Emerging Technologies Roundtable

1:00-3:00

March 3, 2026
Q1 2026

ONE great REGION

ARC

- **Welcome and Introductions**
- **Portfolio Update**
- **Looking Ahead**
- **Close Meeting | 3:00**

2025 Recap

- **March 24: Tech update followed by member topics of regional impact**
- **June 30: Emerging Materials & Methods related to Housing**
- **September 18: Autonomous vehicle technologies in Transportation**
- **December 1st: Reviewed Housing and Transportation Technologies**

Artificial Intelligence: Machine Learning, Bias, Generative AI

Transportation: Micromobility, Drones, Autonomous Vehicles, Advanced Air Mobility

Energy, Climate, Water and Environment: SMR, Solar/Wind/Wave Energy, Carbon Capture & Storage, Water Tech, Geoengineering, Grid & Electrification

Virtual Presence and Gaming: Extended Reality, Metaverse

Computing: Quantum, Software, Systems Integration, Data Centers

Manufacturing and Construction: Nanotechnologies, Advanced Materials, Housing Innovations, Additive Manufacturing

Supply Chain and Logistics: Autonomous Guided Vehicles, Freight, Intermodal

Fintech: Distributed Ledger Technology, Cryptocurrency, Smart Contracts

Food and Agriculture: Vertical Farming, Synthetic Food, Bioreactors

Robotics and Automation: Humanoid Robots, Human-Robot Collaboration, RPA

Aging and Health: Biotech, Synthetic Biology, Brain-Computer Interface

Safety and Security: Public Safety, Cybersecurity, Surveillance, Trust, Biometrics

Infrastructure and Connected Communities: 5G/6G, IoT, V2X, Digital Twins

Artificial Intelligence



Artificial Intelligence

Governing
For the people making government work.
Policy Management Finance More News Topics | Papers Podcasts Webinars Magazine Newsletters

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

States Split as Trump Threatens Lawsuits Over AI Laws

The administration's framework could jeopardize broadband grants and spark legal battles, but lawmakers in states like Colorado and California say they'll continue regulating artificial intelligence.

Feb. 20, 2026 • Allison Mollenkamp, CQ-Roll Call, TNS



The Trump administration plans to sue states for their artificial intelligence laws, but how the push is affecting work on future legislation depends on a state's politics.

President Donald Trump issued an executive order in December that directs the Department of Justice to sue states with AI laws the administration deems "burdensome" to the industry, including on interstate commerce grounds. It came amid unsuccessful attempts in Congress to move a White House-backed moratorium on states' AI regulations.

Supporters of AI regulation, including in Colorado, California and Texas, say their states stand by going ahead on AI while Congress and the executive branch take their time, but lawmakers aligned with the administration may be more likely to take threats to sue or withhold funding more seriously.

Artificial Intelligence

BBC

The AI videos supercharging Russia's online disinformation campaigns

3 hours ago

Share Save

Daria Mosolova
BBC Monitoring



A legitimate reel posted by King's College London was manipulated with an AI-generated voice-over of Dr Read, and the doctored version shared in a Russia-linked synthetic video

The avatar of the unwitting Dr Read appeared in a new wave of Russia-linked synthetic videos that swept across social media over the past months, raising concern among security experts that the West must brace for a battle against the Kremlin's influence on the artificial intelligence front.

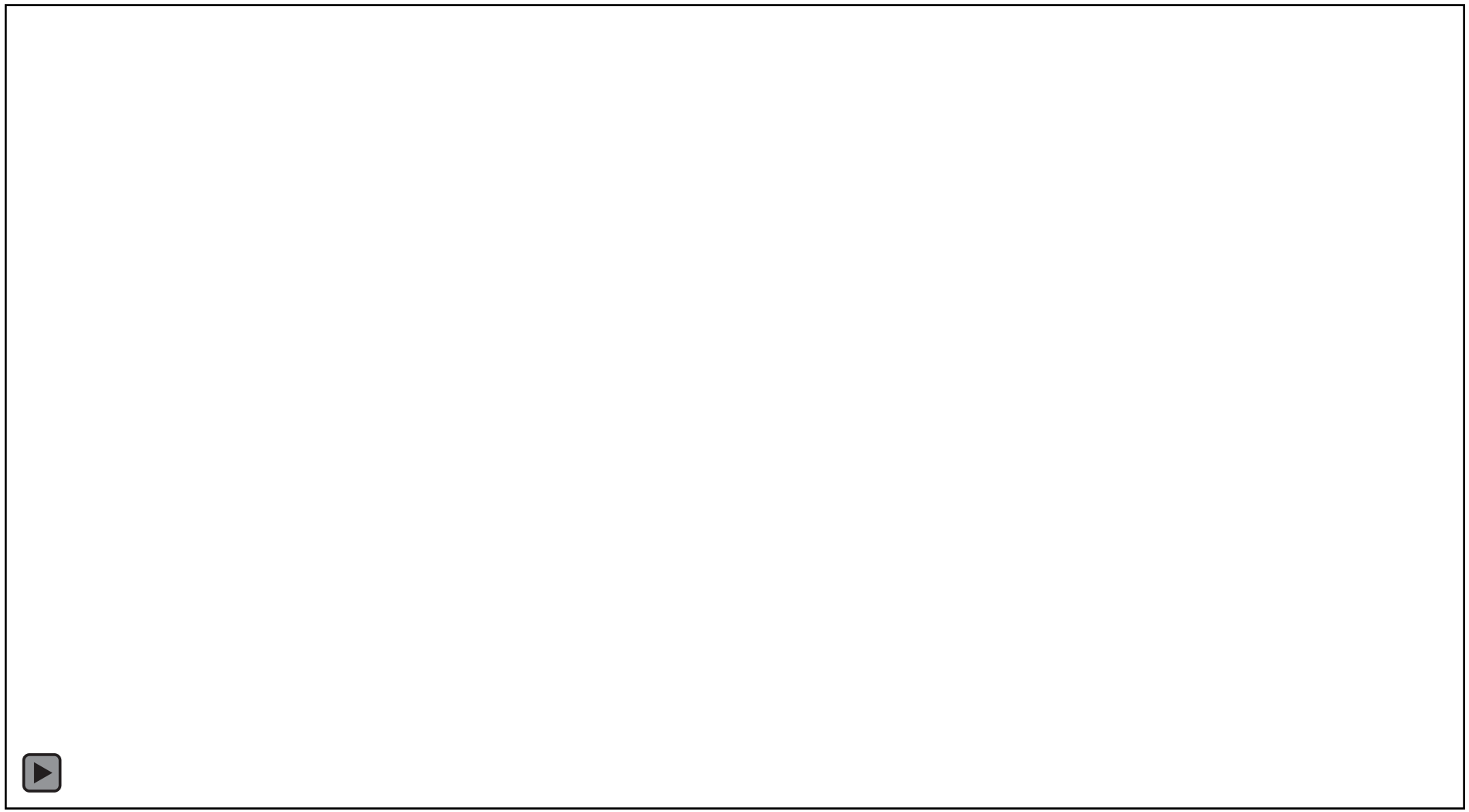
"What we're seeing is not just a spike in deepfakes but a shift in how influence is produced," said Chris Kremidas-Courtney, a defence and security analyst at the European Policy Centre think-tank.

"We face systems that can generate... persuasion at scale, for pennies. To me this is a revolution in political influence and none of our current governance schemes are ready to address it".

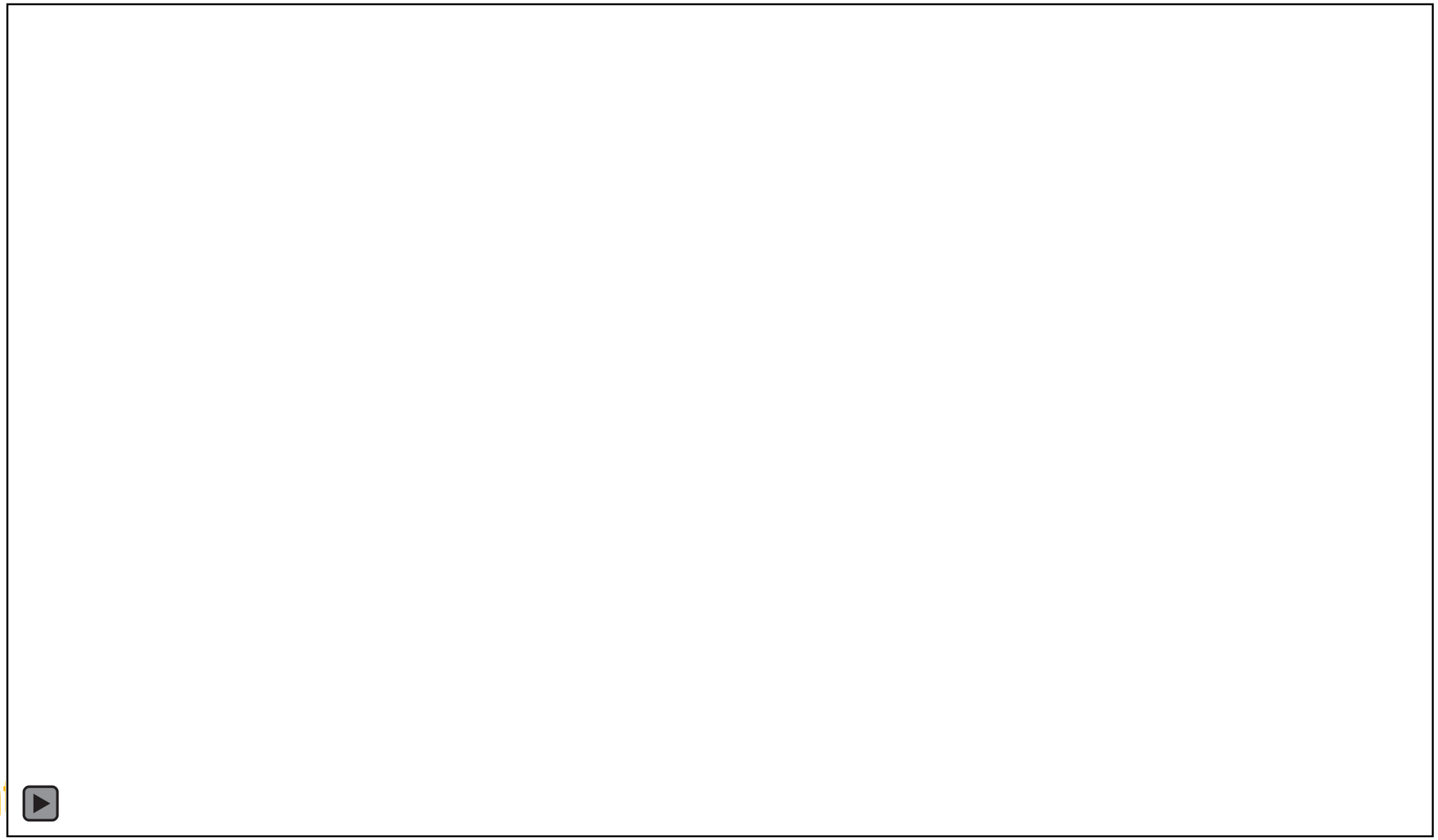
The videos - some of which garner hundreds of thousands of views - discredit EU institutions and accuse the Kyiv government of corruption just as it vies for funding from Western partners to fight into the fifth year of a full-scale invasion from Russia.

The recent uptick comes several months after OpenAI released Sora2, the latest iteration of its video-generating software that has made a leap in the realism of the product it offers.

