

June 2026 Edition

FUTURE ROBOTICS CHINA

Firsthand insights into selected
players, technologies and
developments shaping
China's robotics ecosystem



INTRODUCTION

Robotics is one of the fastest-growing industries in the world. The market for humanoid robots alone is projected to grow from approximately **USD 4.9 billion** in 2025 to **USD 30-50 billion** by 2035. A substantial share of this growth is happening in China. In 2024, the country accounted for around **54 percent** of all industrial robots installed worldwide. Industry experts we spoke with during our visits estimate that China currently accounts for **80 to 90 percent** of global activity in humanoid robotics. For German and European manufacturers, the key question is **how to engage with this ecosystem**.

The insights in this brochure are based on firsthand observations and discussions during on-site visits in Hong Kong, Shenzhen, Hangzhou, and Shanghai from June 21 to 26, 2026.



For each stop, the brochure provides a short profile of the company or institution, highlights our key observations and learnings from the on-site exchange, and concludes with potential implications for European manufacturers.

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SUMMARY

FIRSTHAND INSIGHTS INTO CHINA'S RAPIDLY EVOLVING ROBOTICS ECOSYSTEM

In June 2026, a delegation of around 20 representatives from leading German manufacturing companies explored China's rapidly evolving robotics ecosystem. The group included executives, senior decision-makers and technical leaders seeking firsthand insights into the technologies, companies, and institutions shaping industrial and humanoid robotics.

ORGANIZED BY INC INNOVATION CENTER

The delegation was organized and led by INC Innovation Center, which has maintained a presence in Hong Kong for more than eight years, including its own AI & Robotics Lab, and has built a well-established network with robotics companies, manufacturers, and research institutions in China. Combined with INC's roots as a German company with a strong manufacturing background, this local footprint provides direct access to leading companies, technical teams, and C-level management across the region, rather than relying on secondary market information.



~20

Representatives

from leading German manufacturing companies



10

Organizations

across the robotics value chain



4

Cities

Hong Kong, Shenzhen, Hangzhou & Shanghai



KEY INSIGHTS FROM THE DELEGATION VISIT

FOUR RESPECTIVES ON CHINA'S ROBOTICS ECOSYSTEM

01



DIFFERENT PATHS TO HUMANOID MATURITY

Unitree and UBTech represent different approaches to humanoid robotics maturity. Unitree emphasizes vertical integration, in-house actuator capabilities, human-like motion, rapid iteration, and competitive pricing. UBTech places stronger emphasis on structured industrial deployment, existing applications, and international market expansion.

02



INTELLIGENCE THROUGH PERCEPTION AND CONTROL

Spirit AI and Paxini address intelligent perception, control, tactile sensing, and dexterous manipulation. Their approaches underline the importance of real-world data acquisition and large-scale training infrastructure as key enablers for general-purpose robotic capabilities.

03



CORE TECHNOLOGIES FROM ESTABLISHED PLAYERS

Infineon, SICK, Huawei, and Hikrobot illustrate how established technology players contribute semiconductors, sensing and safety technologies, machine vision, and computing infrastructure as critical building blocks of embodied AI.

04

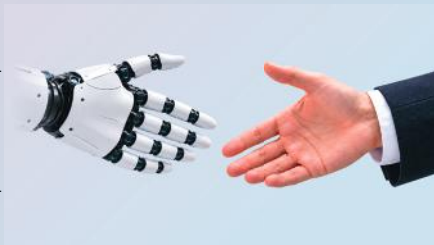


CONNECTING RESEARCH TO REAL-WORLD APPLICATIONS

The Hong Kong Productivity Council, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University form the connective layer between novel embodied AI technology and actual industrial application through research, prototyping, and implementation.

WHAT THIS MEANS FOR YOU

The market is defined by speed, capital intensity, and increasingly mature full-stack capability. European players have meaningful opportunities as users, component suppliers, and cooperation partners. Relevant collaboration areas include precision components, drive technologies, industrial safety, sensing, and system integration.



UNITREE

THE PACEMAKER FOR HUMAN-LIKE MOTION

Founded in Hangzhou, Unitree has evolved from a provider of four-legged walking robots into one of the world's largest manufacturers of humanoid robots by unit volume. In 2025, the company delivered more than 5,500 humanoid robots, and revenue increased from around RMB 392 million in 2024 to approximately RMB 1.7 billion in 2025. In July 2026, China's securities regulator approved Unitree's IPO on Shanghai's STAR Market, with an implied valuation of nearly USD 5.9 billion.



Humanoid Robots
> 5,500 units
delivered in 2025



Revenue Growth
> 4x YoY
RMB 1.7bn in 2025



STAR Market IPO
~USD 5.9bn
implied valuation



Global Ranking
Top 3
by humanoid unit
volume

WHAT WE LEARNED

Price-competitive humanoids enable consumer market growth

Unitree covers different price points and application levels with its product portfolio. The R1 Air robot starts at USD 4,900, making it the low-budget entry point into Unitree's humanoid lineup. This gives Unitree a strong opportunity to capture early market share in the consumer market.

