Humanoid Robots Box to Prove Capability
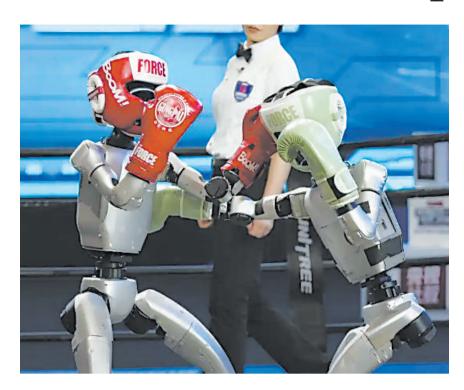
Voice of the World

By Staff Reporters

Audiences in Hangzhou, Zhejiang province, were given a taste of mechanical pugilist prowess in late May, when four Unitree G1 humanoid robots competed in the first-ever humanoid robot boxing tournament. The event was seen as a real-world "Real Steel" encounter, and it raised awareness of China's robotic advancements in the technical and industrial domains, while also garnering international attention for its display of mechanical agility and resilience.

Different levels of coverage were given by internationally well-known media, such as the BBC, CNBC, DW, and *The Telegraph*.

Some media heaped praised on China's humanoid robot development. *The Asia Times* sparked a new debate in an article called "Unitree vs Boston Dynamics," while Japan's ANN Television described it as a demonstration of China's technological expertise.

On TikTok, videos of the humanoid robot fights have gone viral, with media posts receiving tens of thousands of likes.

However, detractors are never far off. In a streamed broadcast, Bloomberg's host was heard mocking the fighting robots, which annoyed many viewers. One comment said, "A man on horseback laughs at the first automobile rally in 1920," receiving widespread approval. Another popular comment suggested that the Bloomberg host wouldn't be laughing in five years time.

China hosts the world's first humanoid robotics boxing competition and live streams it on the Internet in late May. (PHOTO: CMG)

The commentary soon shifted to a debate on the potential application of technology. Suggestions ranged from assistive devices for people with disabilities to concerns about machines replacing human labor. However, one viewpoint was generally accepted and that was today's seemingly novel ideas may become tomorrow's mainstream.

In fact, this sequence of "amazement, skepticism, and caution" precisely encapsulates the disruptive nature of the current technological revolution.

As numerous international observers have noted, when science fiction-like scenarios begin to materialize, excitement is invariably tempered by apprehension. This duality epitomizes our era — defined by rapid technological advancement.

Deploying humanoid robots in high-intensity, multi-variable combat scenarios serves as a real-world test of their capabilities. Compared to static demonstrations or pre-programmed tasks, putting bots in the ring unlocks what these machines can really do, including dynamic balance, environmental awareness, real-time decision-making, and harmonized operation.

Each fall and instance of instability exposes technical deficiencies — providing clear directives for improvement in both software algorithms and hardware design. These extreme trials not only accelerate innovation but also propel engineering capabilities to unprecedented levels.

In this sense, robotic combat transcends mere entertainment; it constitutes a serious technical proving ground. It reflects China's growing momentum in the industrialization of humanoid robotics — a process characterized by continuous experimentation and rapid iteration.

Significantly, China believes the proof is in the pudding, and criticism will improve products. China is accelerating the industrialization of humanoid robots by leveraging "extreme sports" as a testing platform. From marathon courses to combat arenas, robots are continuously pushing limits in demanding scenarios.

Furthermore, the first World Humanoid Robot Games, scheduled for Beijing this August, is poised to further test China's robot technology. It has been announced that another Chinese humanoid company Engine AI will compete in another robot boxing match at the end of 2025.

According to official projections, China's humanoid robot output is expected to surpass 10,000 units in 2025. The domestic market is expected to reach 8.24 billion RMB, grabbing nearly half of the global share. In the same year, the embodied AI market in China is projected to reach a value of 5.30 billion RMB. The timer for achieving these technological benefits has essentially started.

As metallic limbs clash in the ring, they simultaneously knock on the door of the future. In this unfolding era of human-machine collaboration, the true victors will be those societies bold enough to envision and embrace the transformation ahead.