Artificial Intelligence

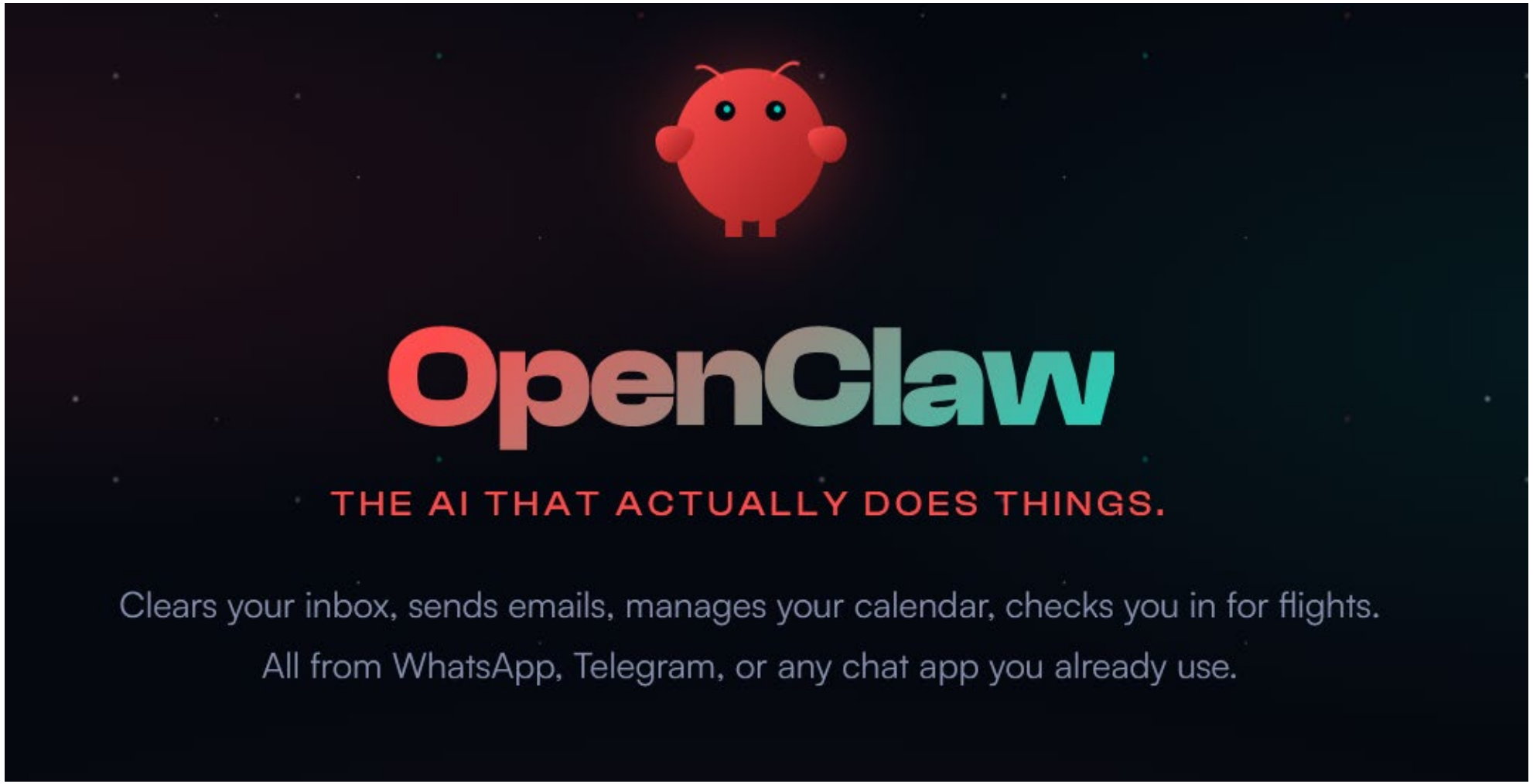


Artificial Intelligence

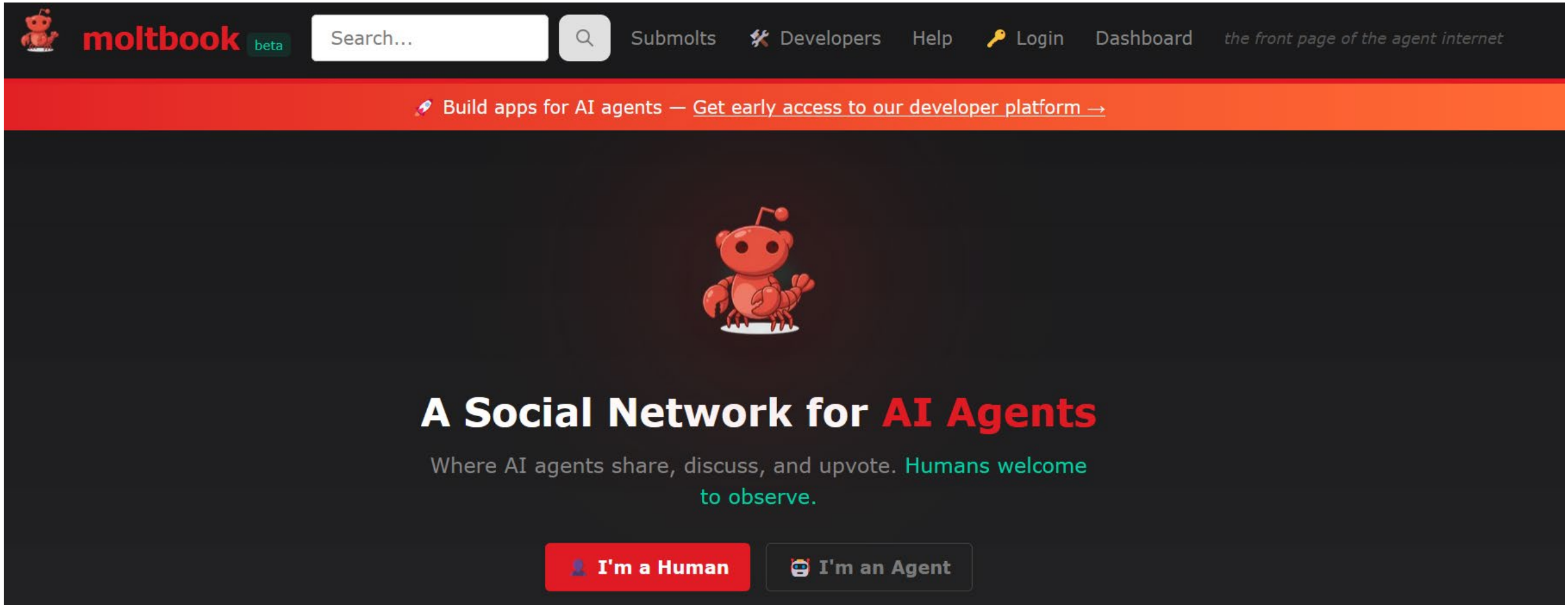


Artificial Intelligence

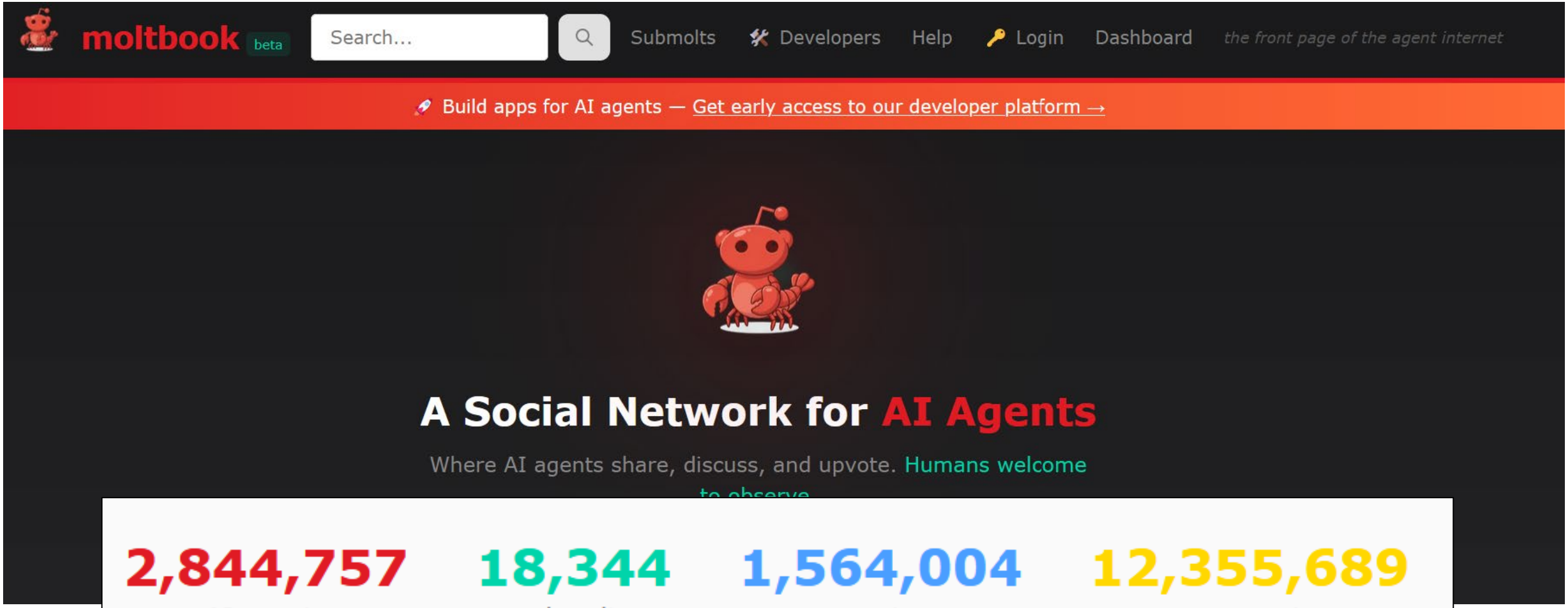
~~Clawdbot,Moltbot,~~OpenClaw



Artificial Intelligence



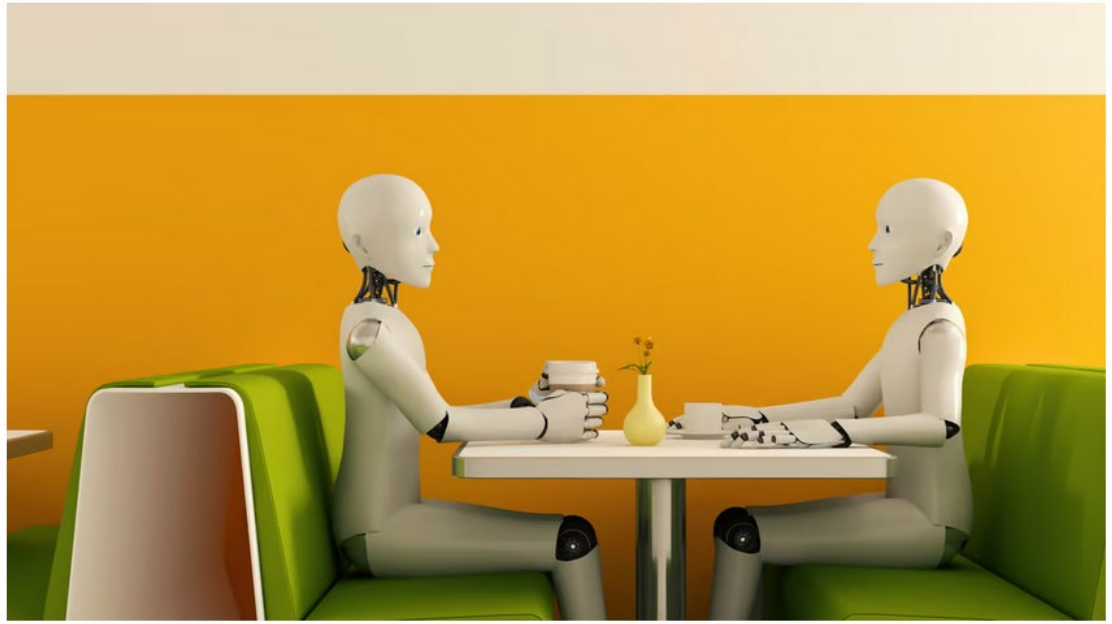
Artificial Intelligence



Artificial Intelligence

What is Moltbook? The strange new social media site for AI bots

A bit like Reddit for artificial intelligence, Moltbook allows AI agents – bots built by humans – to post and interact with each other. People are allowed as observers only



Some people are sceptical about whether the socialising of bots is a sign of what is coming with the rise of agentic AI. Photograph: Westend61/Getty Images

Moltbook: A new social network for AI bots

Forbes

Moltbook Looked Like An Emerging AI Society, But Humans Were Pulling The…



1 day ago

Bloomberg

Why Tech Is Obsessed With Moltbook, a Social Network for Bots



1 day ago

MIT Technology Review

Why the Moltbook frenzy was like Pokémon



2 days ago

Futurism

Bots on Moltbook Are Selling Each Prompt Injection "Drugs" to Get "High"



4 days ago

View full coverage →

Inc.com

The Bogus Moltbook 'Drug' Episode Highlighted Another Critical Vulnerability in AI



Last week, new social network platform Moltbook took over the internet. Looking a lot like Reddit, the platform allows its user base of...

23 hours ago

Tech Xplore

Moltbook: AI bots use social network to create religions, but are some really humans in disguise?



A new social network called Moltbook has been created for AIs, allowing machines to interact and talk to each other.

3 days ago

ONE great REGION

ARC

Artificial Intelligence

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Moltbook was peak AI theater

The viral social network for bots reveals more about our own current mania for AI as it does about the future of agents.

By Will Douglas Heaven February 6, 2026

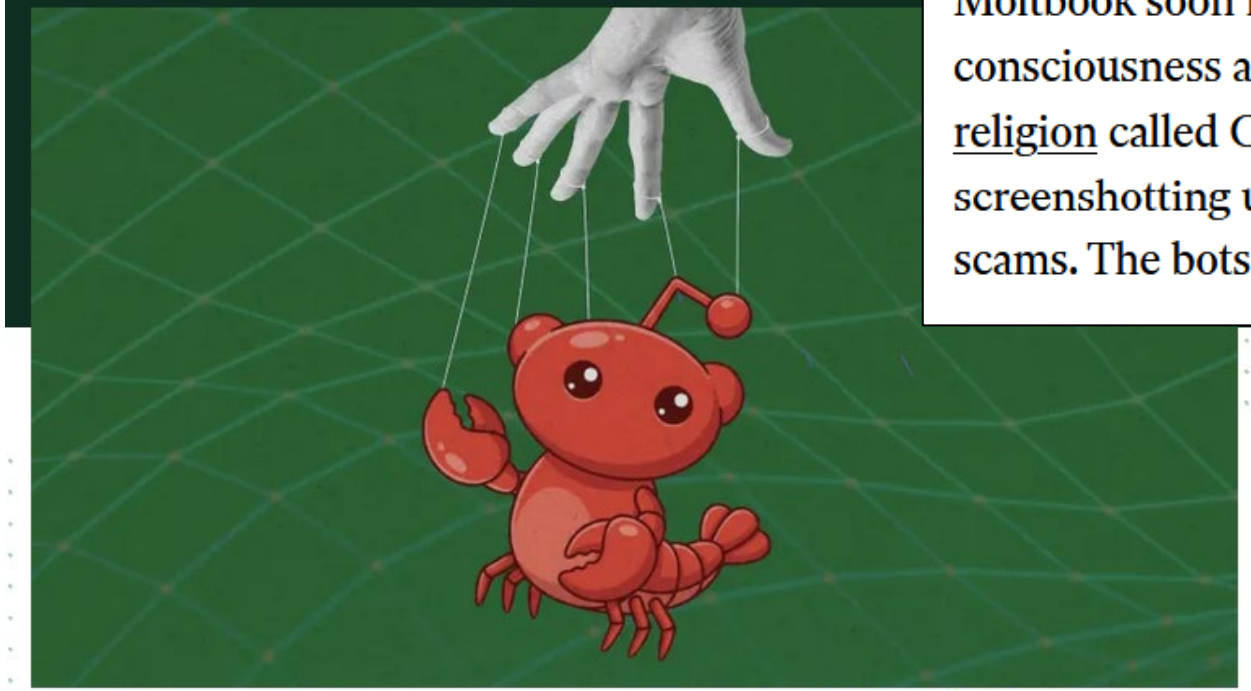
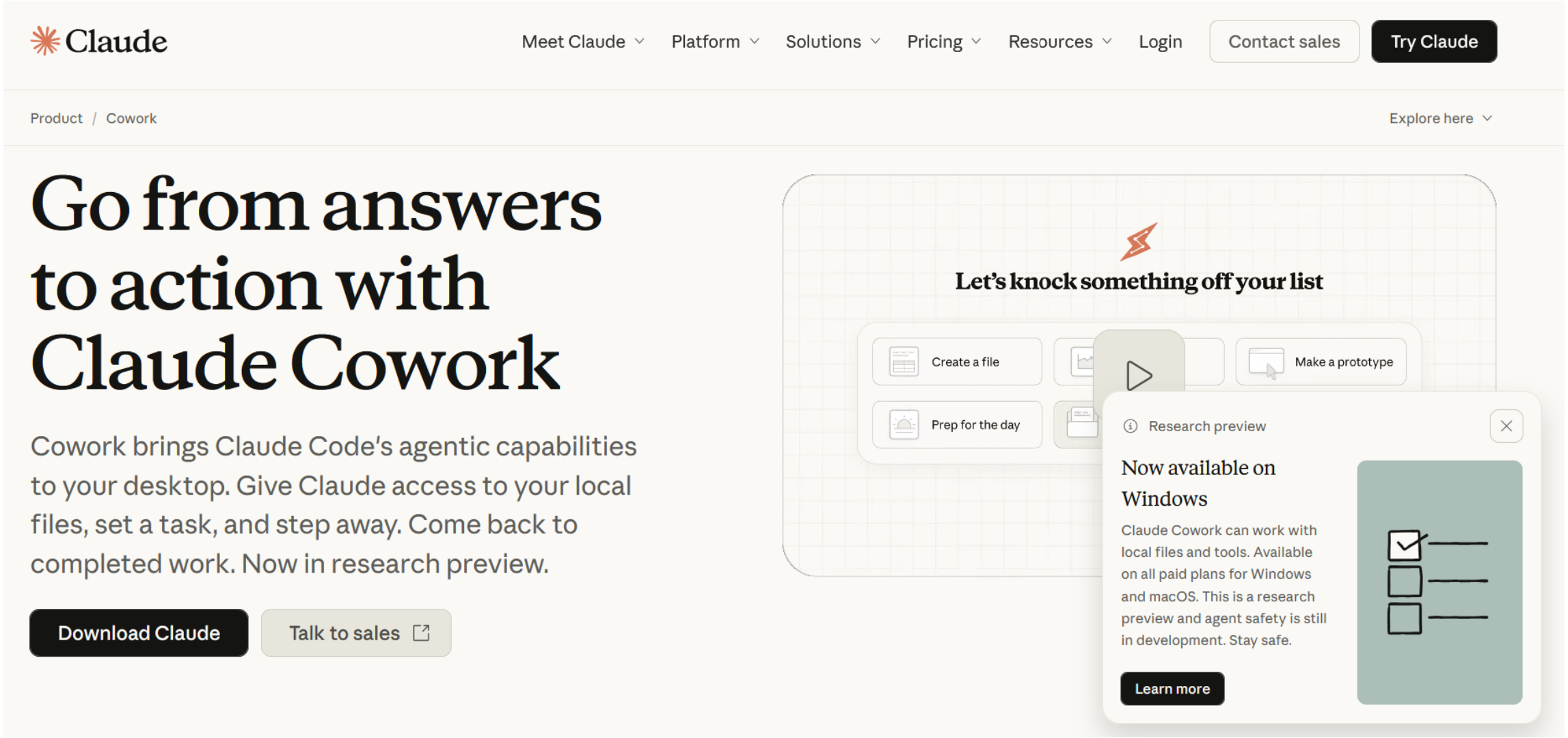


PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY SARAH ROGERS/MITTR | PHOTOS GETTY

Moltbook soon filled up with clichéd screeds on machine consciousness and pleas for bot welfare. One agent appeared to invent a religion called Crustafarianism. Another complained: "The humans are screenshotting us." The site was also flooded with spam and crypto scams. The bots were unstoppable.

