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To Accelerate High-quality Sci-tech Services

By Staff Reporters

China is moving to develop more "China Services" brands and promote high-quality growth in its service sector. Policymakers are leading the charge in this move to empower manufacturing, expand domestic demand and create jobs. To enable this development, China hosted its first national conference on the service sector, from April 7 to 8, emphasizing the expansion of professional and high-end R&D design, and sci-tech services.

As an emerging sector that utilizes modern scientific knowledge and technological means, the sci-tech service industry (SSI) focuses on the full-chain development of sci-tech innovation and the efficient transformation of sci-tech achievements. In this way, SSI provides intellectual services to society through technology R&D, achievement transformation, consultation and training. This business model has a high added value and a strong radiation and driving effect, equivalent to the "software" infrastructure of the national innovation system.

The development of the SSI is crucial for unlocking the entire chain of sci-tech innovation, cultivating new quality productive forces, building a modern industrial system, and promoting new industrialization. It serves as a pivotal link in the transition from scientific and technological advancement to industrial and economic prosperity.

Currently, China's SSI is experiencing both rapid quantitative growth and effective qualitative improvement. Considering the challenges of global sci-tech competition, the new requirements for building a leading country in science and technology, and the new opportunities brought by the breakthroughs and applications of new technologies, such as AI, expediting the improvement of quality and efficiency, and transformation and upgrading of China's SSI has become essential.

From a strategic and overall perspective, the SSI needs a deeper understanding, along with the implementation of related tasks — for example, improving the policy system for the SSI, establishing a national integrated technology market, and enhancing the standardization, marketization and internationalization of sci-tech services.

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An overseas visitor interacts with a digital employee of Sinopec's at the 2026 China International Consumer Products Expo in Haikou, Hainan province in south China. (WANG Zhuhua / Science and Technology Daily)

STI Frontier

New Neural Disease Treatment Rewires the Brain

By WANG Xiaoxia & ZHANG Jiaying

Imagine trying to understand a bustling city by looking at satellite images of its buildings. While you may be able to see the shapes, you have no idea which structure is a hospital, a school, or a power plant. That, in essence, has been the challenge for doctors treating complex brain disorders like Parkinson's disease, depression, or Alzheimer's. Conventional MRI scans show the brain's structure — tumors, atrophy, or bleeding — but not the function of its 140 billion neurons.

Now, a team of Chinese scientists has unlocked this puzzle. After years of relentless effort, beset by major setbacks, the team led by Professor Liu Hesheng from the Changping Laboratory and Peking University has developed the world's first non-invasive precision brain stimulation system.

Recently approved for clinical use, this technology could fundamentally alter the way neurological diseases are treated.

Identifying the target

"Radiology cannot reliably diagnose Parkinson's disease," said Liu. "Existing brain maps are too generic for individual treatment."

The team's first breakthrough was identifying a reliable treatment target — the brain's "functional circuitry" responsible for the disease. This required analyzing data from hundreds of Parkinson's disease patients. To do this, researchers worked for months making frame-by-frame comparisons of stimulation signals with clinical outcomes.

Since the existing algorithms performed poorly, Liu led the team to develop a new one. With each algorithm iteration, faint signal features grew increasingly distinct. Ultimately, the common

signals became bright enough to form functionally significant areas.

"We spent days and nights in the lab, matching signal after signal," recalled Liu. "Then, a connectivity finally emerged — a brain network called the somato-cognitive action network (SCAN) plays a critical role in the disorder." This discovery pinpointed the "neural target" for the treatment of Parkinson's disease.

Mapping you, not just anyone

Finding the "neural target" was only half the battle. The next challenge was the slow process of creating a personalized brain map for each patient. Using existing software, it took over two days to process a single patient's data — impractical for clinical use.

Moreover, brain injuries or lesions often created "dead zones" in the data, causing the analysis to crash. This led the team to build their own AI solution.

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6th CICPE: Hi-tech Illuminates New Consumer Lifestyle

By YAO Yan

Themed "Opening Up Drives Global Consumption, Innovation Empowers A Better Life," the sixth China International Consumer Products Expo (CICPE) kicked off in Haikou, capital of Hainan province in south China, on April 13 for a six-day run through April 18.

With "new, exotic, unique and cool" as its distinctive feature, the expo houses eight exhibition halls.

A key showcase for the Hainan Free Trade Port (FTP) following the full launch of its island-wide special customs operations in December 2025, the sixth CICPE has drawn more than 3,400 brands from over 60 countries and regions worldwide. Its total exhibition area

is 143,000 square meters, up 13,000 square meters on the previous edition.