Exploring Pathways for Cybersecurity Industry in AI Era

AI Ripples

By LI Linxu

China's digital security industry should "reshape endogenous security

An AI cybersecurity lab in Beijing. (COURTESY PHOTO)

systems" amid escalating AI-driven threats, Qi Xiangdong, chairman of cybersecurity leader Qi-Anxin Technology Group, said in his keynote speech at the 2025 Beijing Cybersecurity Conference recently held in Beijing.

Speaking before government and industry leaders at the China National Convention Center, Qi framed cybersecurity as a national security priority: "Developing nations face unprecedented challenges. Without cybersecurity, there is no national security, nor enterprise security, as traditional data protection fails against AI-powered attacks."

He pointed out the triple dilemma that current development of cybersecurity systems face: difficulty in putting system concepts into practice, bottlenecks in integrating large and small systems, and operational bottlenecks within "smaller systems."

Qi revealed an alarming finding: "Currently, over 90 percent of large government and enterprise entities purchase security devices from more than 10 vendors when building their security infrastructure." This ultimately leads to government and enterprise cybersecurity systems forming a disjointed "patchwork."

"Many clients encounter obstacles in system implementation," Qi said, identifying three major obstacles to achieving breakthroughs: data silos, insufficient investment and compatibility issues.

Faced with such challenges, he proposed three core pathways to achieving breakthroughs: reshaping data aggregation models with an emphasis on breadth, depth and contextual linkage; reshaping security operation models through building feedback loops; and reshaping ecosystem collaboration spearheaded by a "lead security system architect."

"The current era is catalyzing a transformation in the security industry, driving it from fragmentation to integration, and from inefficiency to high efficiency," Qi said, adding that the future of cybersecurity holds broad prospects and building robust systems is an endless journey.

"The philosophy of ecological collaboration — centered on co-existence, co-prosperity and mutual success — is the key to achieving breakthroughs in the cybersecurity industry," he concluded, with a rallying call for the industry: "Through collaborative system-building, we'll weave an impregnable security net for the AI era!"

Shantou Bay Undersea Tunnel: Engineering Miracle

Using multiple drill bits to create holes to load explosives, the team eventually cracked the rocks into crushed stones.

However, the diverse and unevenly strata made it hard for the shield machine to accurately adjust its parameters and control the tunneling positioning. Through intensive on-site inspection, summary of geological data and precise profiling of strata, the shield machine successfully broke through the complicated stratum.

The last few hundred meters of

hard rock section was the most difficult to tunnel through. The shield tunneling machine suffered severe abrasions.

The team made improvements to the shield machine by adding a rotating detection system and more cutting rotors, enabling it to move forward steadily. Meanwhile, meticulous maintenance and monitoring were conducted.

After more than 900 days of construction, the undersea tunnel was finally broken through on March 26. The excavation diameter of 14.57

meters makes it the world's largest railway undersea tunnel in terms of diameter.

Earthquake resistant

The tunnel is constantly under the pressure of fault movement and the surrounding seawater, posing challenges to its operational safety, said Huo Fei, engineer from CRDC.

During a survey in 2020, Huo was impressed with an isolation bearing of a building. Why not wrap the tunnel with a "soft and hard layer" for earthquake resistance? After rounds of selection, materials that can resist daily seawater

pressure and absorb seismic energy during sudden earthquakes were found and passed the necessary tests. Meanwhile, before the shield machine entered the sea, the sealing gaskets installed at the segment joints also underwent multiple vibration and movement tests.

After the operation of the undersea tunnel, trains traveling at a speed of 350 kilometers per hour can cross Shantou Bay in just 100 seconds.

We will continue to innovate railway technology, and create more engineering miracles under complex geological conditions, said Li.

Labubu Shows China's IP Strength

By WANG Jing

Before 5 a.m., a snaking queue of hundreds of people had formed outside a store in Los Angeles on April 25. Some even started queuing at 10 p.m. the previous night. What they were waiting for all night was not a new iPhone or a luxury good but a Chinese creation — Labubu.