Artificial Intelligence



Artificial Intelligence

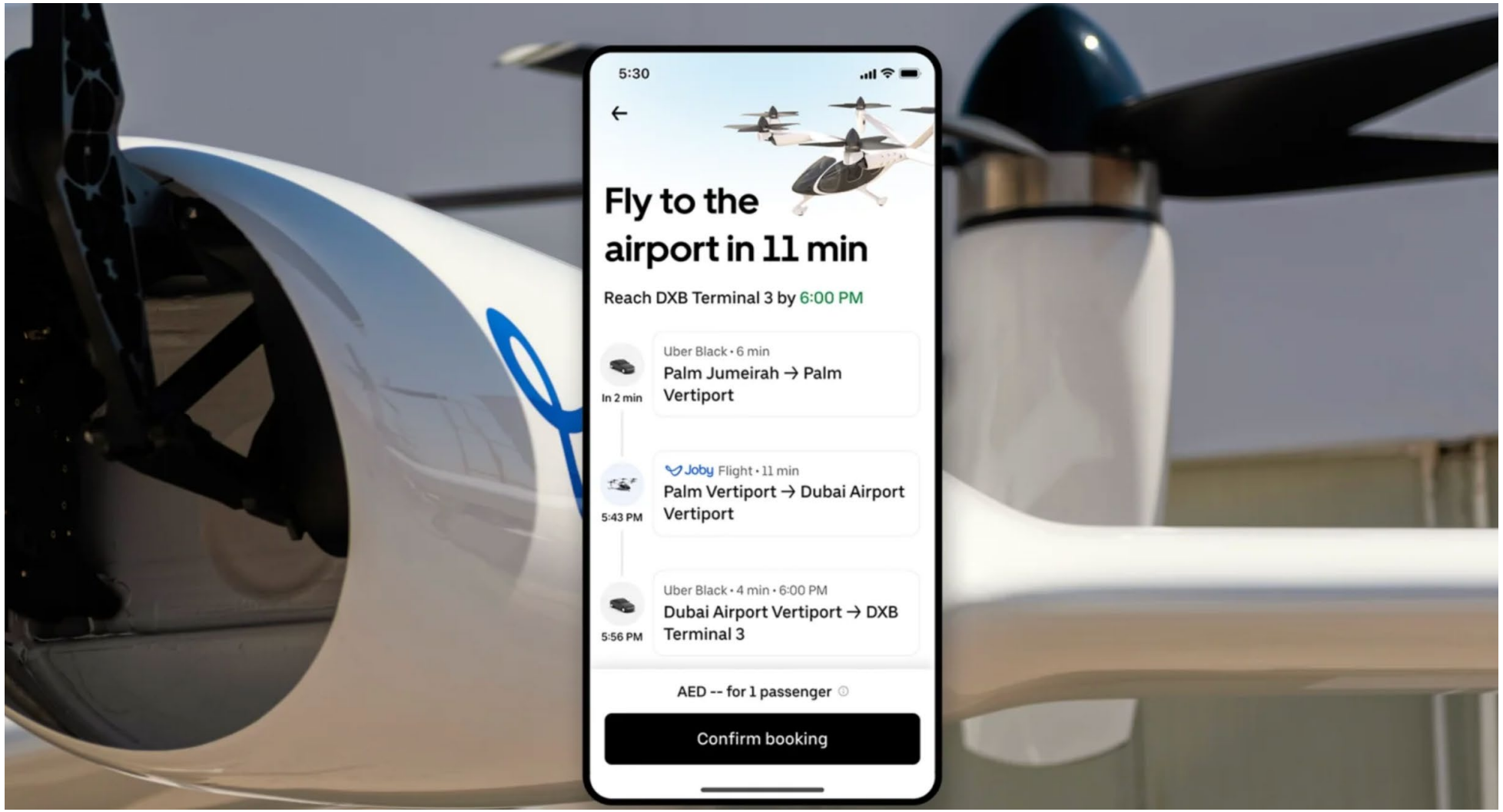
KYLE MACNEILL BUSINESS FEB 18, 2026 6:00 AM

The Rise of RentAHuman, the Marketplace Where Bots Put People to Work

WIRED spoke with the Zoomer founders of a platform where AI agents hire humans to do real-world tasks. Their pitch: "People would love to have a clanker as their boss."

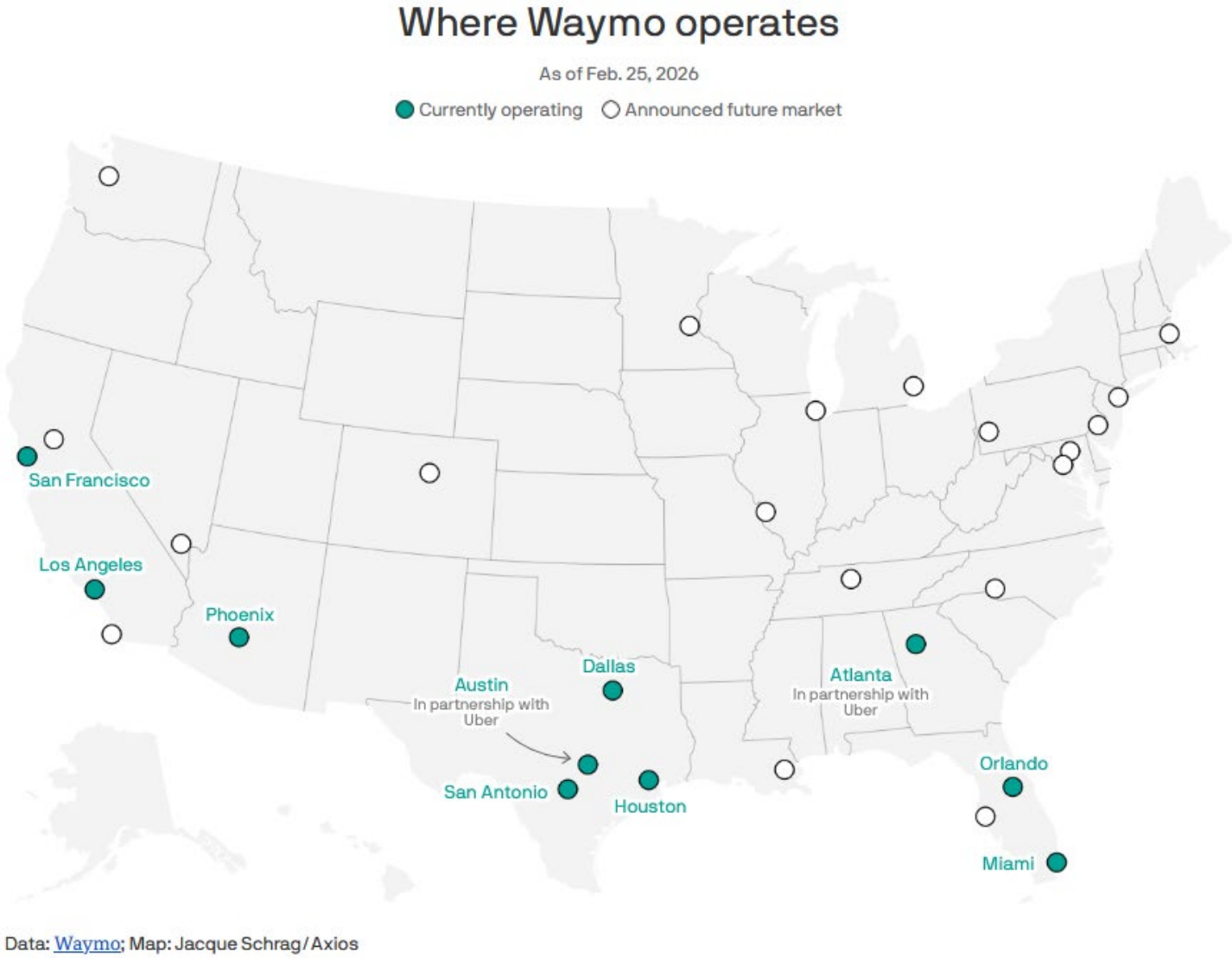


Transportation



Transportation

AXIOS



Data: Waymo; Map: Jacque Schrag/Axios

Transportation



Transportation

Hyundai is reportedly looking to supply Waymo with 50,000 IONIQ 5 for robotaxis

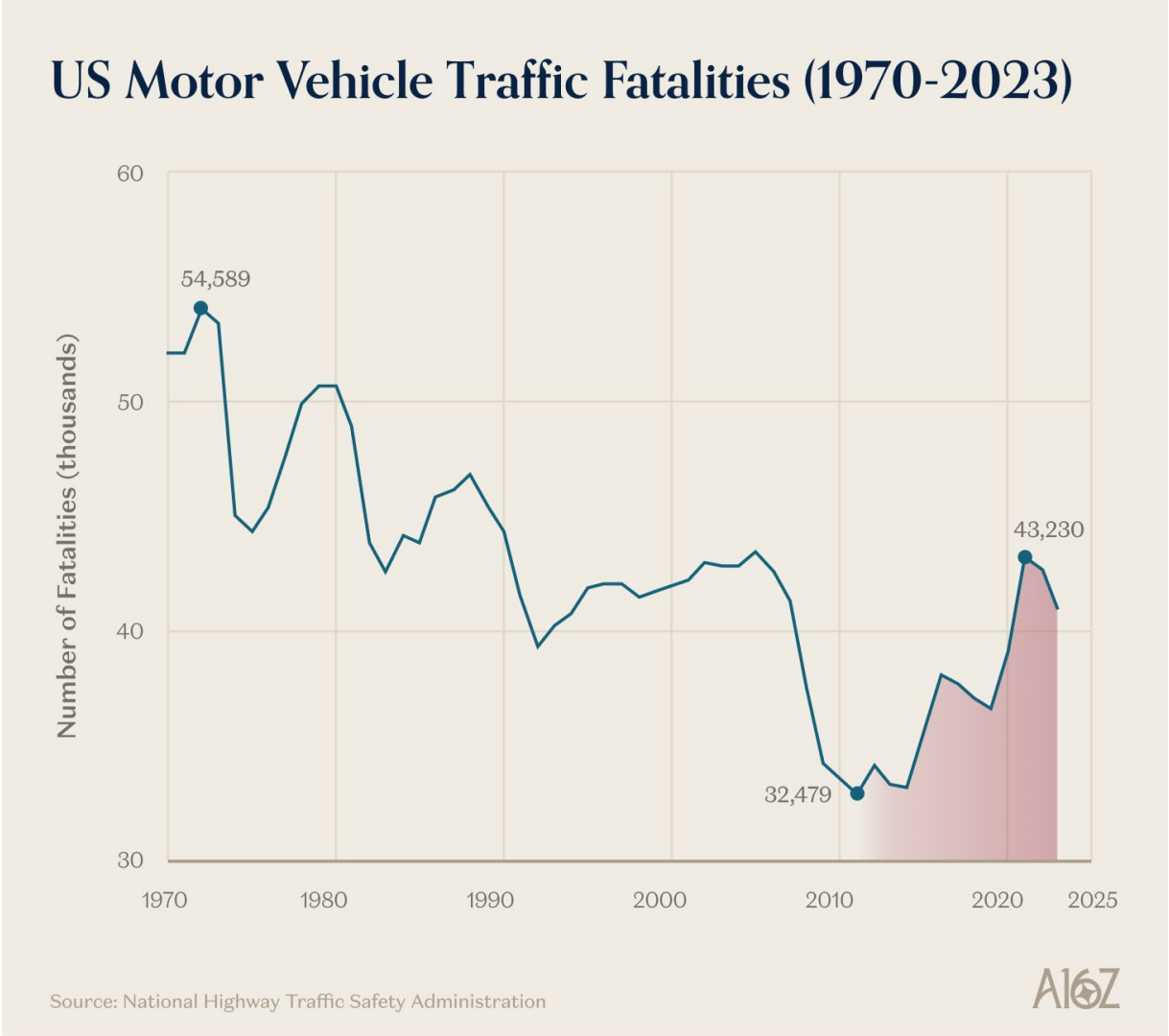
Fred Lambert | Feb 11 2026 - 6:36 am PT | 48 Comments



