World Eyes Locked on China's AI

Voice of the World

By Staff Reporters

The year 2025 is fast becoming a landmark year for China's AI development, highlighted by breakthroughs such as the rapid rise of DeepSeek and the launch of Manus. Many foreign voices believe that China has the potential to become the world leader in AI.

Policy support

The New Generation Artificial Intelligence Development Plan, launched in 2017, has been repeatedly cited by foreign media as foundational guidance for China's AI industry. It outlined the goals for China to match leading AI nations by 2020, aimed at excelling in certain areas by 2025, and firmly establishing itself as a global AI innovation hub by 2030.

In a recent news report, the BBC praised the plan. The report featured an interview with Xue Yan, a Chinese mother whose son has been interacting with AI from an early age. "Learning to live with AI is inevitable," she told the BBC. Commenting on this, the BBC noted that this sentiment aligns with the 2017 plan, which identified AI as "the main driving force" behind the nation's progress.

Ecosystem construction

In terms of infrastructure, China has been upgrading its computational capabilities for years. According to the China Academy of Industrial Internet, China's intelligent computing power is expected to reach 1,037.3 EFLOPS in 2025, marking a 43 percent increase from the previous year. Meanwhile, the demand for electricity to support AI development is also high. In response, China has made significant investments in this sector, such as constructing photovoltaic panels and hydroelectric dams, to ensure a robust supply of energy.

The AI application DeepSeek has emerged as a strong player in 2025. The image shows a user asking a question on DeepSeek. (PHOTO: XINHUA)

Regarding applications, China actively promotes the AI plus application model with a stronger focus on vertical industry development. *Forbes* noted that, unlike the West's initial emphasis on general-purpose AI, China prioritizes industry-specific applications. This vertical approach leads to faster, more impactful solutions in sectors such as healthcare, smart living, finance and manufacturing.

Talent for the industry

China's AI development benefits from a vast and skilled workforce. The country boasts one of the largest pools of AI professionals globally, supported by a strong education system and significant investment in research and development. From K12 education to university-level studies, multiple schools have already set up AI-related courses.

Reuters recently highlighted China's DeepSeek as an example. "Analysts say that DeepSeek's success, almost entirely staffed by researchers from elite domestic universities, highlights Beijing's investment in building a large homegrown STEM talent pool."

Open-source strategy

Facing restrictions from Western markets, Chinese tech companies have turned to open-source models as a solution. Many Chinese AI open-source products have shocked the world. DeepSeek was even considered as a "Sputnik moment."

The Australian media outlet, The Conversation, observed that globally, a new AI paradigm is emerging. It noted that China's model of open-source innovation shows greater effectiveness.

The Center for a New American Security said that DeepSeek- R1 demonstrates China's success in projecting cost-effective, open- source AI leadership to the world.

Opinion

Beijing is Rising as AI Hub

By LIN Yuchen

Dubbed the "AI Capital of China," Beijing stands as a focal point of the country's AI revolution. This thriving metropolis has become home to a slew of AI companies, cutting- edge models and unicorns.

From China's first trillion- parameter AI model to the world's first general-purpose AI and optical training chip, Beijing's innovations are leaving a profound impact on the AI landscape. This remarkable rise is no coincidence — it is the collaborative result of academia, industry and government.

Much like California's Silicon Valley, which thrives due to its proximity to top- tier universities, Beijing's AI ecosystem flourishes because of its prestigious academic institutions, such as Tsinghua University and Peking University.

These institutions not only supply a steady stream of world-class talent but also create the perfect breeding ground for technological innovations. Beijing, the city with the highest number of universities in China, continues to push the boundaries of AI research.

The tangible applications of AI are rapidly transforming industries across Beijing and beyond. Zhipu AI, for instance, has pioneered deep learning models that solve complex problems in record time.

Healthcare is also being profoundly impacted, with Beijing recently launching the country's first AI-powered pediatric doctor, currently operating in hospitals and redefining patient care. Additionally, AI- powered robotic systems, particularly in orthopedic surgery, are attracting global attention for their potential to revolutionize medical procedures.

In addition, policy support played an important role in Beijing's rise as an AI powerhouse.

It has helped foster the creation of AI research hubs and innovation parks throughout the city. As the demand for computational power grows, Beijing has made substantial investments in the infrastructure to support this technology revolution. The Beijing Digital Economy Computing Power Center stands as a testament to this commitment. This state-of- the- art facility integrates seamlessly into the city's infrastructure and underscores Beijing's vision for a digitally driven future. Beijing's AI innovations are rapidly expanding beyond the city.

In Malaysia, for example, Beijing facilitated the creation of an AI park. Likewise, a joint AI laboratory established in Pakistan has led to the development of an AI- driven agricultural application. This tool uses computer vision and drone technology to monitor crop health, optimize resource usage, and boost agricultural productivity, ultimately benefiting local farmers.

Behind China's Emergence as Tech Exporter

Comment

By GONG Qian

News of Dongfeng Motor's new energy vehicle (NEV) brands exporting core technologies to joint venture brands like Dongfeng Nissan has recently been the talk of the automotive industry. This development highlights the growing technological strength of China's NEV sector.

In recent years, stories of technology exports in the Chinese automotive sector have been a common phenomenon. For example, Chinese electric vehicle (EV) maker XPeng has partnered with Volkswagen to co- develop EVs, and China's Chery Automobile signed a pact with Spain's auto company Ebro-EV Motors to develop NEVs through a joint venture.

In the past, foreign automakers held the dominant position in automotive technology. Joint ventures served as a crucial way for China's auto industry to learn advanced manufacturing techniques and management models.

However, the landscape has shifted. Breakthroughs in key areas such as NEV power systems and intelligent driving solutions, have significantly enhanced the competitiveness of Chinese brands, allowing them to establish a stronger global presence.