Core components are designed and produced in-house

Key strategic lever is that Unitree manufactures its actuators in-house. These actuators are the "muscles" of the robots and account for 50 to 70 percent of hardware costs. Unitree buys other components, such as dexterous hands, from Chinese suppliers.

Unitree is emerging as an international robotics platform

With 44 % of its revenue coming from overseas and its recent listing on the Shanghai STAR's Market, Unitree has an enhanced platform for global growth. However, its expansion will depend on translating technical capabilities into industry-specific and market-specific use cases with clear operational value, while meeting local requirements for safety, cybersecurity, data protection, certification, and workplace compliance.

Unitree leads in dynamic human-like motion

Unitree's humanoids demonstrated athletic and expressive dynamic motion in music, dance, and entertainment shows. Its G1 and H2 robots performed dance choreography and martial arts routines with high-flying kicks. The quadruped Go2 robot performed dynamic parkour over obstacles.



www.unitree.com

WHAT THIS MEANS FOR YOU

Unitree pursues volume and price leadership through vertical integration. For SMEs, the opportunity lies less in the humanoid technology itself and more in applying Unitree's technology to early pilot use cases and supporting its integration into real factory operations. By focusing on the application case, SMEs can add value through integration work, safety technology and certification, and hardware/software add-ons tailored to factory deployment.





HUMANOIDS IN INDUSTRY AND EVERYDAY LIFE

UBTech (Shenzhen, founded in 2012) follows a vertically integrated full-stack approach. The company develops proprietary hardware, including actuators, sensors, and grippers. It also develops its own open-source vision-language-action model, “Thinker,” a proprietary cloud platform for fleet control, its core bipedal humanoid Walker, and the wheeled robot Cruzr for industrial environments.



Enterprise Customers
900+ customers
across 50+ countries



Patent Portfolio
~3,000 patents
granted worldwide



Industrial Implementation
At a BYD factory
real-world deployment



Consumer Market
Companion Series
expanding into homes

WHAT WE LEARNED

Industrial use cases, not just dancing robots

In our discussion, UBTech made it clear that its focus is not on “dancing robots” but on concrete industrial tasks such as picking, screwdriving, sorting, and material handling. For example, UBTech’s humanoid Walker places materials onto vehicle pallets at a BYD factory.

Data privacy concerns are addressed through local deployment

Customer data is processed locally on a computing unit inside the robot. This directly addresses European data privacy requirements, as the UBTech team emphasized during the visit.

Industrial customer engagement is well-established

Deployment follows clearly defined phases: solution report, lab-based proof of concept, simulation, on-site training, and productive operation. Efficiency then increases gradually, starting at about 40 percent of human working speed. UBTech's robots are deployed at several production facilities, including Sany Re, NIO, Geely Auto, BAIC New Energy, and Zeekr.

UBTech builds international visibility and a distributor network worldwide

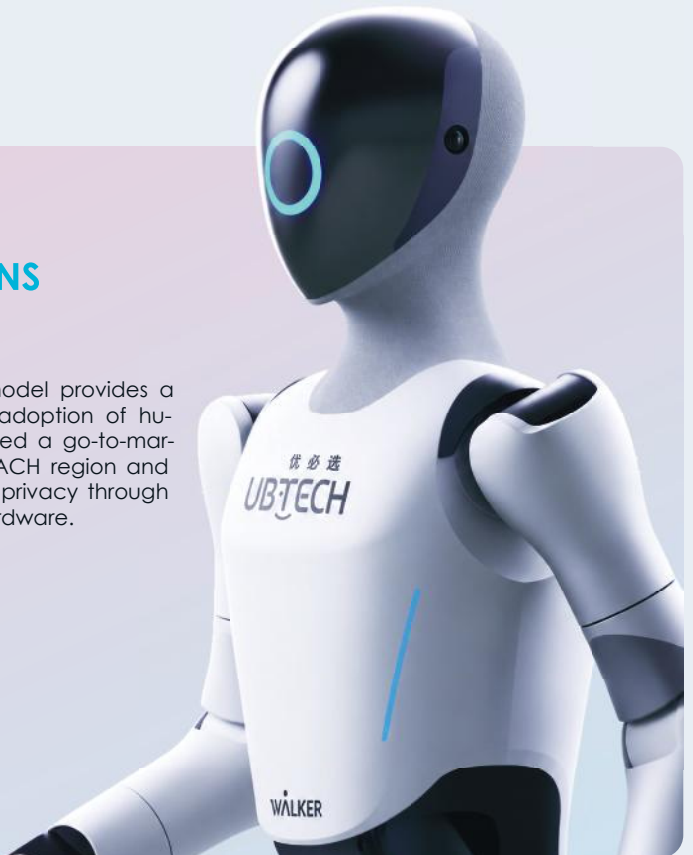
UBTech currently serves more than 900 enterprise customers in over 50 countries and holds nearly 3,000 granted patents worldwide. Since 2026, Terra Robotics has served as its exclusive distribution partner for the German-speaking region. Terra Robotics offers a multi-brand portfolio that includes resale, integration, training, and other services for humanoid robots.