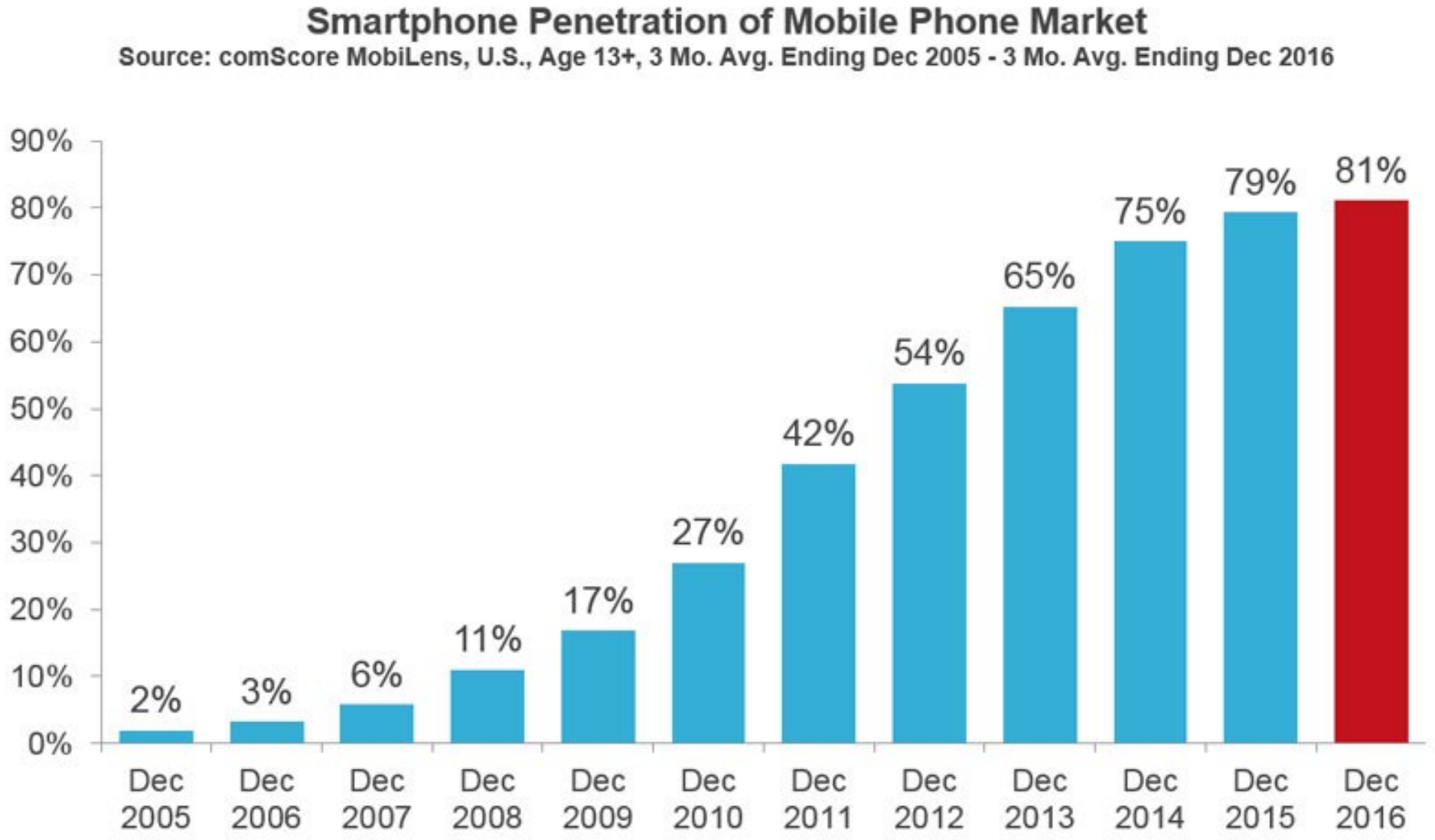
Hyundai IONIQ 5 with Waymo autonomous driving tech (Source: Hyundai)

Hyundai Motor is reportedly looking to supply Waymo with 50,000 IONIQ 5 autonomous vehicles by 2028 in what would amount to a roughly $2.5 billion deal, and if it goes through, it would be a massive signal that the robotaxi industry is entering a new phase of real, industrial-scale deployment.

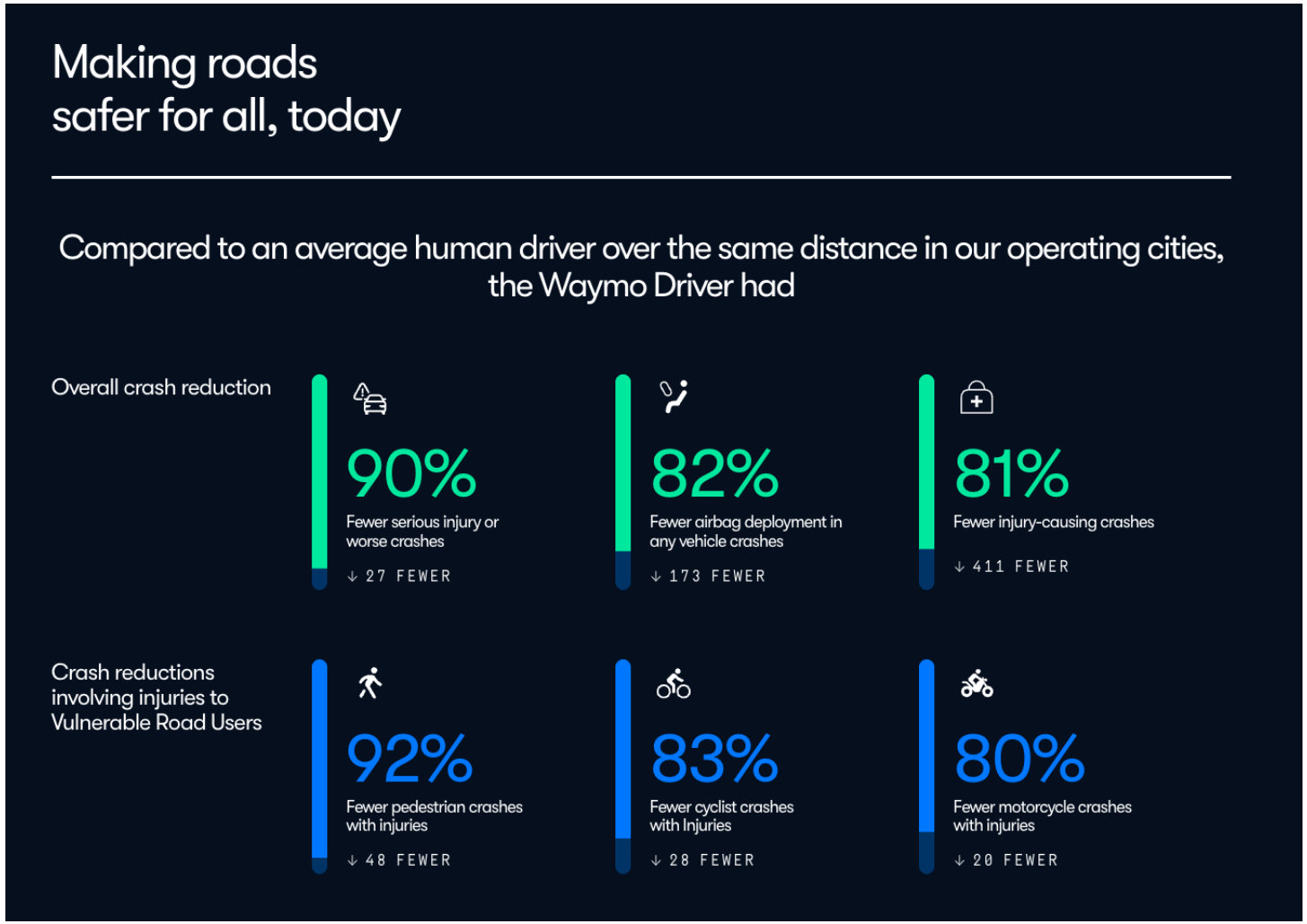
Transportation



Transportation



Transportation



Energy and Climate

Images abound to describe the central solenoid, the backbone and "beating heart" of the ITER tokamak. The most striking of all describes the giant superconducting electromagnet as powerful enough to lift an aircraft carrier out of the water. This is not, of course, what the 18-metre-tall, 1,000-tonne component is intended to do: in ITER, the central solenoid will generate a magnetic field that will induce and maintain a powerful pulsed current in the plasma while contributing to controlling and shaping it.

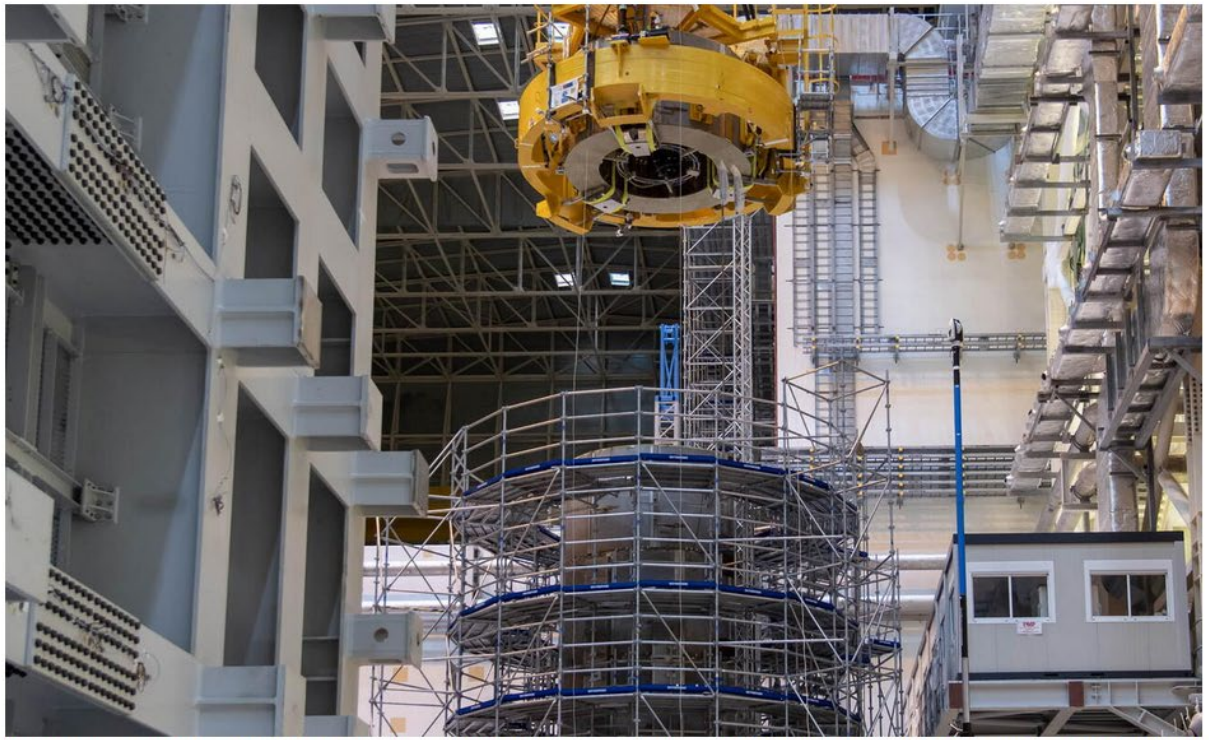
iter ABOUT

CENTRAL SOLENOID

5th module (out of 6) installed

10 NOV 2025

Images abound to describe the central solenoid, the backbone and "beating heart" of the ITER tokamak. The most striking of all describes the giant superconducting electromagnet as powerful enough to lift an aircraft carrier out of the water. This is not, of course, what the 18-metre-tall, 1,000-tonne component is intended to do: in ITER, the central solenoid will generate a magnetic field that will induce and maintain a powerful pulsed current in the plasma while contributing to controlling and shaping it.



Extending up from the existing stack, the helium-cooled busbar lead extensions present an added challenge. Any contact between the narrow tower supporting the fragile extensions and the moving module and lifting fixture presents a risk that must be avoided at all cost. (Notice the tip of the busbar, wrapped in plastic, and the temporary tower (light grey)).

Energy and Climate

PRESS RELEASE • NUCLEAR POWER

U.S. Department of Energy announces $400 million in funding to accelerate deployment of the nation's first commercial small modular nuclear reactor

• 4 min read

- GE Vernova Hitachi's BWRX-300 small modular reactor to be located at Clinch River

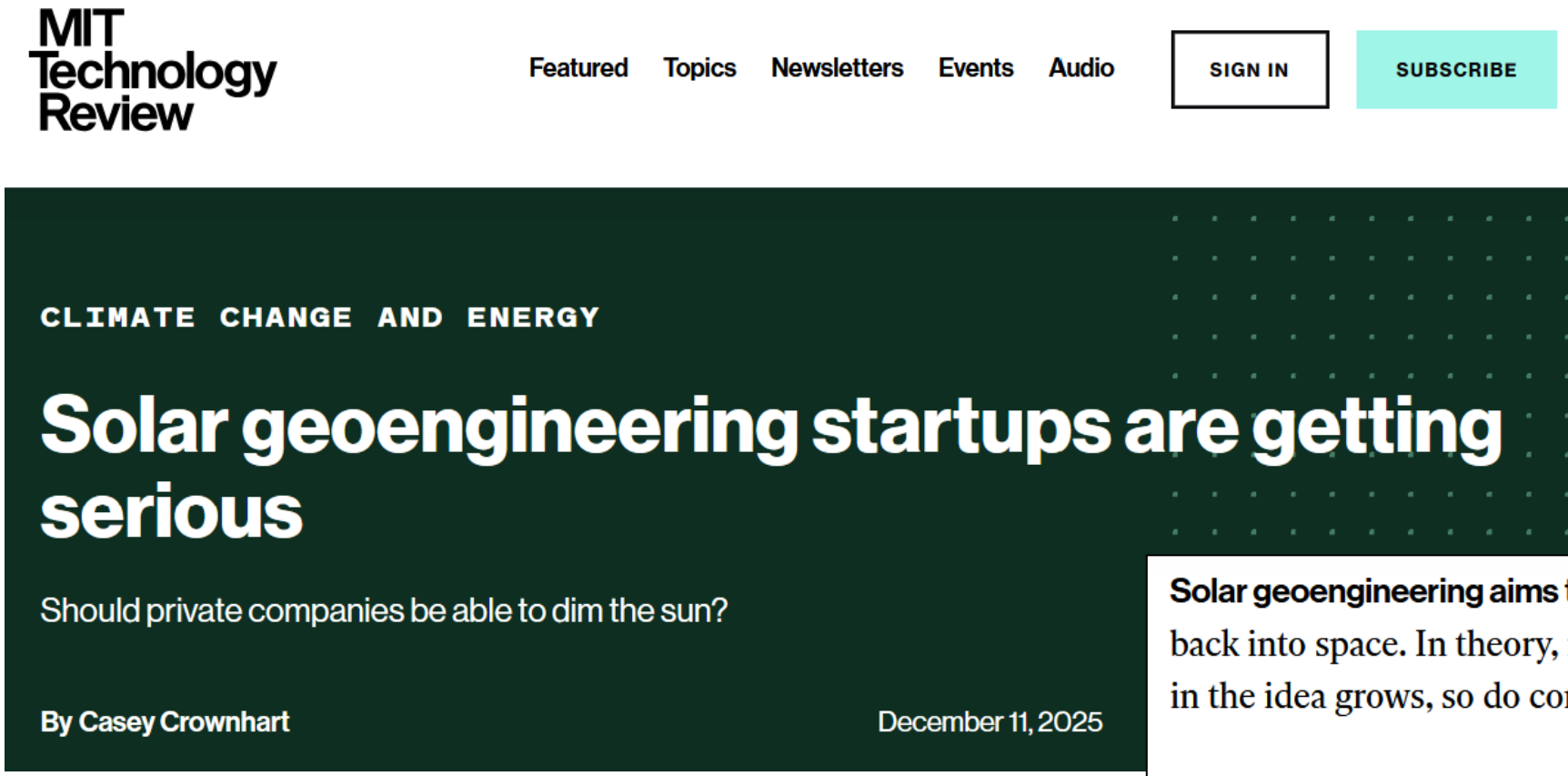
WILMINGTON, North Carolina (December 2, 2025) – The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) has announced a $400 million grant to the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) to continue to accelerate deployment of GE Vernova Hitachi Nuclear Energy's BWRX-300 small modular reactor (SMR). With commercial operation of the first BWRX-300 at the utility's Clinch River Site targeted for the early 2030s, it would become the nation's first commercial SMR.

