

Who Is Real 'Supervillain' in Global AI?



By LIANG Yilian & HU Dingkun

While the U.S. is the "superhero" of global AI, China is the "supervillain." This claim was made by U.S. House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Brian Mast at a recent think tank event on "Securing America's AI Advantage: A Discussion on U.S. Export Control Policy."

Just two days before the event, U.S. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said China surpassing the U.S. in AI was the "biggest risk," outweighing concerns over safety and job losses.

Such rhetoric highlights a troubling reality: For some American politicians, AI has become deeply politicized. China's rapid progress in AI is increasingly portrayed as the foremost challenge to U.S. technological dominance. Statements like those made by Mast and Bessent are intended to demonize China's AI development and provide political justification for further U.S. efforts to contain and suppress China's technological progress.

This narrative, however, is convincing only to themselves and a handful of those who are either misinformed or deliberately obtuse. China's AI development has never posed a threat to the world. On the contrary, it is generating tangible benefits for countries across the globe — including the U.S.

Due to the sweeping U.S. export controls on advanced chips, Chinese AI companies have continued to pursue independent innovation while embracing an open-source development model. In recent months, they have successively released open-source large language models such as DeepSeek-V4, Zhipu AI's GLM-5.2, and Meituan's LongCat-2.0. These models not only contribute new



People attend the AI for Good Global Summit in Geneva, Switzerland, on July 7. (PHOTO: XINHUA)

technical approaches to global AI research but also provide affordable, accessible solutions for countries — particularly developing economies — seeking to accelerate digital and intelligent transformation.

A *Foreign Policy* article in June noted that developers across Africa are widely adopting Chinese AI platforms, including DeepSeek, Qwen, and Kimi, to build AI models capable of supporting local languages. According to the article, Chinese models have become the "overwhelming choice" for African developers.

China's AI models are openly available to users worldwide, without discrimination based on nationality. Statistics from OpenRouter, a major AI model aggregation platform, indicate that more than 60 percent of the platform's token traffic is now processed by Chinese models. Reports also indicate that major U.S. companies, including Microsoft, Airbnb, and Coinbase, are exploring ways to integrate Chinese AI models into

their businesses.

By contrast, leading U.S. AI companies such as OpenAI and Anthropic continue to impose strict restrictions on users from China. Anthropic also faces allegations that its AI coding tools contain mechanisms specifically designed to monitor or restrict Chinese users.

Equally noteworthy is Washington's growing tendency to invoke "national security" to limit international access to its most advanced AI models. In reality, this reflects an "America First" approach to AI policy — one aimed at preserving U.S. technological supremacy by restricting other countries' access to cutting-edge models and widening the global technology gap.

On June 12, the U.S. Department of Commerce reportedly imposed export controls on two Anthropic AI models, temporarily restricting access for foreign organizations and individuals. Later that month, OpenAI's GPT-5.6 model was reportedly released under government oversight, with access

limited to government-approved "trusted partners."

China is not only one of the world's leading developers of AI technologies but also a major advocate of global AI governance. In October 2023, China introduced the Global AI Governance Initiative, becoming one of the first major countries to propose a comprehensive international framework for AI governance.

The initiative emphasizes AI for good, safety, fairness, and inclusiveness, while specifically calling on all countries to "adopt a prudent and responsible attitude to the research, development, and application of AI technologies in the military field."

The U.S., however, appears to be moving in the opposite direction by accelerating the "militarization" of frontier AI technologies.

Last month, the *Financial Times* reported that the U.S. National Security Agency had partnered with Anthropic to employ its Mythos AI model in offensive cyber missions. Shortly afterward, U.S. media outlets reported that the U.S. military had begun using xAI's Grok Gov model to support lethal military operations, claiming the system had assisted in striking approximately 2,000 targets within a 96-hour period.

As the world's two leading AI powers, China and the U.S. share a responsibility to advance the intelligent transformation of human society, strengthen international cooperation on AI governance, and jointly manage the security risks posed by rapidly evolving technologies.

What the U.S. should do is not continue to smear and suppress China's AI development, but rather reflect on its own role in shaping the future of global AI. It cannot proclaim itself the world's "superhero" while acting increasingly like the very "supervillain" it claims to oppose.

steadily and effectively cope with external shocks and challenges.

Nicholas Wagner, head of the Energy Initiative at the World Economic Forum, said countries that start investing in renewable energy earlier will demonstrate greater resilience in the face of energy crises. China, with its abundant energy reserves, diversified energy supply, and rapidly developing renewable energy industry, has to some extent mitigated the price shocks caused by the conflict in the Middle East. This experience holds significant reference value.