www.ubrobot.com

WHAT THIS MEANS FOR YOU

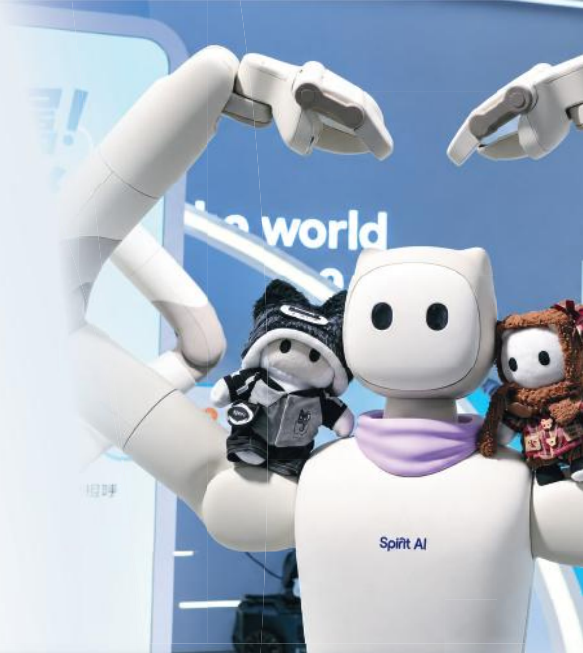
UBTech's staged pilot model provides a blueprint for industrial adoption of humanoid robots. UBTech established a go-to-market infrastructure in the DACH region and addresses European data privacy through AI deployment on local hardware.





THE BRAIN BEHIND THE ROBOT

Spirit AI (Hangzhou, founded in 2024) focuses on the robotic brain by developing physical AI models. The startup is backed by major investors including CATL, JD.com, Huawei, Xiaomi, and TCL. Its humanoid robot Moz1 primarily serves as a training and demonstration platform for the company's self-developed vision-language-action models.



Unicorn
> USD 700M
funding received



Strategic Investors
TCL, JD.com
(selection)



Global Ranking
Top 5
in RoboChallenge



Deployment at
CATL factory
Large Scale

WHAT WE LEARNED

The AI models are highly ranked in international competitions such as “Robo Challenge”

The self-developed vision-language-action model Spirit v1.5 currently ranks first in the international “Robo Challenge”, ahead of models from established U.S. providers. It uses a unified end-to-end architecture, reducing the errors of traditional modular pipelines. The data pipeline is built on diverse, open-world task data rather than narrowly “clean data” which improves generalization to new tasks.

A unicorn with strategic partners including German corporates

Spirit AI received more than USD 700 million in funding and reached a valuation of approximately USD 2.8 billion. According to the company, strategic customers include Siemens, Bosch, Schaeffler, and CATL. The team at Spirit AI says it implemented the world's first large-scale series deployment of embodied-AI robots in a battery production line at CATL.

Teleoperation data are exclusively used for model training

Particularly notable is the company's deliberate decision not to use simulation to train its models. The team said it works exclusively with real teleoperation and video data rather than synthetic data. Spirit AI has already collected more than 130,000 hours of data, with a target of one million hours. According to the company's own scaling laws, every tenfold increase in training data reduces the need for application-specific fine-tuning to around 40 percent.