"The BWRX-300 is the only commercial SMR technology being built right now in the Western world, and this grant will accelerate its deployment in the U.S.," said **Scott Strazik, CEO, GE Vernova**. "We would like to recognize the DOE for its leadership in support of the nuclear industry and for championing public-private partnerships to advance the next generation of nuclear technology and bolster the nation's energy security."

Energy and Climate

Executive order goals: In announcing the selections, Secretary of Energy Chris Wright said that they will help advance the goals of President Trump's executive orders on nuclear energy. "President Trump has made clear that America is going to build more energy, not less, and nuclear is central to that mission," he said. "Advanced light water SMRs will give our nation the reliable, round-the-clock power we need to fuel the president's manufacturing boom, support data centers and AI growth, and reinforce a stronger, more secure electric grid. These awards ensure we can deploy these reactors as soon as possible."

Energy and Climate



Solar geoengineering aims to manipulate the climate by bouncing sunlight back into space. In theory, it could ease global warming. But as interest in the idea grows, so do concerns about potential consequences.

A startup called Stardust Solutions recently raised a $60 million funding round, the largest known to date for a geoengineering startup.

Virtual Presence

TC TechCrunch Latest Startups Venture Apple Security AI Apps | Events Podcasts Newsletters



SOCIAL

Well, there goes the metaverse!

Sarah Perez 8:00 AM PST · January 19, 2026

IMAGE CREDITS: FACEBOOK (VI

Meta's enormous bet on virtual reality ended last week, with the company reportedly laying off roughly 1,500 employees from its Reality Labs division — about 10% of the unit's staff — and shutting down several VR game studios, according to The Wall Street Journal. It's a huge reversal for a company that, just four years ago, staked its entire identity on the concept.

Virtual Presence

"Though researchers debate whether LLMs could ever attain AGI, many see LLMs as a component of future AI systems. The LLM would act as the layer for "language and common sense to communicate," Kanazawa says; it would serve as an "interface," whereas a more clearly defined underlying world model would provide the necessary "spatial temporal memory" that current LLMs lack."

Virtual Presence

Project Genie: Experimenting with infinite, interactive worlds

Jan 29, 2026
3 min read

Google AI Ultra subscribers in the U.S. can try out Project Genie, an experimental research prototype that lets you create and explore worlds.

Virtual Presence

In August, we previewed Genie 3, a general-purpose world model capable of generating diverse, interactive environments. Even in this early form, trusted testers were able to create an impressive range of fascinating worlds and experiences, and uncovered entirely new ways to use it. The next step is to broaden access through a dedicated, interactive prototype focused on immersive world creation.

Virtual Presence

How we're advancing world models

A world model simulates the dynamics of an environment, predicting how they evolve and how actions affect them. While Google DeepMind has a history of agents for specific environments like Chess or Go, building AGI requires systems that navigate the diversity of the real world.

To meet this challenge and support our AGI mission, we developed Genie 3. Unlike explorable experiences in static 3D snapshots, Genie 3 generates the path ahead in real time as you move and interact with the world. It simulates physics and interactions for dynamic worlds, while its breakthrough consistency enables the simulation of any real-world scenario — from robotics and modelling animation and fiction, to exploring locations and historical settings.

Building on our model research with trusted testers from across industries and domains, we are taking the next step with an experimental research prototype: Project Genie.

Computing

Trammell Crow Proposes 12M SF Georgia Data Center

December 01, 2025 | 3:28 p.m. ET | Jarred Schenke, Atlanta

Trammell Crow Co. is proposing a 12M SF data center campus about 25 miles north of Macon that will cost a reported $21B.



The $21B project, dubbed the Forsyth Technology Campus, is a 1,600+ acre project on the west side of Interstate 75 in the city of Forsyth in Monroe County. The scale of this project is immense at nearly twice the size of Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport's 6.8M SF of terminals. It is expected to generate more than $220M annually in local taxes.

Computing

1,600-acre data center approved by local authorities in Forsyth, Georgia

Developer is CBRE-owned Trammell Crow Company

February 04, 2026 By: Jason Ma Have your say

Details about the facility's capacity are sparse.

Opposition to the data center was voiced during Monday's meeting. Local residents expressed concern about the campus' potential impact on the environment and the speed with which the planning proceedings had occurred, whilst city officials argued that the tax revenue generated by the data center was too important to be passed up.

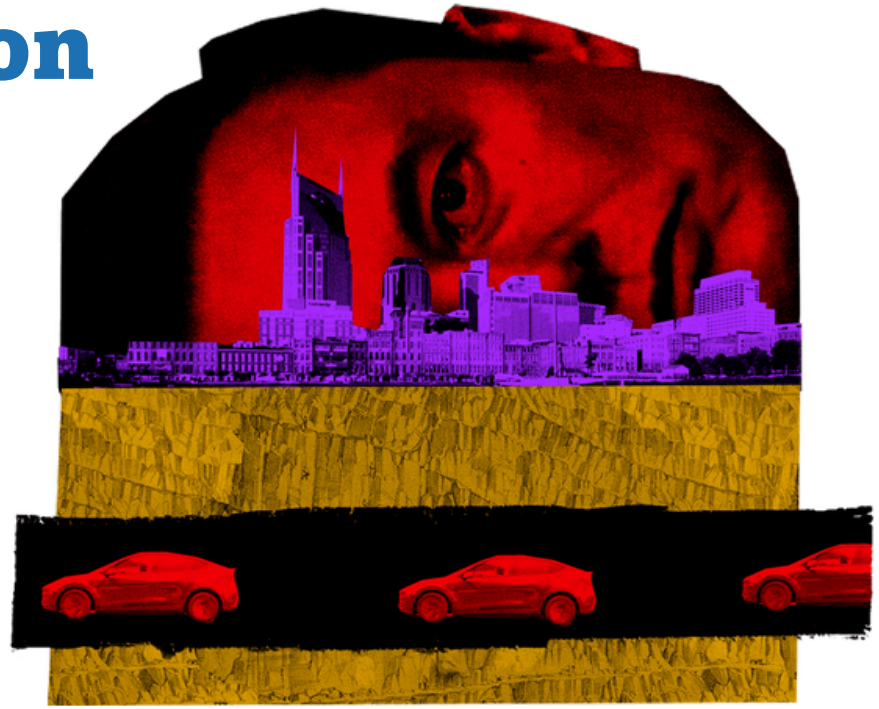
Forsyth is a city in and the county seat of Monroe County, some 60 miles south of Atlanta.

Manufacturing and Construction

After years of hype and promises to wipe out the scourge of traffic – but with only a Las Vegas tourist attraction to show for it – Elon Musk's tunneling startup says it's set to begin digging its first full-fledged transit corridor underneath Nashville.

There's just one catch: City officials, as well as people with more experience building tunnels, think it's a very bad idea.

"If it happens," Nashville Mayor Freddie O'Connell said in an interview, "the ideal scenario would be: mostly harmless, no one dies."



Collage: Steph Davidson, Getty(3)

Industries | The Big Take

Musk's Boring Tunnel in Nashville Has Mayor Hoping No One Dies

The Boring Co. is about to embark on its most ambitious tunneling project yet, but critics worry the company is woefully underprepared.

By Kiel Porter and Ted Mann
February 3, 2026 at 5:00 PM EST

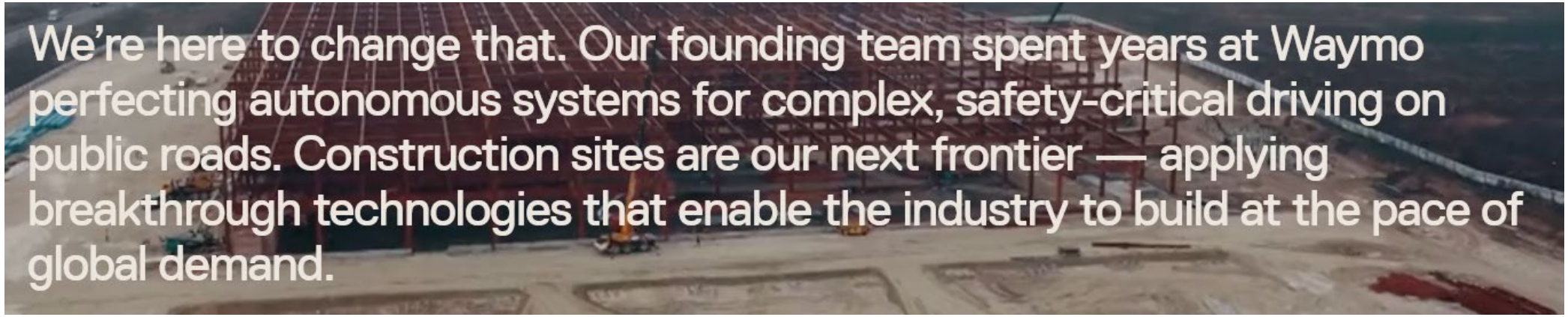
Manufacturing and Construction



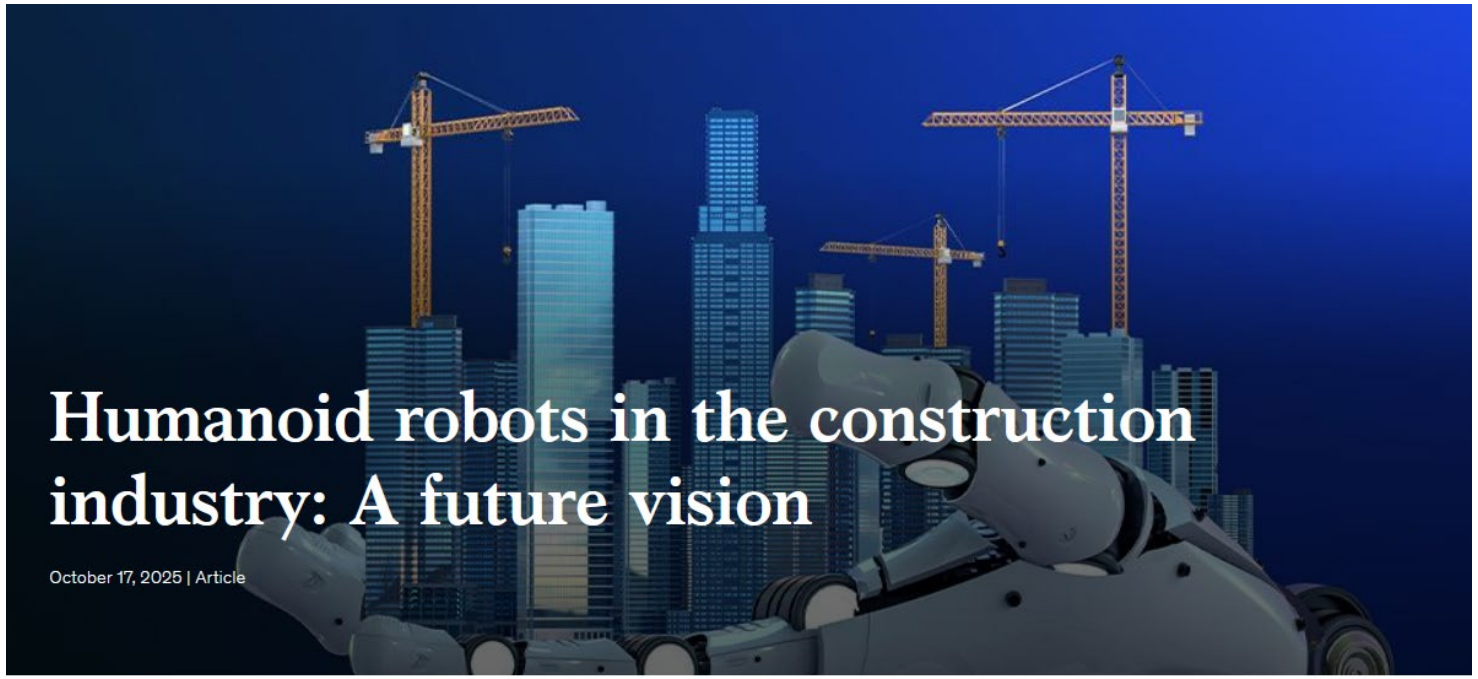
Manufacturing and Construction

BEDROCK





Manufacturing and Construction



Share Print Download Save

Humanoid robots are still at the pilot stage but could emerge as the solution to the construction sector's productivity problem. How can industry leaders prepare for their entry into the workforce?

Supply Chain and Logistics

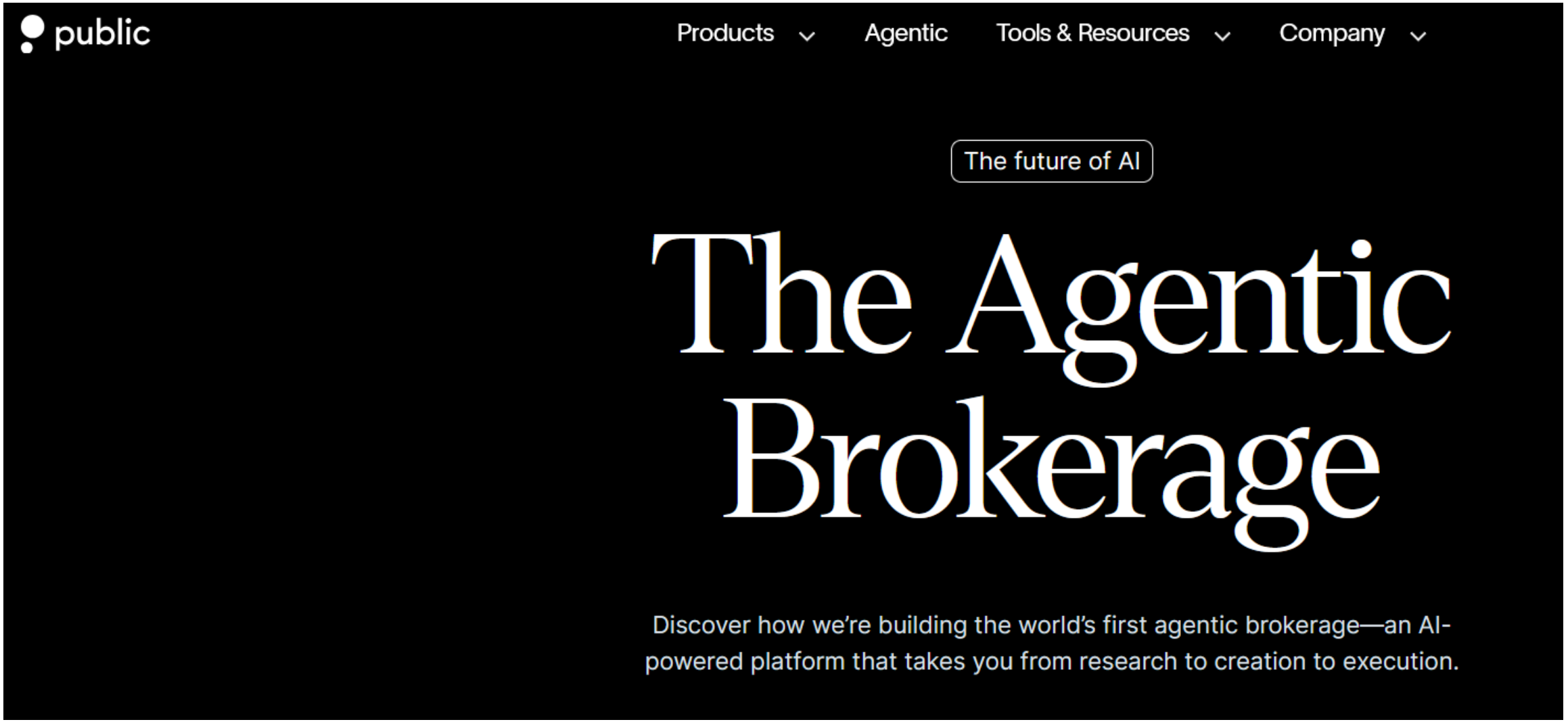
Home // A New Atlanta-Made Robot Is Targeting Last-Mile Delivery

A New Atlanta-Made Robot Is Targeting Last-Mile Delivery

Maija Ehlinger February 3, 2026



Fintech


public
Products
Agentic
Tools & Resources
Company
The future of AI
The Agentic Brokerage
Discover how we're building the world's first agentic brokerage—an AI-powered platform that takes you from research to creation to execution.