From importing technology to exporting it, China's NEV industry is not only driving its own growth but also benefiting the world. This transformation is a testament to China's commitment to technological innovation and openness.

The transformation is deeply rooted in its substantial investment in R&D and talent-driven ecosystem. In 2024, China's R&D spending accounted for 2.68 percent of its GDP, exceeding 3.6 trillion RMB. Its R&D expenditure remains the second largest globally.

The growing investment rewarded China with a significant rise in its high-tech sector, rapidly emerging as a global leader in advanced technologies such as 5G, AI, solar panels and EVs.

China's international patent applications via the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT), had ranked first in the world for five consecutive years to 2024, according to the World Intellectual Property Organization. Chinese tech companies such as Huawei and DJI are leading the charge in global innovation, holding patents in areas like 5G and drone technology. Meanwhile, many Chinese companies are transitioning from manufacturing to original innovation, making breakthroughs in EVs and renewable energy technologies.

The transformation is also attributed to a large and highly skilled tech workforce, which is essential for sustaining its innovation- driven economy. China produces a large number of STEM graduates and its top universities and institutions are heavily focused on AI and applied sciences.

As a new wave of technological revolution and industrial transformation gains momentum, cutting- edge fields such as AI, quantum technology and biotechnology are rapidly emerging. Now more than ever, humanity relies on the exchange of ideas for inspiration and the efficient allocation of resources. Only through global cooperation can nations achieve mutual benefits and shared success.

A technology company personnel shows the "2D generation of 3D" through AI automatic generation software. (PHOTO: XINHUA)

AI Boldly Pushes Frontiers of Science

AI Ripples

By LIN Yuchen

AI is revolutionizing materials science by accelerating the discovery and development of cutting- edge materials. At the forefront of this transformation is DP Technology based in Beijing's Zhongguancun.

The company is using AI to enhance the development of new materials in industries such as energy storage and other advanced manufacturing sectors.

By using AI to predict molecular and polymer properties, researchers can identify better- performing materials for applications, such as OLED technology. The company's Uni- Mol model quickly filters potential materials for energy- efficient OLEDs, saving time and reducing the need for labor intensive experiments.

In addition to materials science, AI is also making waves in other areas of scientific research. For example, in drug discovery, AI models can predict protein structures with remarkable accuracy, aiding the understanding of diseases and designing targeted therapies.

AI's ability to process vast datasets is also enhancing climate prediction, providing faster and more efficient weather forecasting.

AI for Science has also been instrumental in optimizing material properties for energy storage applications.

Moreover, AI is increasingly used in healthcare to predict disease progression and personalize treatment plans.

These applications demonstrate the transformative power of AI in scientific research, enhancing efficiency and opening new frontiers across various disciplines.

2025 ZGC Forum: Gala for Global Sci-tech Cooperation

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The BMI works as an "information highway," communicating the signal to the device. The patient is learning and adapting to the method of motor-imagery control quickly, and is expected to gradually realize fine motor control, Luo said.

International sci- tech cooperation a trend

The 2025 ZGC Forum has become an international platform. Guests from 115 countries and regions took part in its different forums and activities, including Nobel laureates, Fields medalists and Turing Award winners. More than 30 technology transfer institutions, 120 universities and research institutes, 200 venture capital institutions, and over 2,000 innovative enterprises from 34 countries participated in the Zhongguancun International Technology Trade Fair.

The Zhongguancun International Advanced Technology Competition attracted over 3,200 projects from 75 countries and regions, covering 14 frontier sci- tech fields, including biomedicine, AI and integrated circuit.

A variety of mechanisms for promoting international sci- tech cooperation were established at different parallel forums. For example, the Beijing Initiative on Digital Science and Technology for Sustainable Development was launched at the International Forum on Sciences for Sustainable Development. It aims to build international platforms for sci- tech cooperation and promote cross- border technology development, data sharing and standard setting.

Liu Tieyan, president of Zhongguancun Academy, said sci- tech progress is a topic of the times and the world, and openness and cooperation is the road to development.

Chinese Remote Sensing Technology Benefits the World

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In agriculture, they are used for crop yield estimation and pest monitoring. Using remote sensing images, China has compiled agricultural statistics, providing important support for national grain macro-control and decision-making.

In urban planning, remote sensing satellites can provide us with high-precision map data to assist in urban planning decisions. By monitoring urban topography and land use, the urban layout can be reasonably planned, the urban functional zoning optimized, and the livability of cities improved.

In environmental protection, remote sensing satellites can be used for forest resource investigation, water quality monitoring and air pollution monitoring.

As for disaster prevention and mitigation, they can be used for monitoring and evaluation of natural disasters such as earthquakes, floods and fires.

International cooperation

According to the United Nations, nearly 2.5 billion people still do not have access to early warning information due to technical, economic or geographical constraints. This "weather warning gap" threatens the equality of life safety.

A national platform for remote sensing data and application services was launched in November 2022. It has aggregated the data resources of more than 30 satellites, including high-resolution satellites, civil aerospace scientific research satellites, international cooperation satellites, meteorological satellites and ocean satellites. Its international version was launched one year later and started to provide services for global users.

In response to a request from the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the Asia-Pacific Space Cooperation Organization in 2018, China adjusted the position of its FengYun- 2H satellite to provide better data to help Belt and Road countries cope with natural hazards.

With advanced technology, stable business operation and high-quality data products, the FengYun meteorological satellites are key members of the WMO Integrated Global Observing System, and have provided services to more than 130 countries around the world.

The technological achievements not only demonstrate China's international status in meteorological remote sensing, but also transform the Chinese wisdom of disaster prevention and mitigation into practical action.