Seeing is believing: Moz1 capabilities are demonstrated live

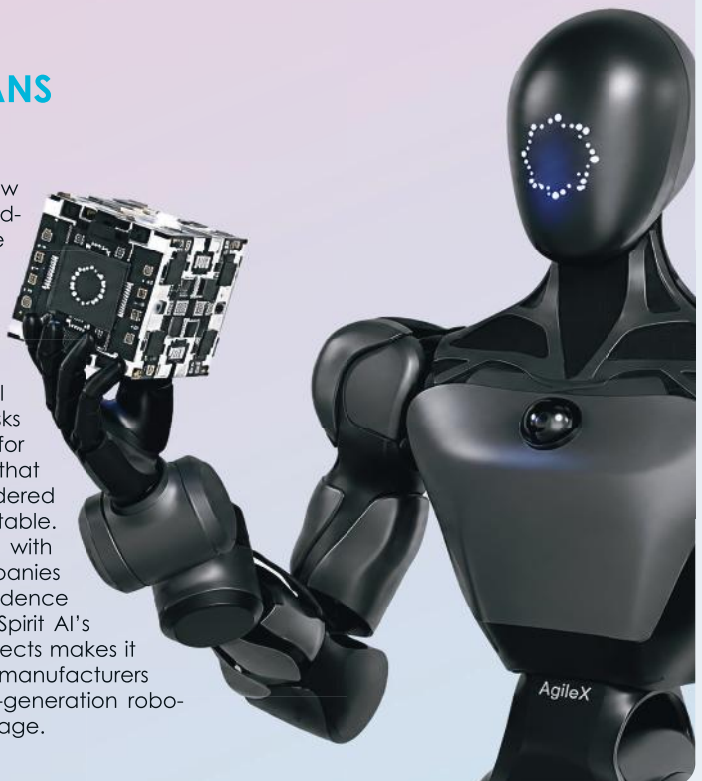
The Spirit AI team demonstrated Moz1 in a home appliance use case. Delegation members could directly manipulate the hardware, give commands, and observe the chain-of-thought process together with the robot's physical movements. In one use case, Moz1 identified objects such as pens on a desktop, opened a drawer, and placed the pen inside. This difficult task was solved dynamically by the robot.



www.spirit-ai.com

WHAT THIS MEANS FOR YOU

Spirit AI demonstrates how Embodied AI is rapidly expanding the scope of automation beyond the limits of traditional robotics. The ability to transfer skills learned in complex, unstructured environments to industrial logistics and assembly tasks opens new opportunities for automating processes that were previously considered too variable or unpredictable. Existing collaborations with European industrial companies indicate growing confidence in this technology, while Spirit AI's strong interest in pilot projects makes it an attractive partner for manufacturers looking to evaluate next-generation robotics solutions at an early stage.





TOUCH SENSORS AND DEXTEROUS HANDS FOR HUMANOIDS

Paxini Tech (Shenzhen, founded in 2021) is an „embodied intelligence“ company built around multi-dimensional tactile sensing, dexterous hands, and humanoid robots. They are funded by major industrial corporates and financial institutions such as JD.com, BYD, TCL Capital, and BOC.



Adoption of
Tactile Hands
> 50% at CES
use Paxini tactile
sensors



Data Infrastructure
> 8m data units
across 15 standard
scenarios



Factory Scale
12,000 sqm
Tianjin data &
production site



Sensor Capability
11 dimensions
incl. force, friction
& temperature

WHAT WE LEARNED

Paxini focuses on multidirectional sensor systems & dexterous hands

According to the company, more than half of the humanoid robots presented at CES use Paxini tactile sensors. The sensors capture up to 15 parameters, including force, friction, texture, temperature, and slip. The DexH13 dexterous hand combines tactile sensing with an 8-megapixel camera directly in the palm for the first time. The team states that it was introduced about one year ahead of comparable solutions from competitors.

12,000-square-meter factory in Tianjin enables data collection

Particularly impressive is the company's own data infrastructure. Its data collection facility in Tianjin spans roughly 12,000 square meters, operates about 150 stations, and has already collected more than 8 million data units for 15 standard application scenarios. These data are used to train Paxini's vision-tactile-language-action models (VTLAs). By year-end, five such data factories are planned across China. Since June, Paxini has also been selling wearable data gloves directly to customers, enabling them to generate training data locally for their own use cases.

Humanoid robots TORA-ONE and TORA DoubleOne are designed for factory applications

TORA-ONE and the heavy-duty TORA DoubleOne are Paxini's wheeled humanoid robots. They combine dexterous hands with a LiDAR- and camera-based system for autonomous navigation. They are designed for factory, warehouse, and healthcare environments, where they perform picking, handling, and manipulation tasks. During the visit, Paxini demonstrated the robots' capabilities by picking and sorting packages on a conveyor belt.

Tactile sensing as a platform beyond humanoids

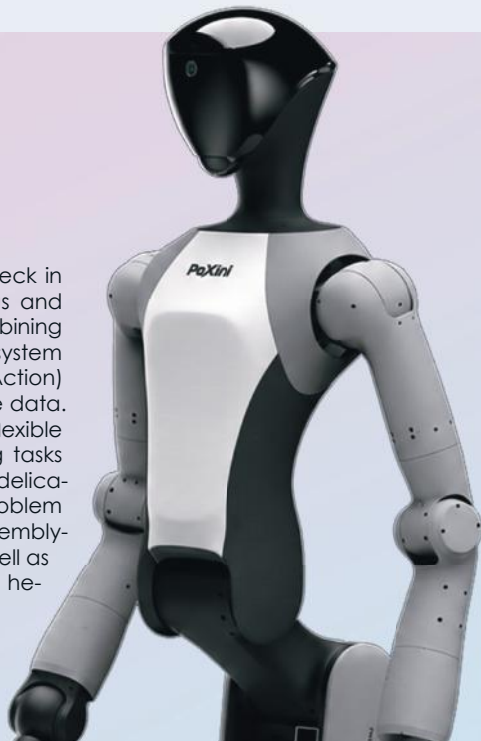
Paxini sees its tactile sensors, and the system built around them, as the foundation of its business, and it is deliberately bringing this technology into applications outside humanoid robotics. In the automotive sector, the company fits tactile sensors into car seats to monitor the driver's posture and improve safety. In healthcare, the hands sense the condition of a patient's skin and adjust their grip to avoid injury. The company also names consumer electronics and precision manufacturing as target markets.