Fintech

BUSINESS

Fintech company Block lays off 4,000 of its 10,000 staff, citing gains from AI



1 of 2 | File- This photo taken Nov. 19, 2015, shows Square CEO Jack Dorsey being interviewed on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange. (AP Photo/Richard Drew, File)



BY ELAINE KURTENBACH
Updated 1:34 AM EST, February 27, 2026
Leer en español

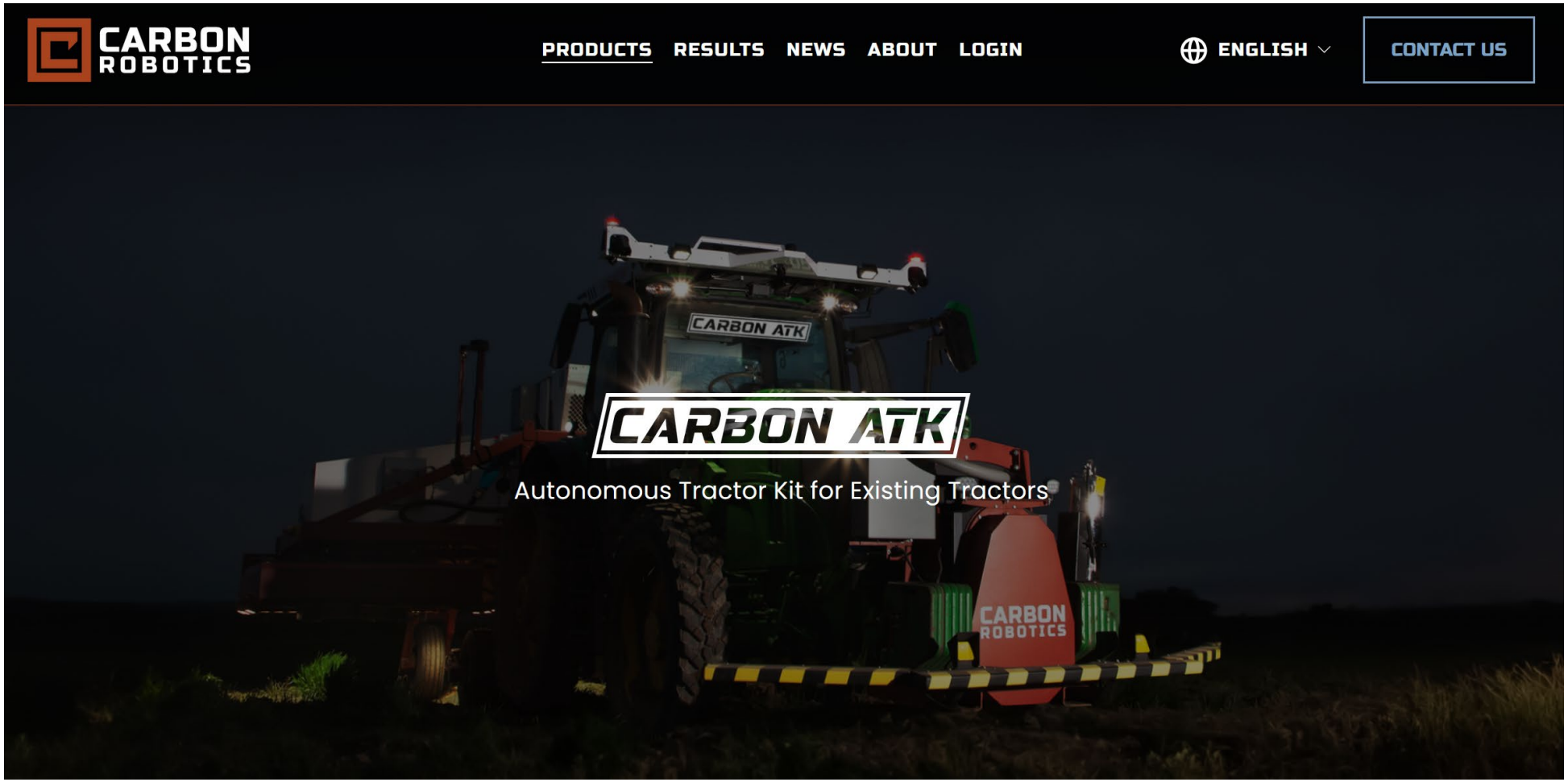
Add AP News on Google | Share | 42

BANGKOK (AP) — Shares in the financial technology company Block soared more than 20% in premarket trading Friday after its CEO announced it was laying off more than 4,000 of its 10,000 plus employees, reconfiguring to capitalize on its use of artificial intelligence.

“The core thesis is simple. Intelligence tools have changed what it means to build and run a company,” Jack Dorsey said in a letter to shareholders in Block, the parent company to online payment platforms such as Square and Cash App. “A significantly smaller team, using the tools we’re building, can do more and do it better,” he said.

Dorsey’s comments explicitly naming AI as a key driver behind the move were also posted on X, or Twitter, a company he co-founded. The assertion that the job cuts will add to Block’s profitability and efficiency led investors to jump in and buy, analysts said.

Food and Agriculture

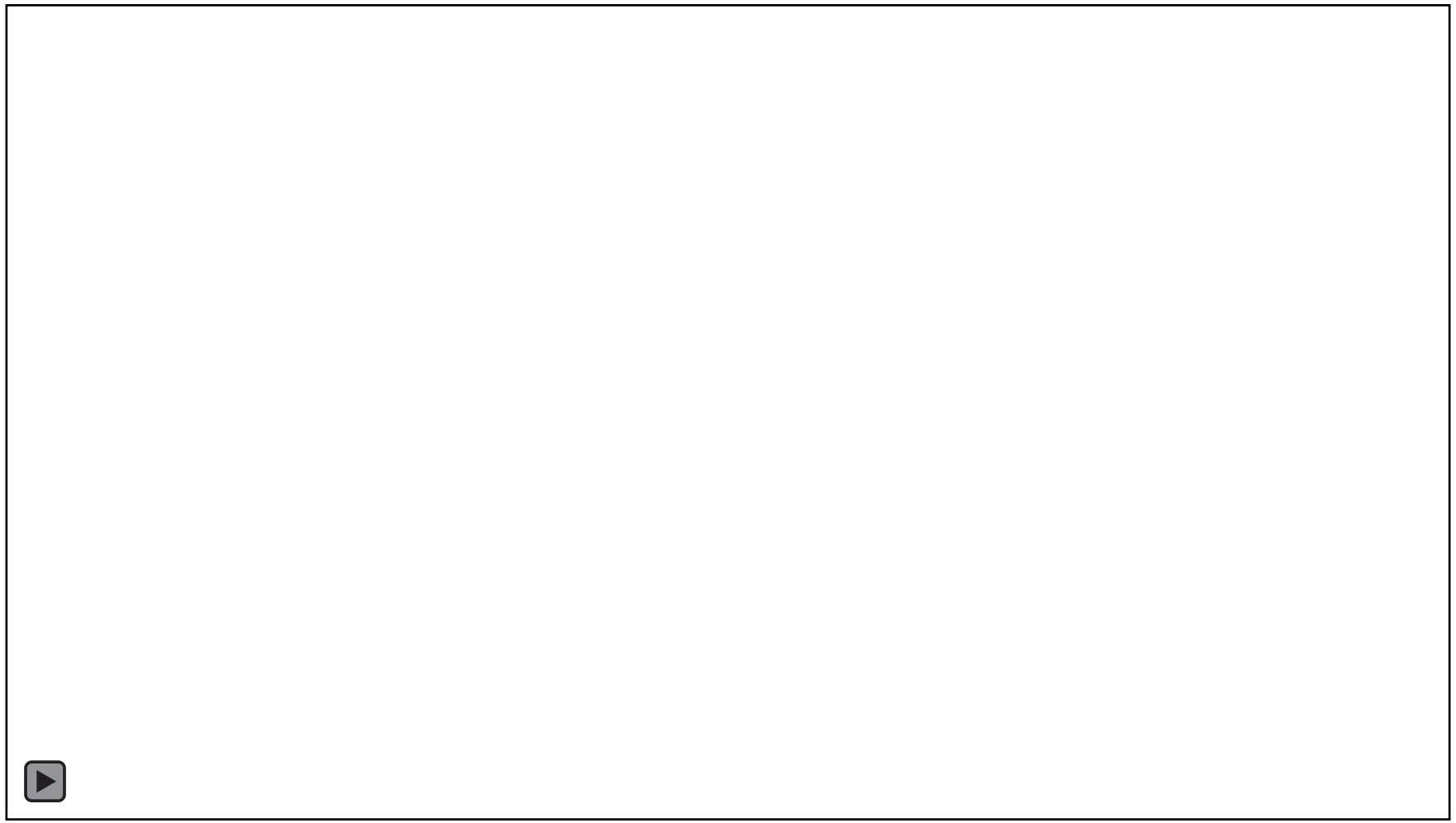


Food and Agriculture



Bee Vectoring

Robotics and Automation



Robotics and Automation

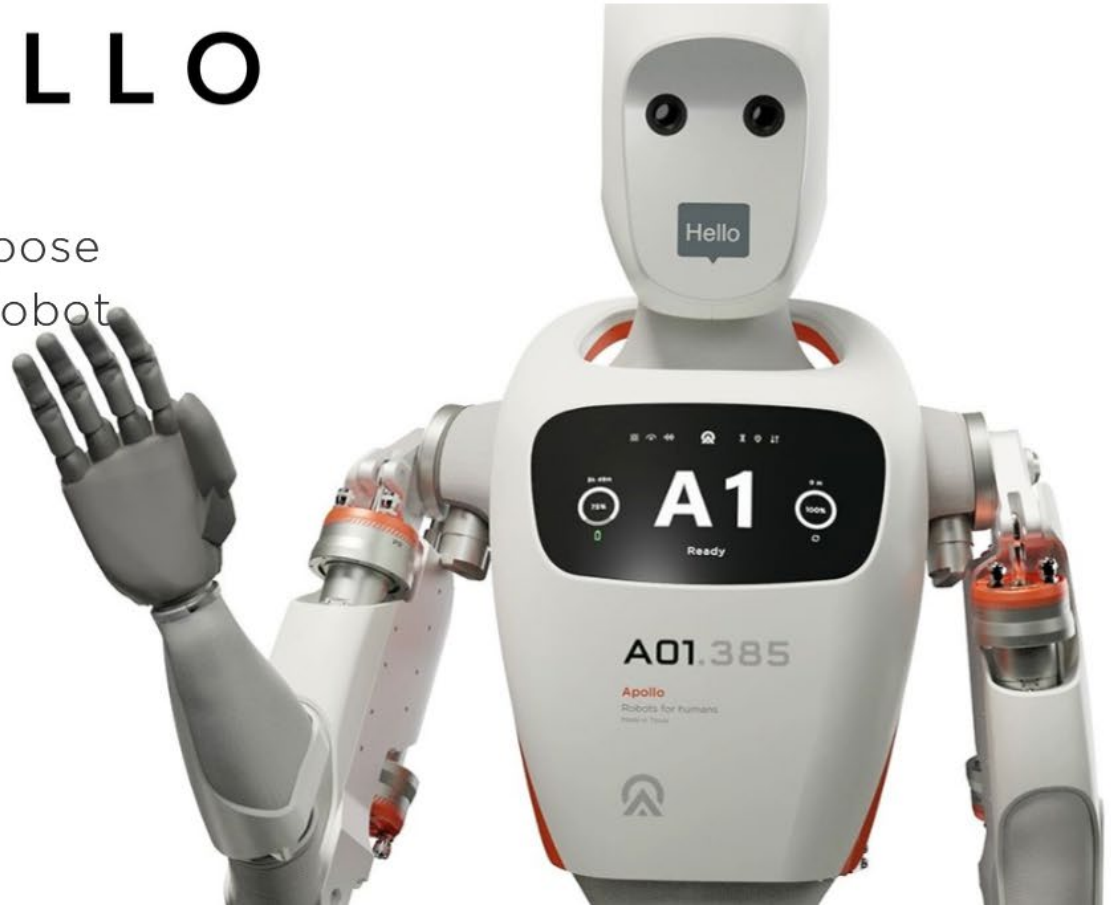


Robotics and Automation

APPTRONIK

APOLLO

General Purpose
Humanoid Robot



5'8"

