# OpenAI Pauses Rollout of Synthetic Voice 'Sky' for ChatGPT Tool amidst Public Backlash



OpenAI has announced it is pausing the rollout of a new synthetic voice for its ChatGPT tool following public criticism. The voice, named Sky, faced backlash for its overly familiar and flirtatious tone, reminiscent of the AI assistant from the 2013 film "Her." Although the voice is professionally done by an actress, not by Scarlett Johansson, OpenAI acknowledged the concerns and decided to halt its use while addressing the feedback.

The controversy was highlighted by a parody segment on "The Daily Show" and reactions from OpenAI CEO Sam Altman, who acknowledged the parallels with "Her" on social media. This decision comes amid broader scrutiny of the company’s safety practices. Former OpenAI employees, including Jan Leike and Ilya Sutskever, criticized the firm for prioritizing product development over safety measures. In response, OpenAI President Greg Brockman emphasized the organization’s commitment to long-term AI safety in a detailed statement issued jointly with Altman.

This pause and subsequent safety discussions underscore ongoing societal concerns about tech-driven biases and ethical considerations in AI development.