoring it to the strict security requirements, regulatory framework, and operational reality of a large financial institution. The bank brings the expertise and operational complexity of a systemically important financial institution. Aikido brings the technology: autonomous AI agents built on the best AI models, running within a bank's infrastructure.

Belfius



The Machine is built on a model-agnostic architecture, allowing multiple Large Language Models (LLM's) to be deployed, including models of partners of Belfius. This gives the Machine the flexibility to always deploy the most suitable model for each task, without being dependent on a single provider.

The goal: to develop a groundbreaking cybersecurity solution for the financial sector and other highly regulated industries. Made in Belgium, ready for the world.

This collaboration also fits within Belfius' broader strategy of investing in European technological innovation. Through its BAM event (Belfius – Alan – Mistral) in 2024, Belfius demonstrated its ambition not only to support technological innovation in Europe, but also to play a leading role through strategic partnerships with Mistral AI and Alan. The collaboration with Aikido is a next step in this European anchoring of technological leadership.

Founded in Ghent, Aikido became the fastest European cybersecurity company ever to reach unicorn status earlier this year and is now trusted by more than 100,000 teams worldwide, ranging from Premier League organisations to Revolut.

*"Attackers move at machine speed. Companies cannot keep responding at human speed," says **Roeland Delrue, co-founder of Aikido**. "Belfius understood that sooner than anyone else, and chose not to wait for this technology, but to help build it. That is what makes this partnership so special: a Belgian bank and a Belgian unicorn creating a new standard together."*

*"We are building for both today and tomorrow. That is why we make cybersecurity as dynamic as the risks we are fighting. Together with Aikido, we are helping to build cutting-edge Belgian technology that uses AI as an ally to continuously strengthen both digital resilience and customer trust. Together, we are demonstrating that innovation in Belgium and Europe is truly at the forefront and makes a meaningful difference," says **Bram Somers, Chief Technology & Operations Officer at Belfius**.*



About Aikido Security

Aikido Security, founded in Ghent, builds self-securing software for modern software teams. Aikido's security platform secures code, cloud environments, and runtime applications, helping teams reduce risks without slowing down development. Aikido is the fastest European cybersecurity company ever to reach unicorn status and is trusted by more than 100,000 teams worldwide, with a client portfolio that includes organisations such as Revolut, Proximus, and Niantic.

About Belfius

Belfius Bank & Insurance is a solid bank-insurer owned by the Belgian federal government. With 160 years of experience in the public sector and 60 years in the segment for personal customers, Belfius is deeply rooted in the Belgian economy and society:

- partner of 3.8 million individuals, self-employed professionals and SMEs
- prominent player in the corporate and business market
- leading bank in the public and nonprofit sector
- important player in Life and Non-Life insurance
- reference bank for Private and Wealth Management.

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