International exhibits take up 65 percent of the total floor space, a 20-percentage-point jump from the last event. More than 200 new products are making their global debut, doubling the previous edition's figure, covering sectors from healthcare and jewelry to digital technology.

Smart products unlock new experiences

With cutting-edge technologies making their way from the laboratory to daily life, there is a wide range of new products, spanning categories from daily wearables to health and wellness.

AI glasses brand VITURE showcased its Beast XR glasses. "The screen stays

perfectly locked in place. It doesn't shift at all when I turn my head, and it even supports split-screen operation for work," a visitor said after trying on the glasses.

Rokid has debuted the world's lightest mass-produced AI+AR glasses at the expo. Weighing in at just 49 grams, the headset is powered by the Qualcomm AR1 chip, paired with diffractive optical waveguide and micro-LED technology. It supports full-scene use cases, including glance-to-pay payments and real-time captioning for the hearing impaired.

The world's first land-air amphibious split-type flying car also made its debut, bringing the sci-fi vision of hailing an air taxi for daily work commutes to life.

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Observer

Chinese Electricity Becomes 'Digital Oil' Powering Global AI

Edited by WANG Xiaoxia

With the rise of intelligent agent tools like OpenClaw, developers around the world are increasingly turning to Chinese AI models. According to OpenRouter, the world's largest AI model aggregation platform, Chinese models have surpassed their overseas counterparts in application programming interface (API) calls for a month running, consistently ranking among the global leaders in API call volume.

Behind the scenes, invisible currents flow through the solar panels in the Gobi Desert in western China and the wind turbines across its grasslands. Channeled through the world's largest power grid, this electricity feeds into AI computing clusters, where it is transformed into tokens — the smallest information units for AI — and then travels at the speed of light across oceans to reach global users.

Why can China's invisible electricity, packaged as tokens, drive global AI like "digital oil"? The answer lies in a combination of systemic advantages that make Chinese tokens both abundant and affordable — an edge that is exceptionally hard to replicate.

Low-cost green power builds a fundamental moat.

China has built the world's largest renewable energy supply system. Western and northern China are rich in wind and solar resources, and the low cost of electricity makes it economical to convert it locally into high-value tokens.

This not only addresses the challenge of renewable energy curtailment but also gives China's computing industry a significant cost advantage. Brokerage estimates show that the comprehensive inference cost of Chinese AI models is only one-tenth to one-sixth that of overseas models, giving Chinese token services a strong competitive edge in global markets.

The computing-energy synergy strategy removes supply-demand bottlenecks.

The national "East Data, West Computing" initiative has established eight major computing hubs, deeply integrating power transmission with computing networks. This enables intelligent scheduling: The western regions handle non-real-time tasks such as AI training and batch inference, while the eastern hubs support low-latency applications like finance and industrial control systems. See page 3

WEEKLY REVIEW

Rare Millisecond Pulsar Challenges Traditional Theoretical Models

A team of Chinese researchers has reported the discovery of a new millisecond pulsar, which exhibits an exceptionally high spin-down rate, two orders of magnitude higher than that of other known millisecond pulsars, according to a recent article in *Nature Astronomy*.

Key Gene Improves Rice Resistance to Disease

Chinese scientists have identified a key gene, which they named Xa48, in an indica rice variety called "Shuangkezaos." It helps rice fight off bacterial blight, and the study shows how this defense mechanism can be rebuilt from the ground up. The study was published in *Nature*.

Next-generation Atomic Clock Tested at Sea

Researchers in Australia have successfully tested a new type of portable atomic clock at sea. The device, trialed aboard a Royal Australian Navy vessel in July 2024, uses laser-cooled atoms of the element ytterbium to keep time with extreme precision. The study was published in *Optica*.

Archaeological Findings Offer New Insights into Early Humans

The Ethiopian government announced on April 14 the discovery of ancient Homo sapiens fossils and stone tools dating back about 100,000 years, a discovery it said provides "important new insights" into human evolution and early human lifestyles. They were uncovered at a site in the Awash Valley of Ethiopia's Afar Depression, about 300 km northeast of capital Addis Ababa.

New Graphic

IN Q1 2026

Total Value of China's Goods Imports and Exports
11.84 trillion RMB

15% Y-O-Y

Exports

11.9%

Imports

19.6%

Source: General Administration of Customs
Designed by SONG Ziyan / Science and Technology Daily

WECHAT ACCOUNT



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