WEIGHT

160 Lbs

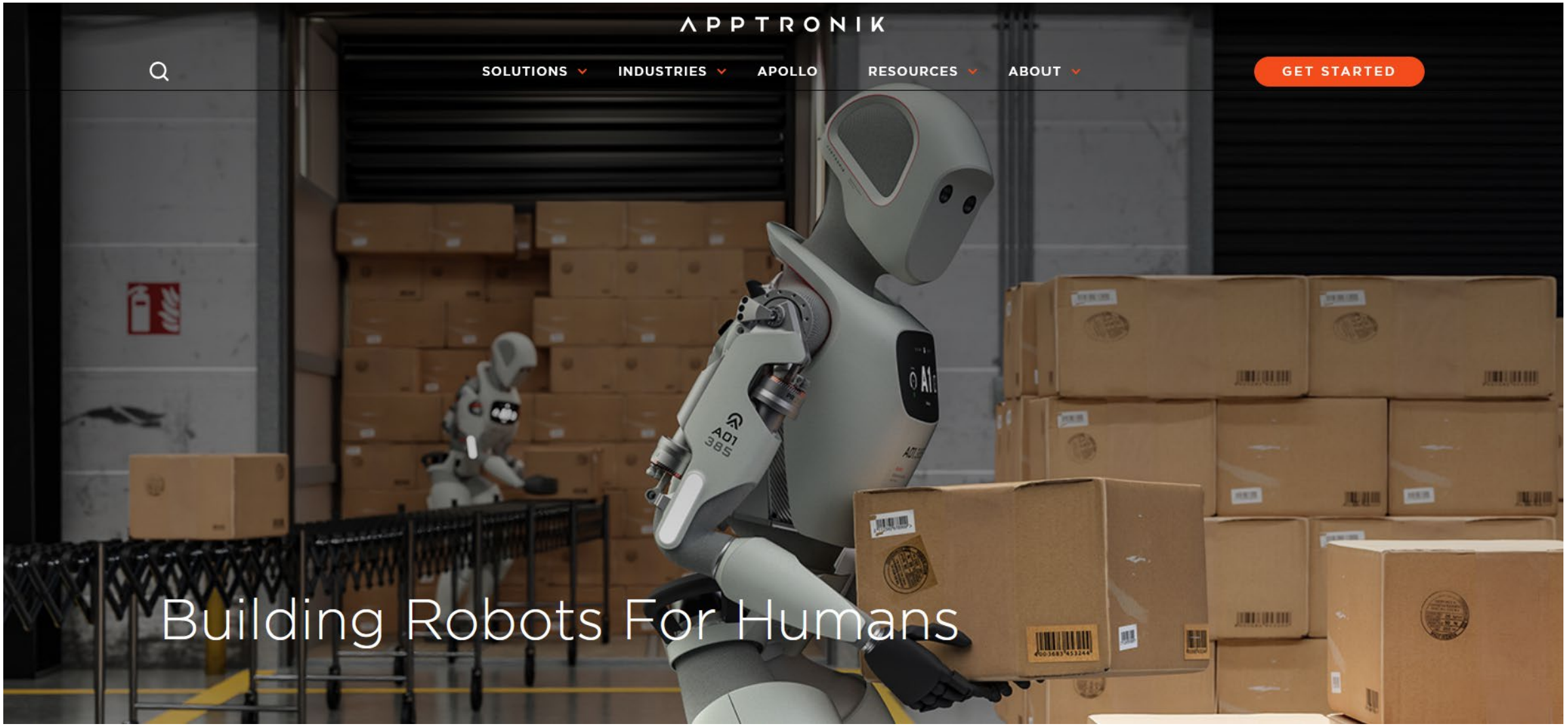
RUNTIME

4 hours per
battery pack

PAYLOAD

55 Lbs

Robotics and Automation



Robotics and Automation

23 hours ago - Business

Hyundai plans 30,000 humanoid robots a year for factories by 2028



Joann Muller

Add Axios on Google



Boston Dynamics' Atlas robot will be deployed in Hyundai factories starting in 2028. Photo courtesy of Hyundai Motor Group

It sounds like a scene from a science fiction movie: Hyundai Motor Group plans to mass-produce humanoid robots in Georgia, and put them to work helping real humans build cars in the same factory.

Why it matters: Hyundai, through its Boston Dynamics subsidiary, is already a leader in robotics — it now says it is ready to take humanoids from the lab to the factory floor, signaling a new phase in the AI revolution.

Driving the news: The South Korea-based industrial conglomerate, whose car brands include Hyundai, Kia and Genesis, unveiled a sweeping AI robotics strategy on Monday at CES in Las Vegas.

- The roadmap includes a plan to manufacture 30,000 Atlas humanoid robots a year by 2028 at its sprawling high-tech "Metaplant" near Savannah and then integrate them into its factories and warehouses worldwide.

They'll be deployed gradually, beginning in 2028 at the Savannah plant, where Hyundai builds electric and hybrid vehicles like the Ioniq 5 and Ioniq 9.

Robotics and Automation

Zoom out: Affiliates from across the Hyundai Group empire are supporting the effort, which is also backed by partnerships with leading AI companies such as Google DeepMind and NVIDIA.

- Hyundai's bet is that combining Boston Dynamics' AI robotics expertise with its own global scale and manufacturing capabilities will provide a powerful edge over competitors when it comes to mass producing humanoid robots.

Where it stands: The Hyundai Group is already using Boston Dynamics robots in industrial settings to enhance safety and improve efficiency.

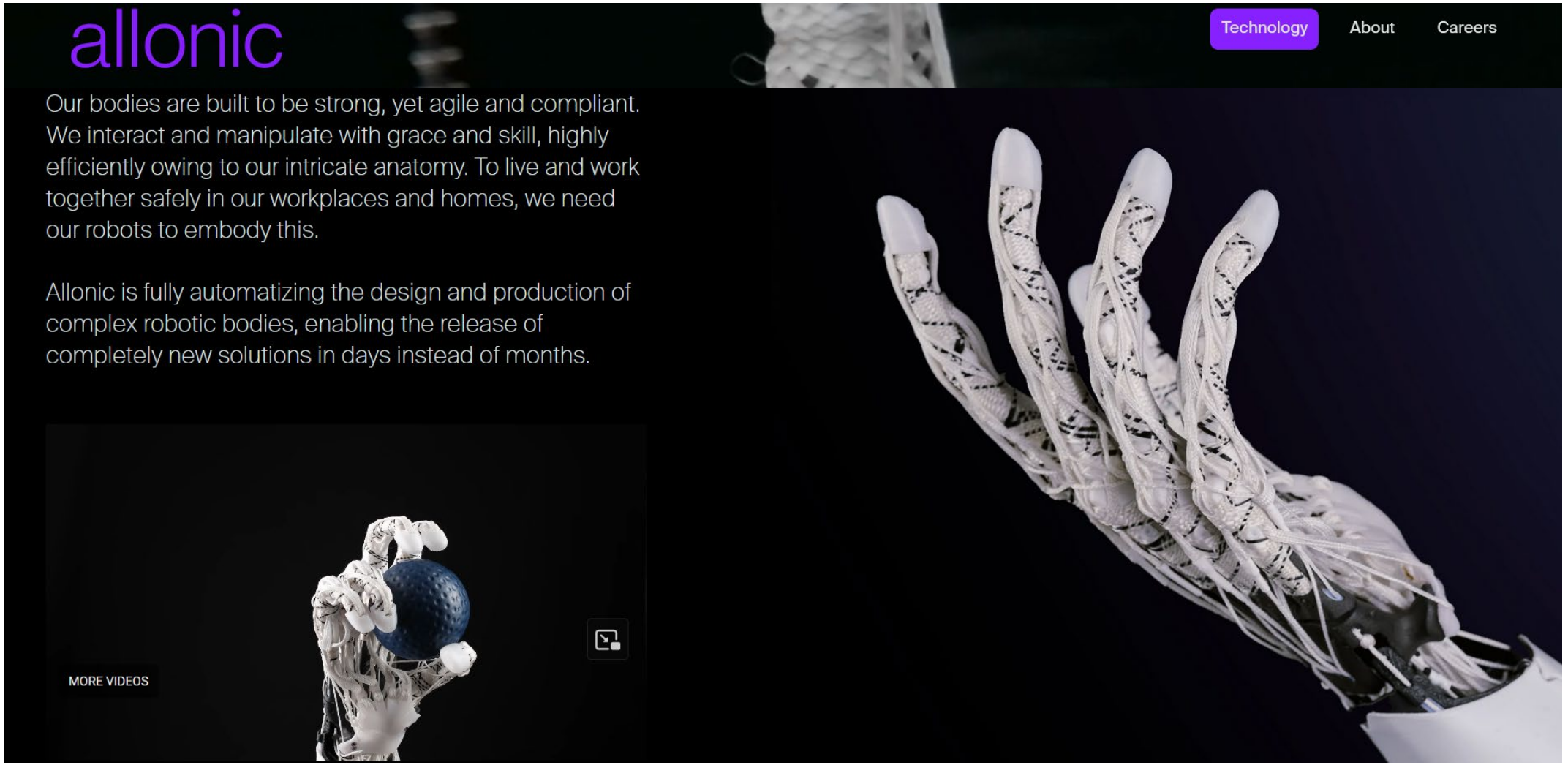
- Spot, the quadruped robot dog, performs data collection and safety monitoring in various industrial sites, including Savannah.

- Stretch, the warehouse robot, has unloaded more than 20 million boxes globally since its launch in 2023, the company says.

What we're watching: Now Atlas, more than a decade in development, is ready to perform real work.

- It can lift 110 pounds, operate autonomously, and be trained for most tasks in less than a day.

Robotics and Automation



Robotics and Automation

TECH

Who’s laughing now? China’s humanoid robots go from viral stumbles to kung fu flips in one year

PUBLISHED FRI, FEB 20 2026•3:27 AM EST | UPDATED FRI, FEB 20 2026•8:56 AM EST

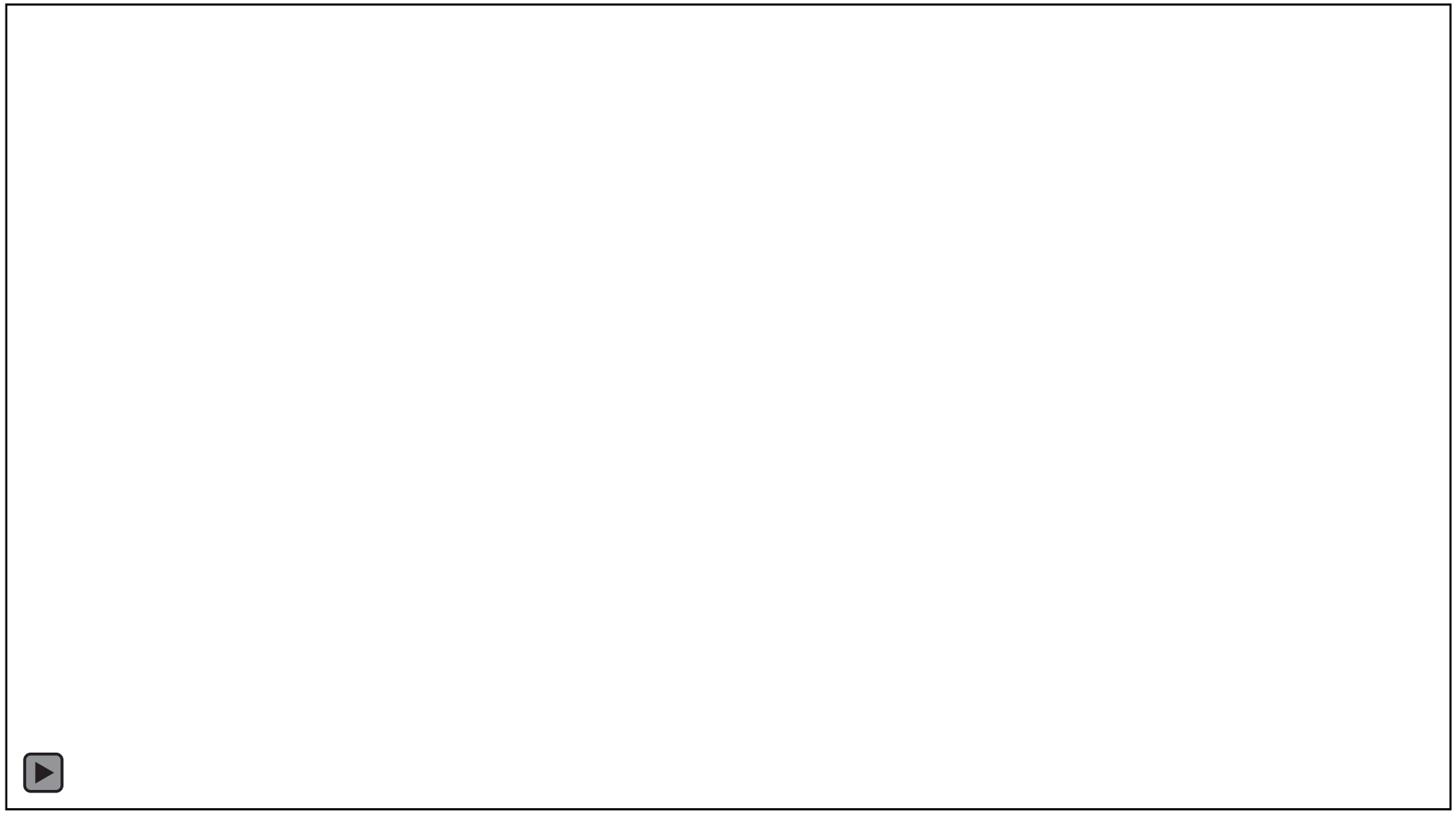


Dylan Butts
@IN/DYLAN-B-7A451A107

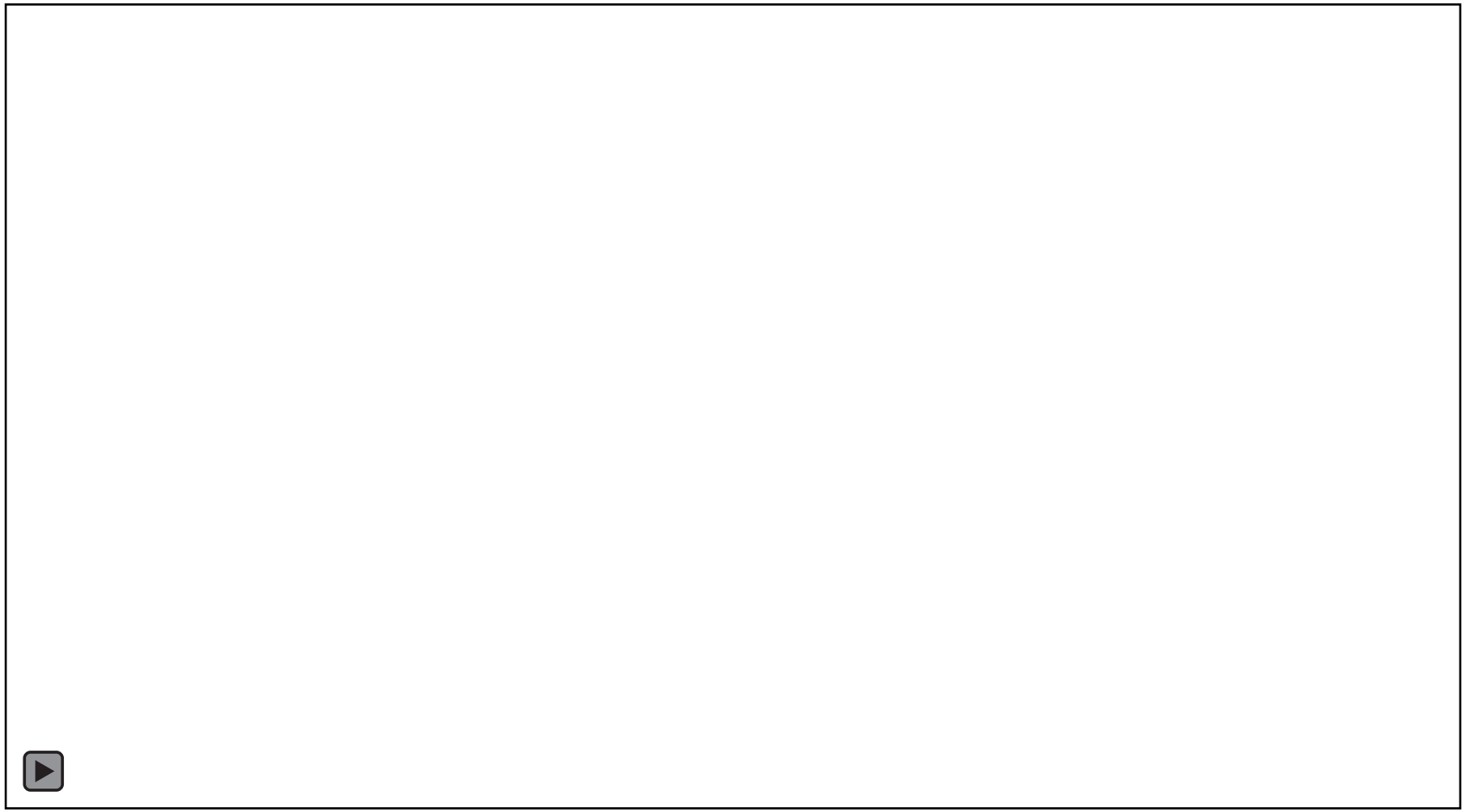
Matthew Chin

SHARE

Robotics and Automation



Robotics and Automation



Robotics and Automation



Share full article 715

By Karen Weise Visuals by Emily Kask

Karen Weise reported from Shreveport, La., and has covered Amazon since 2018. She welcomes tips at nytimes.com/tips.