www.paxini.com

WHAT THIS MEANS FOR YOU

Paxini aims to solve a core bottleneck in humanoid robotics, the dexterous and human-like manipulation, by combining its multidimensional tactile sensor system with VTLA (Vision-Tactile-Language-Action) models trained on industrial use-case data. This pairing gives manufacturers a flexible path to automate sensitive gripping tasks involving variable, deformable, or delicate materials. Solving this handling problem could have significant impact on assembly-line tasks across manufacturing, as well as adjacent industries such as logistics, healthcare, and food processing.



GERMAN SAFETY EXPERTISE IN CHINA

SICK, founded in Waldkirch, Germany, in 1946, is one of the world's leading providers of industrial sensor technology. The company has been present in China since 1994 and operates local R&D, production and logistics capabilities.



China Presence
**Since 1994 in
China**
Production & R&D



Leading in
Safety Solutions
for Production



Dynamic Safety
Zoning
for human-centered
Manufacturing



Humanoid Safety
Safety standards
for everyday use

WHAT WE LEARNED

Innovation and speed in China

SICK deliberately positions its operations in China as a "innovation and localization hub" with fast development cycles. The goal is to keep pace with China's innovation speed, not to become a cost leader. Its Changzhou plant was built to shorten development cycles and serve the Chinese market with faster response times and closer customer proximity.

Major revenue now comes from Chinese local companies

Local Chinese companies have become an increasingly important part of SICK's business in China, with many of them now expanding globally.

Dynamic safety zoning in the factory

A new generation of „dynamic“ safety systems no longer monitors individual machines in isolation. Instead, it tracks the entire factory environment in real time, including the relative positions of humans and machines as they move. SICK's team stresses a dedicated, ongoing risk assessment of the full system — not just the robot itself — is essential to achieving genuinely safe collaborative operation.

Safety in humanoids for everyday applications

SICK's team outlines that no established safety standards yet exist for humanoid robots anywhere in the industry. Safety frameworks for humanoid robots are still evolving, and no unified industry-wide baseline has yet emerged. SICK is already engaging with manufacturers and industry partners to help address this gap.



www.sick.com

WHAT THIS MEANS FOR YOU

SICK's success in China comes from competing on innovation speed and proximity to fast-evolving local customers, not on cost. The rise of Chinese customers who are themselves becoming global leaders is a genuine growth opportunity. At the same time, the current absence of established humanoid robot safety standards represents an open field and an innovation opportunity for the industry.



HIKROBOT

FROM START-UP TO GLOBAL MOBILE ROBOT PROVIDER

Hikrobot (Hangzhou, founded in 2016 as a subsidiary of the Hikvision Group) specializes in machine vision and mobile robotics, including AMRs, AGVs, and fleet management, for smart manufacturing and smart logistics. The company's products are deployed across the automotive, electronics, and logistics sectors.



Live Testbed
1,500 units
used in-house



System Integration
VDA 5050
plant compatible



Automotive Record
30,000 sqm
German factory
scale (Volkswagen)



Image Analytics with
Hikvision
Guanlan founda-
tion model

WHAT WE LEARNED

Own facility as a live testbed

In its own facility, Hikrobot already uses more than 1,500 of its own automated guided vehicles and robotic arms. The company's own production facilities serve as a reference and test environment before solutions are delivered to customers. This lets Hikrobot validate fleet coordination, uptime, and integration challenges internally before customers encounter them, reducing deployment risk for new clients.

Interoperability with existing plant infrastructure

Its fleet management system is compatible with standards such as VDA 5050 and is explicitly designed to integrate into existing plant infrastructures. It lets AGVs and AMRs from different manufacturers communicate with a single, central fleet management system. Hikrobot has already put this into practice, for example partnering with the company NAiSE to launch its VDA 5050-compatible Q3-600 latent mobile robot.

Hikrobot shares AI frontier model with Hikvision

Hikrobot leverages Hikvision Group's shared AI technology stack, including Hikvision's Guanlan foundation model family and video analytics capabilities. Guanlan is structured in three tiers (foundation, industry, and task-level models) and marks Hikvision's strategic pivot from traditional video security toward broader AIoT (Artificial Intelligence of Things) applications, giving Hikrobot access to enterprise-grade vision and multimodal AI without having to build that capability from scratch.

