

WATON FINANCIAL LIMITED

Watson Financial Limited Announces Partnership with Panda AI and Tsinghua-Linked X-Tech to Develop Advanced AI-Powered Trading Agents

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HONG KONG, March 11, 2026 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) -- **Watson Financial Limited (NASDAQ: WTF)**, a provider of securities brokerage and financial technology services ("Watson" or the "Company"), today announced that its subsidiary, Watson Securities International Limited ("WSI"), a Hong Kong-based subsidiary of the Company, has entered into a strategic partnership with Pandaai Quantum Global Pte. Limited (an affiliate of Panda AI) and X-Tech (Beijing) Co., Ltd. ("X-Tech"), a company linked to Tsinghua University's ("Tsinghua") Institute for Interdisciplinary Information Sciences (IIIS) ("Tsinghua IIIS"). The partnership establishes the "AI and Fintech Joint Lab" to research and develop AI agents that can handle trading on their own, with the aim of enhancing investment decision-making capabilities for users.

This partnership combines WSI's skills in finance and technology with Panda AI's new approaches in AI inspired by quantum ideas and X-Tech's research background. The lab is led by Professor Li Jian from IIIS Tsinghua, who serves as the main person in charge of the project. As an expert in AI for quantitative investment, Professor Li Jian brings his deep knowledge in machine learning and quantitative trading strategies to guide the partnership work. His research group at Tsinghua focuses on the foundation of AI and using AI to improve financial decisions, and he has shared his insights through many published papers and a popular online column on quantitative investment. This direct involvement is intended to ensure that the lab's efforts are grounded in expertise, in order to turn advanced ideas into practical trading tools.

Licensed for securities trading, WSI will provide its experience in trading systems and financial operations to the partnership, supporting the lab in creating tools designed for everyday investors to use.

"This partnership with Tsinghua-affiliated X-Tech and Panda AI is an important step forward for our company," said ZHOU Kai, Chairman of the board of directors of the Company. "With Professor Li Jian at the helm—drawing on his strong track record in AI and trading research—we aim to create reliable AI agents that trade independently. We anticipate that this partnership will strengthen our technology offerings and help both individual and professional investors in the growing field of AI-driven finance."

Tsinghua's IIIS, founded by Turing Award winner, Professor Andrew Yao, is a leading center for research in areas including AI, quantum computing, and interdisciplinary science. Under faculty members like Professor Li Jian, the institute has trained over 1,000 students and earned awards such as Sloan Fellowships and recognition at major conferences. X-Tech is a technology enterprise founded through intellectual property incubation by professors and students from IIIS. The lab will focus on building trading agents that analyze data and make choices in real time, which aligns with Watson's product development efforts, including its TraderWTF platform. The goal is to connect real assets with AI and blockchain for trading anytime, anywhere.

About Watson Financial Limited

Watson Financial Limited is a holding company registered in the British Virgin Islands, conducting business primarily through its wholly-owned subsidiaries in Hong Kong. Watson offers comprehensive financial services, including securities brokerage, asset management, and software licensing to retail and institutional investors. Driven by technology and a customer-centric philosophy, Watson is committed to delivering innovative and reliable financial solutions. For more information, visit www.wtf.us;

Forward-Looking Statements

Certain statements in this press release constitute "forward-looking statements" within the meaning of federal securities laws, including, but not limited to statements regarding plans, objectives, strategies, future events, performance, and underlying assumptions and other statements that are not historical facts. These forward-looking statements involve known and unknown risks and uncertainties and are based on the Company's current expectations and projections about future events, which may affect the Company's financial condition, operating results, business strategy, and capital needs. Investors can identify these forward-looking statements by words such as "believe," "plan," "expect," "intend," "should," "seek," "estimate," "will," "target," "anticipate," or similar expressions. Except as required by law, the Company does not undertake any obligation to publicly update or revise any forward-looking statements to reflect subsequent events or circumstances or changes in its expectations. While the Company believes the expectations reflected in these forward-looking statements are reasonable, it cannot guarantee these expectations will prove correct and cautions investors that actual results may differ materially from anticipated results, and encourages investors to review the Company's registration statements and other filings with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission for additional factors that could affect its future performance.

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