Fans around the world are scrambling to purchase it, and celebrities in Europe and America are showing off their collections of it. Labubu, a collectible based on artist Kasing Lung's eponymous storybook character, a goblin with nine sharp teeth and a wide grin, has become a global top star.

Why has Labubu become so popular worldwide?

The craze for Labubu shows the huge potential of emotional consumption and the power of cultural resonance. The key lies in understanding the core demands of global consumers amid changes.

Labubu's popularity is proof of the importance of providing emotional value to global consumers. This kind of emotional consumption, made solely for the consumer's own pleasure and satisfaction, is the reconstruction of the fairy tale world after growing up, as well as the pursuit of self-personalized expression.

Technology has also contributed to the craze by speeding up the creation process. Some Chinese enterprises have reduced the time to develop the molds for original toys from 50 days to 10 days by using digital modeling. Other intelligent manufacturing technologies have increased production capacity by five to 10 times compared to the past.

Culture endows intellectual property (IP) with soul. In recent years,

Chinese companies have not only delved deeply into the excellent traditional culture, promoting a series of national products that have gone viral, but have also won the favor of global consumers with their creativity and emotional connection.

Labubu is not merely a trendy toy IP. It is a microcosm of the emotions of young people, a symbol of contemporary popular culture, and a vanguard of Chinese brands going global.

Chinese IPs are no longer presenting simple images. Instead, they are employing more diverse narrative strategies and cultural integration to offer emotional resonance and value recognition to young people around the world.

Dongguan in Guangdong province, south China, is an example of that. In 2023, the output value of original IPs created in the industrial city surpassed that of its traditional contract manufacturing business for the first time, indicating the shift towards higher-value, innovation-driven industries.

Labubu is not the only Chinese story of such innovation success. The blockbuster Chinese film *Ne Zha 2* is another example, so is the Chinese video game *Black Myth: Wukong*. In all these cases, the original IP content has been honed by intensive time and effort.

It took five and a half years to make *Ne Zha 2*, with over 4,000 people involved in its production and nearly 2,000 special effect shots. It took over six years to develop *Black Myth: Wukong*, incorporating a vast amount of artistic resources to ensure top-quality performance for players worldwide.

Innovation has become a distinct quality of Chinese brands, and Chinese innovators in various fields are becoming an important force in the field of global culture.
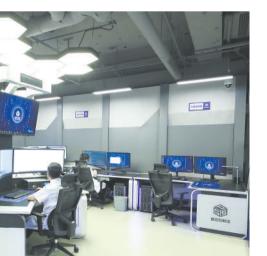

Labubu toys are exhibited at Beijing's APM shopping center on June 18, 2025. (PHOTO: VCG)

Hi-Tech

Mobile Robots Bring Power to EV

By YU Haoyuan

What if you pitch up to power your electric vehicle (EV) and the parking lot charging stations are all occupied? Would you search for another location or wait your turn? To ease wait time frustration, a Beijing company has introduced a new solution to this increasing problem — mobile charging robots.

EV owners simply need to scan a QR code in the underground parking lots of malls or office buildings to call a purple and yellow four-wheel robot, enabling the innovative "station-to-vehicle" charging model. This effectively solves issues like limited charging station availability and occupied parking spaces.

The wheeled robot is capable of autonomous obstacle avoidance and moving up inclines. It can operate at a top speed of five km/h in underground parking lots, easily navigating complex

terrain. Using a fast-charging mode, the robot can extend a vehicle's range by 150 kilometers in just 15 minutes.

When multiple vehicles place orders simultaneously, the system dynamically prioritizes charging based on factors such as EV's location, remaining battery capacity and departure time, maximizing operational efficiency. Additionally, built-in pressure sensors monitor battery temperature and pressure changes in real time, improving safety. With the driver's permission, the robot can check battery health to optimize charging performance.

At present, 30 charging robots have been deployed in over 10 office buildings and malls in Beijing, including the famous Heshenghui Shopping Center. Charging costs align with traditional charging stations. According to plans, Beijing will add 1,000 mobile charging robots across 150 parking lots this year, offering greater convenience for EV owners.