Proven track record with German automotive manufacturers

Hikrobot already has several ongoing projects at Volkswagen in Germany (Wolfsburg, Hanover, Kassel), clear evidence of practical experience with German factory requirements. These deployments at scale (fleets of up to 2,000 robots across roughly 30,000 square meters) demonstrate Hikrobot can meet the operational complexity and reliability standards expected in German-grade automotive manufacturing, not just smaller pilot installations.



www.hikrobotics.com

WHAT THIS MEANS FOR YOU

Hikrobot can meet operational requirements in the European market by integrating with existing plant standards and providing local support from its headquarters in the Netherlands. Its technology builds on developments and experience from the Hikvision Group, including vision technologies such as the Guanlan foundation model.





THE SEMICONDUCTOR FOUNDATION OF HUMANOID ROBOTS

Infineon Technologies is a global market leader in power semiconductors, including automotive, power, and microcontroller applications, with around 57,000 employees worldwide. In Hong Kong, Infineon operates a Robotics Lab where sensor and power semiconductor solutions for humanoid robots are developed and tested together with local partners.



Robotics Lab
HK/Shenzhen
humanoid sensing & control



GaN Motor Drives
high efficiency
for robotic systems



CapSense Tech
tactile sensing
for robotic grippers



Drive Manufacturing
in China
for scalable production

WHAT WE LEARNED

GaN power semiconductors as a core efficiency lever for humanoid motor drives

A central focus is on gallium nitride (GaN) power semiconductors for motor drives. This provides an appreciable gain in battery runtime for humanoid robots that usually have up to 40 joints or motors. Infineon's CoolGaN and OptiMOS products support compact, high-dynamic joint actuation.

Significant semiconductor content per humanoid robot

Infineon estimates that each humanoid robot contains a significant amount of semiconductor content, creating substantial market potential. Humanoid robotic systems require central compute, actuator and motor-drive electronics, distributed sensing, connectivity, and security.

Presentation of tactile sensing with CapSense technology

A tactile sensor solution using CapSense technology was presented, enabling a robotic hand to grip a raw egg. This is consistent with Infineon's broader CapSense portfolio, which uses capacitive sensing technology for touch interfaces and interaction sensing across robotics applications.

Regionalization of precision components previously dependent on imports

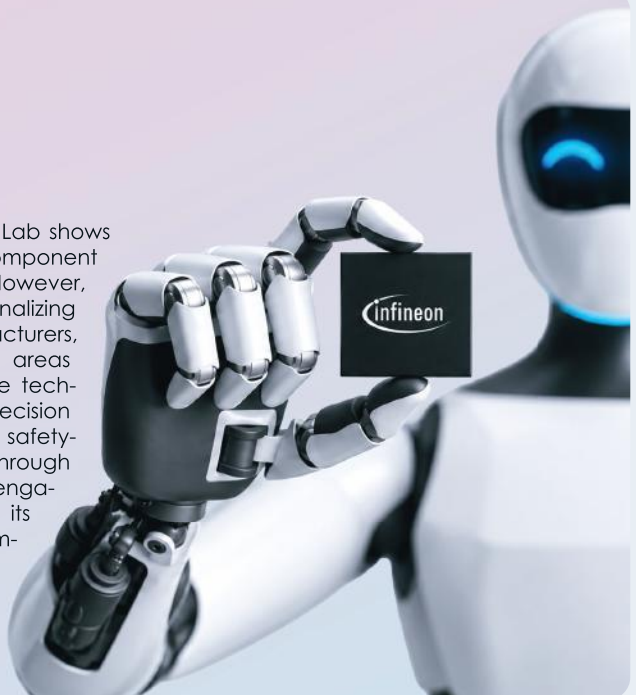
Also revealing was the observation that precision components such as harmonic drives, which previously depended heavily on imports, are increasingly being manufactured regionally in the Shenzhen area. This mirrors a broader localization trend across China's robotics supply chain to reduce cost and supply-chain risk.



www.infineon.com

WHAT THIS MEANS FOR YOU

Infineon's Hong Kong Robotics Lab shows that the humanoid robotics component market is real and sizeable. However, the local supply chain is regionalizing quickly. For European manufacturers, the opportunity is to build on areas where they still have a genuine technical edge: power efficiency, precision drive and sensing systems, and safety-critical electronics. Acting now through direct partnerships or regional engagement, as Infineon does with its Robotics Lab in Hong Kong, is important for participating in the humanoid growth market.