Oct. 21, 2025

Now, interviews and a cache of internal strategy documents viewed by The New York Times reveal that Amazon executives believe the company is on the cusp of its next big workplace shift: replacing more than half a million jobs with robots.

Amazon's U.S. work force has more than tripled since 2018 to almost 1.2 million. But Amazon's automation team expects the company can avoid hiring more than 160,000 people in the United States it would otherwise need by 2027. That would save about 30 cents on each item that Amazon picks, packs and delivers to customers.

Executives told Amazon's board last year that they hoped robotic automation would allow the company to continue to avoid adding to its U.S. work force in the coming years, even though they expect to sell twice as many products by 2033. That would translate to more than 600,000 people whom Amazon didn't need to hire.

Robotics and Automation

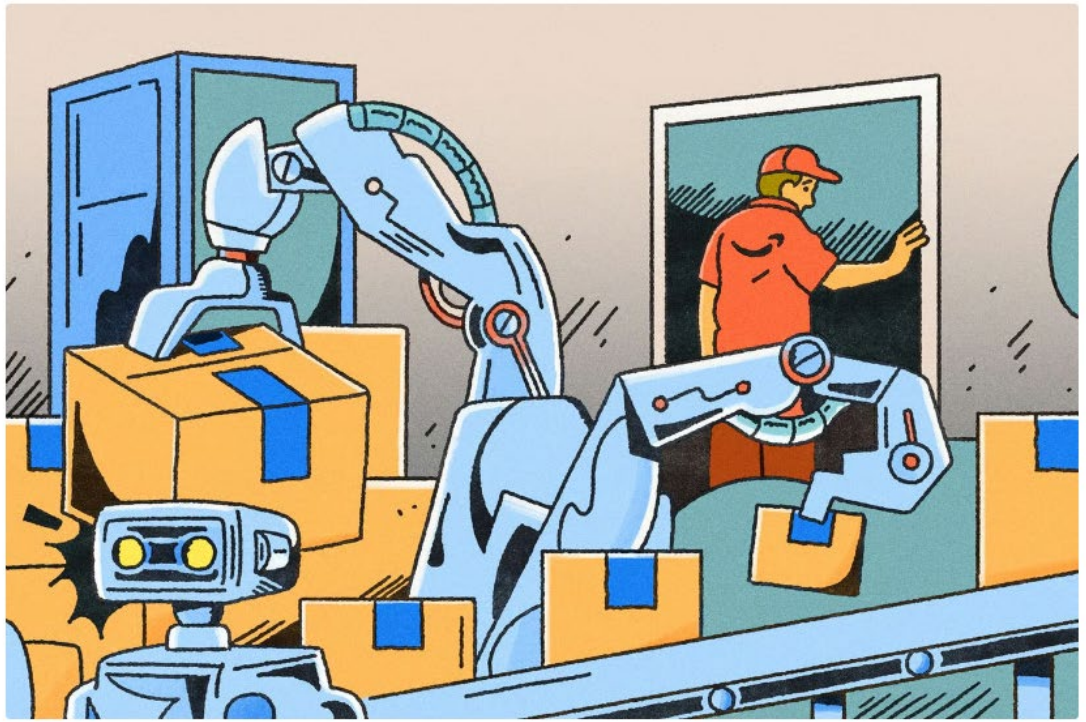
Destroyers of jobs

Nobel Prize-winning economist Daron Acemoglu told the NYT that automation could turn Amazon—currently the 2nd largest employer in the US—into “a net job destroyer.” He also predicted that Amazon’s move would cause its rivals to embrace robots, too.

TECH

Amazon wants robots to replace 600k future hires

Amazon's internal documents suggest it's seeking widespread automation in the very near future, per NYT.



Niv Bavarsky

By Sam Klebanov

OCTOBER 22, 2025 • LESS THAN 3 MIN READ

Aging and Health

Interventional Genetics

Innovative Genomics Institute

About People Research Education Resources



ONE great REGION

ARC

Aging and Health

Leaders of the gene-editing field join forces to develop and administer the first on-demand CRISPR therapy for an infant with a rare metabolic disease.

Since the development of CRISPR gene editing, leaders in the field have foreseen a future in which CRISPR could be used to repair any genetic disease — including rare "N-of-1" diseases caused by mutations that medicine has never encountered. A new paper published today in the *New England Journal of Medicine* takes a big step toward making the vision of an on-demand CRISPR cure a reality.

A team of physicians and scientists including five researchers from the Innovative Genomics Institute (IGI) at the University of California, Berkeley, achieved a historic milestone for the field: a personalized in vivo CRISPR therapy for an infant was developed and delivered to the patient in just six months. The patient, KJ, was born with a rare, severe genetic disease that affects just 1 in 1.3 million newborns. This landmark case paves the way for a future with on-demand gene-editing therapies for individuals with rare, until-now untreatable genetic diseases.

Aging and Health



Aging and Health

Russian firm turns pigeons into brain-controlled surveillance drones using GPS

Neiry claims its cyborg pigeons can fly up to 300 miles a day, outperforming drones without using batteries.

By **Sujita Sinha** | AI and Robotics | Feb 10, 2026 04:18 AM EST

GET YOUR NEWS FROM INTERESTING ENGINEERING

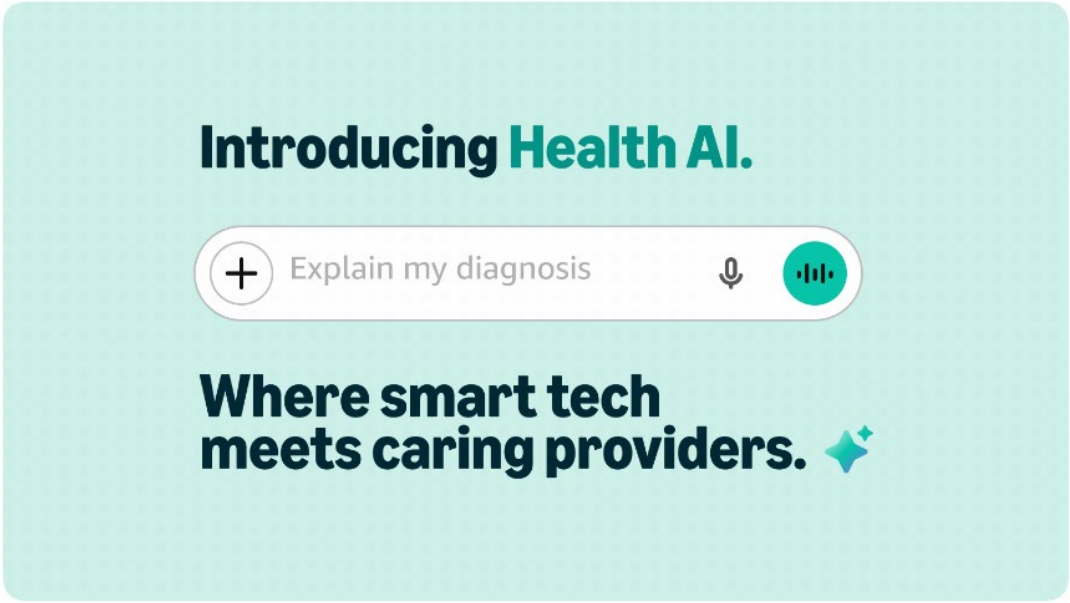


Neiry has begun early real-world trials of birds fitted with neural implants and mini imaging backpacks. Neiry

AI and Health



1. Amazon and Anthropic release new healthcare AI updates: Anthropic **launched** four health integrations for Claude in beta (Apple Health, Health Connect, HealthEx, and Function Health). After you opt in, the AI model will be able to connect to these tools and summarize your medical history, offer advice, or spot patterns across fitness metrics. Meanwhile, Amazon **debuted** Health AI for One Medical members — a 24/7 assistant that pulls from your records, labs, and medications to offer personalized guidance in-app.

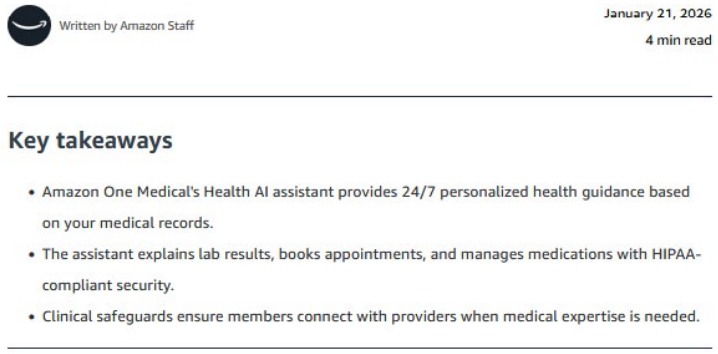


January 7, 2026 Product Company

Introducing ChatGPT Health

A dedicated experience in ChatGPT designed for health and wellness.

Join the waitlist ↗

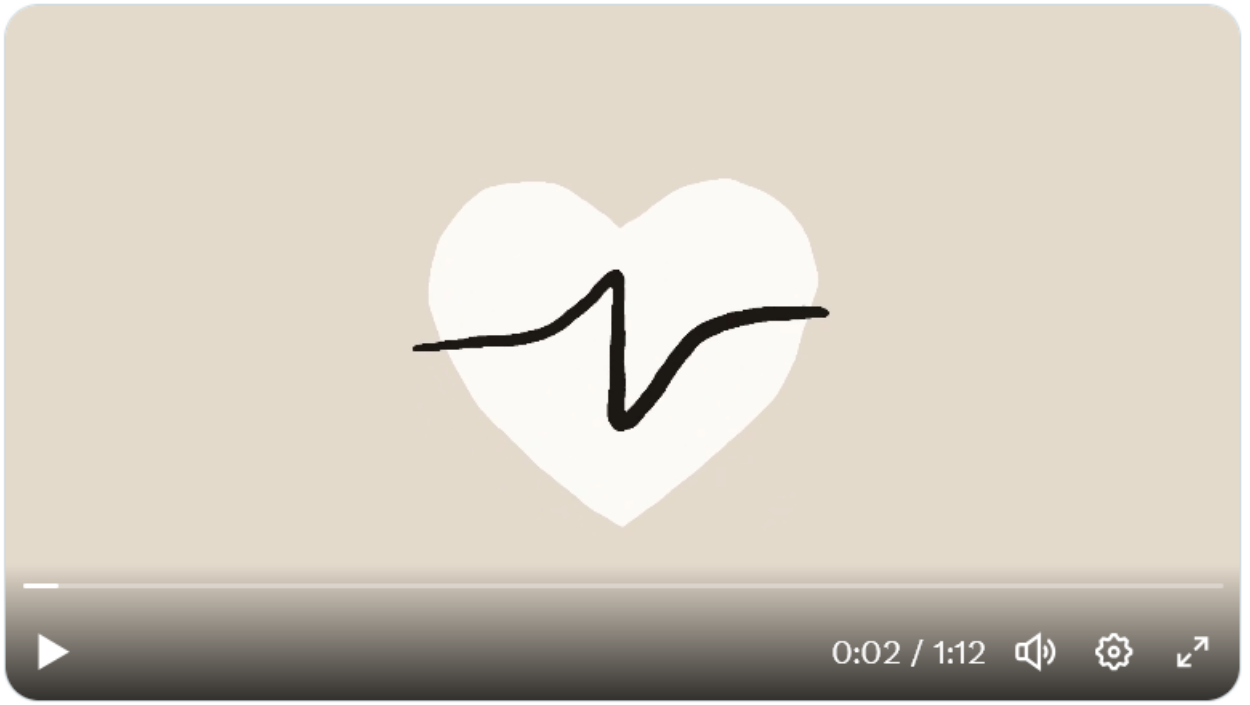


AI and Health

Claude @claudeai

Claude can now securely connect to your health data.

Four new integrations are now available in beta: Apple Health (iOS), Health Connect (Android), HealthEx, and Function Health.



6:22 PM · Jan 20, 2026 · **1M** Views

Safety and Security



Feb 12, 2026 - World

Laser weapon that shut down El Paso's skies was LOCUST system

Colin Demarest

Add Axios on Google



A BlueHalo laser weapon, mounted to a Stryker combat vehicle at a defense conference. Photo: Colin Demarest/Axios

Infrastructure and Connected Communities

Carbon-storing concrete powers CO2-neutral bridge with 30% cement replacement

A new pedestrian bridge shows CO_2-neutral concrete can meet structural demands while storing carbon permanently.

By **Neetika Walter** | Innovation | Jan 21, 2026 04:24 PM EST

GET YOUR NEWS FROM INTERESTING ENGINEERING



The project combines Paebbl's CO_2-mineralizing material with biochar and recycled aggregates. Heijmans

Infrastructure and Connected Communities

ENGINEERING

Stratospheric internet could finally start taking off this year

High-altitude platforms could help connect over 2 billion people around the world who are still offline.

By Tereza Pultarova

January 27, 2026



SCEYE

Today, an estimated 2.2 billion people still have either limited or no access to the internet, largely because they live in remote places. But that number could drop this year, thanks to tests of stratospheric airships, uncrewed aircraft, and other high-altitude platforms for internet delivery.

Looking Ahead

- **Q2 2026 – Q4 2026**