THE INFRASTRUCTURE LAYER FOR INTELLIGENT ROBOTICS

Huawei is a global provider of ICT infrastructure, cloud services, AI computing, and industrial digitalization solutions. In manufacturing, the company combines cloud, AI, connectivity, and industrial platforms to support smart factories and large-scale digital transformation. Increasingly, Huawei is also expanding into robotics by building the AI, cloud, and infrastructure foundations that future embodied-AI systems will depend on.



**Smart Infrastructure
Manufacturing
& Robotics**
Digital industry
backbone



**R&D Focus
Investment**
Next-gen technol-
ogies



**Robotics AI
Foundation models**
For intelligent
robots



**Global Adoption
Worldwide scale**
Driving industry
uptake

WHAT WE LEARNED

Huawei is building the infrastructure layer for robotics

The company introduced an agent-based end-to-end intelligent development platform for robots. According to Huawei, the platform combines PB-scale data infrastructure, model-development pipelines, and a homegrown Real-Sim system for robot data production and model evaluation.

Foundation-model research is be- coming part of Huawei's robotics strategy

Huawei outlines how foundation models can help robots understand natural-language instructions, use multimodal sensor data such as cameras and LiDAR, and improve autonomy, flexibility, and environmental understanding.

Huawei is collaborating with industrial players in robotics-related use cases

The company collaborates with Chinese robotics companies developing solutions for Europe and China. They combine cloud computing, big data, mobile technology, industrial robots, and intuitive robot programming based on imitative deep learning. This suggests Huawei aims to provide the infrastructure, tools, and ecosystem layer on which partners can build robotics applications.

Huawei is already present in Europe and relevant for the German market

The company has local offices in Germany and across Europe. They cooperate with the German industry players such as KUKA and Festo to address industrial opportunities. Huawei is not a new entrant to the European market, but an established player with existing industrial relationships and regional relevance.



www.huawei.com/en/

WHAT THIS MEANS FOR YOU

Huawei shows that the future robotics market will not be shaped only by robot OEMs, but also by the companies controlling the underlying infrastructure stack. As humanoid and embodied-AI systems mature, compute, cloud platforms, model tooling, connectivity, simulation, and secure deployment environments are likely to become increasingly important factors. For European manufacturers, Huawei may therefore become a relevant strategic partner because it provides key building blocks behind robotics deployment in smart manufacturing. This is especially relevant wherever robotics intersects with factory IT architecture, AI model deployment, industrial connectivity, and scalable digital infrastructure.





APPLIED RESEARCH CENTER FOR NOVEL ROBOTICS TECHNOLOGIES

Established in 1967, the Hong Kong Productivity Council (HKPC) is a statutory organisation that strengthens the competitiveness of Hong Kong enterprises through applied R&D, technology services and manufacturing solutions. With expertise in AI, advanced manufacturing, life and health technologies, green technology and new energy, HKPC drives industrial innovation and supports the growth of future industries.



HK Research Centre
800+ employees
Applied innovation hub



Economic Impact
>10x ROI
Strong industry value



Tunnel Inspection
50% faster
autonomous inspection



Innovation Award
Edison Award 2025
Recognized innovation

WHAT WE LEARNED

Applied R&D hub for Hong Kong industry

HKPC serves as a trusted applied R&D partner for industry, accelerating the translation of innovation and technology into practical business applications. Through close collaboration with enterprises, universities, research institutions and the Government, HKPC supports companies in navigating relevant public funding programmes while co-developing industry-driven innovation projects that address real operational challenges.

By integrating technical expertise, applied research capabilities and funding support, HKPC helps enterprises, particularly SMEs, lower the barriers to innovation adoption and technology commercialisation. This enables businesses to enhance competitiveness, improve productivity and capture new growth opportunities through innovation and technology.

Venturing into humanoid technology

As part of its commitment to promoting advanced manufacturing and smart industry development, HKPC is actively exploring and evaluating the potential of humanoid robotics across industrial and commercial applications. Building on its extensive expertise in automation, robotics and smart manufacturing, HKPC provides a platform for enterprises to assess, prototype and validate emerging humanoid technologies against real-world operational requirements.

Project presentation of the Autonomous Air-ground Cooperative Tunnel Inspector

The system combines drone, an unmanned ground vehicle and AI technologies to achieve 360° full tunnel inspection coverage. Even in GPS-denied environments, it can accurately locate and detect defects with millimetre-level precision, and then automatically generates digital defect reports. Compared to conventional inspection methods, it speeds up the inspection by 23 times and saves 50% of inspection cost. The technology was recognized with Gold at the 2025 Edison Awards.



www.hkpc.org

WHAT THIS MEANS FOR YOU

HKPC combines applied research, technology evaluation and innovation support services to help enterprises accelerate technology adoption and business transformation. By bridging research, innovation and industrial deployment, HKPC empowers industries to seize opportunities arising from technological advancement and contribute to Hong Kong's development as an international innovation and technology centre.



RESEARCH WITH A DIRECT LINE TO INDUSTRY

The Hong Kong Polytechnic University (PolyU) is built around applied research and industry-oriented, experiential education with a "learning by doing" philosophy. It spans seven faculties and three independent schools and is particularly strong in mechanical engineering. With over 25,000 students, it ranks 54th globally in the QS World University Rankings 2026, with five subjects ranked in the global top 30 and 24 subjects in the global top 100. This makes PolyU one of Hong Kong's most internationally recognized and industry-connected research universities.



Global Ranking
#54 worldwide
QS 2026



Strong industrial
Network
with applied
research focus



Student Community
25,000+
Students at PolyU



Top Subjects
5
subjects ranked in
global Top 30

WHAT WE LEARNED

Existing collaboration with German institutions

PolyU collaborates with German institutions such as the Technical University of Munich and the University of Cologne. It actively promotes international academic exchange and research-industry collaboration. Beyond these, PolyU has established partnerships with Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft and KIT for life sciences and engineering research.

Following the applied research model like the Fraunhofer Institutes

According to the university, PolyU deliberately follows an applied research model like Fraunhofer Institutes. It focuses on translating university research into market-ready applications systematically. It acts as an academic institution that bridges fundamental research and industrial deployment.

Laboratory tour of a machine center and robotic demonstrators

The lab tour showcased PolyU's hands-on approach to applied robotics research across multiple domains. Highlights included underwater robotics capable of both inspecting and repairing pipelines. Furthermore, dedicated learning stations were shown where students train and operate industrial robotics directly. The tour also featured motion capture equipment used to train humanoid robots through real-world movement data. PolyU practically demonstrated its applied and industry-facing research culture.

Proven robotics technology transfer through unicorn spin-offs

The university has already produced multiple unicorns, including warehouse logistics specialist Hai Robotics, valued at around USD 2 billion. Hai Robotics was founded in 2016 by two PolyU graduates from the Department of Electronic and Information Engineering and grew rapidly by leveraging the manufacturing advantages of the Greater Bay Area. Since then, PolyU has nurtured over 1,000 entrepreneurs and nearly 400 startups through its innovation ecosystem.



www.polyu.edu.hk

WHAT THIS MEANS FOR YOU

PolyU pairs applied-research rigor with a genuine track record of commercial success. This can be seen in the foundation of unicorn companies by PolyU's graduates. Combined with hands-on lab infrastructure spanning industrial robotics, underwater inspection, and humanoid training, plus deep industry ties across the Greater Bay Area, PolyU stands out as a credible partner for international manufacturers looking to turn robotics research into real-world deployment.



OPPORTUNITIES FOR EUROPEAN MANUFACTURERS

For European manufacturers, the pace and sophistication of humanoid robotics development in China is striking. This growing market offers substantial opportunity. These opportunities take different forms depending on where a company sits in the value chain.



Application partner

Proven humanoid and mobile robotics use cases are being piloted across logistics, assembly, and inspection environments.



Component and technology supplier

By building on Europe's strengths in precision drives, power electronics, sensor technology, and safety-critical systems, critical technology gaps are addressed and significant market potentials are unlocked.



Cooperation partner

Direct collaboration with Chinese manufacturers, AI developers, and applied research institutions provides early access to innovation while reducing technology and investment risks ahead of large-scale investments.

JOIN THE NEXT TOUR TO CHINA

Experience China's robotics ecosystem firsthand. Meet leading robotics companies, explore emerging technologies and industrial applications, and exchange directly with founders, engineers and industry leaders.

6 DAYS • 15 EXECUTIVES • 4 CITIES

SECURE YOUR SPOT NOW →



EXPLORE THE TOUR

www.innovation-center.com/tour

FUTURE ROBOTICS EXPLORATION HUB

The vendor-agnostic platform to train, benchmark and validate future robotics solutions.

Why Now? Why Together?

Vendor-agnostic instead of vendor-locked

Build capabilities not dependencies

Validate before you invest



DISCOVER THE HUB

www.innovation-center.com/robotics

Access Vendor-Agnostic Robotics Infrastructure

Explore and compare different technology stacks in one neutral environment.

- Humanoid & mobile robots from different vendors
- AI models, software platforms, sensors & components
- Teleoperation, motion capture & simulation
- Multi-robot benchmarking & expert support

Build Capabilities & Develop Use Cases

Turn industrial challenges into hands-on robotics projects.

- Cross-industry & company-specific use cases
- Dedicated robotics & automation experts
- Hands-on workshops, training & technical coaching
- Data capturing & Physical AI training

Validate, Connect & Unlock Opportunities

Understand what works before making investment decisions.

- Hands-on industrial validation before you invest
- Technology scouting & access to the robotics ecosystem
- Test your own products & components
- New partnerships & business opportunities

Physical AI Fund

Bridging US & Europe for Physical AI Commercialization

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