AllianzGI's chief information officer for equity, Michael Heldman, said, "China represents long-term investment opportunities." The Chinese market has great potential and abundant innovation vitality, and Chinese assets have long-term holding value.

the Chinese Academy of Engineering, said. He pointed out that intelligent retrieval tools powered by mechanical engineering foundation models can directly read the dimensions and tolerances of the parts, significantly reducing the manpower required for R&D.

Chen Xin, technical director of Alibaba Qoder, an AI coding platform, revealed that AI agents now generate 60 percent of the platform's code. The product iteration cycle has been shortened from two weeks to two or three days, boosting R&D efficiency by nearly 10 times.

He said in the future, routine business systems will be fully handled by AI agents, while human developers will focus on architecture and top-level innovation, forming a new organizational model of "a small R&D team + a large number of AI digital employees."

Voice of the World

China's Rocket Recovery Shows Commercial Promise

Edited by QI Liming

On July 10, China achieved its first-ever controlled recovery of its Long March-10B carrier rocket's first stage, marking the world's first successful sea-based net-capture recovery of a launch vehicle. This milestone has drawn widespread international attention and comments, with many experts and media outlets praising the breakthrough. Numerous foreign netizens congratulated China on the achievement on social media platforms.

Scientific American said China made a giant leap in its ongoing effort to be a dominant player in 21st-century spaceflight. The feat places the nation in an elite club. No other nation has achieved a first-stage booster recovery on a vehicle's inaugural launch.

Space commented that China had notched a huge spaceflight milestone. It recovered a rocket during an orbital launch and that recovery was unique: The rocket's first stage nestled softly into a net-like structure carried by a ship at sea.

CNN considered the successful test of China's reusable rocket technology as key to both space exploration and travel, as well as to building satellite infrastructure, critical to China's ambition to send crewed missions to the moon.

Sam Bresnick, a research fellow at the U.S. think tank Center for Security

and Emerging Technology, and a China expert, said in *The Wall Street Journal* that it would be a "big deal" if China's space program could regularly recover and reuse parts of its rockets. "It pretty radically decreases the cost of building out these giant satellite constellations that China has made very clear that it wants to build out," Bresnick said.

Reuters said China's success marked a major advance in its push to develop reusable launch systems. China has now joined the small group of space powers that can recover orbital-class booster rockets.

Tanzania Insight analyzed the associated benefits of rocket recovery, saying China's milestone was a pivotal moment that could reshape the global space industry.

This achievement represents more than China's technological progress alone. China's success could accelerate innovation and potentially drive down costs across the entire sector, benefiting research and commercial space ventures worldwide.

As of mid-July, the video of the launch and recovery had received over one million views on Facebook, Reddit, and YouTube, with over 100,000 likes and over 10,000 comments. Some netizens commented that it showed "impressive progress" and was an "awesome solution, and it can be reused for easier moon or Mars landings."



The offshore recovery platform successfully recovered the first stage of the Long March-10B carrier rocket using the net-capture method on July 10, 2026. (PHOTO: XINHUA)

China's Innovative Rocket Recovery by Net-capture System

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Therefore it needs to receive the platform's position data in real time and compensate for the angular deviation.

This requires intelligent control and autonomous flight technology, the rocket engine's ability to maintain stable operation in extreme environments, as well as the recovery platform's rapid response, which accurately determines the timing of the rocket's entry, and absorbs the energy the rocket gives off through buffering, fixing and other mechanisms.

The recovery system has a 67 me-

ters high tower structure weighing 5,400 tonnes, making the design extremely challenging. Overall, the seaborne net-capture system integrates technologies from multiple fields such as mechanical engineering, automatic control, and material science.

In the future, the net capture recovery system can be redesigned for the recovery of rockets of different scales. This program will assist China's space industry in conducting low-cost, high-frequency and sustainable space exploration.

Comprehensive Measures Bolster Original Innovation

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According to an official with the Jiangsu Provincial Department of Science and Technology, the eastern province has put in place a full-cycle and progressive support system that covers young researchers at all stages — from exceptionally promising top-tier talents to up-and-coming scholars in the early phases of their research endeavors.

In the north, Shanxi's science department on May 9 launched its 2026 basic research program, with a dedicated young scientist track offering up to 50,000 RMB per project over three years, paid in one lump sum.

"We encourage young researchers to dare to think, try, and fail," said Guo Haicheng, director of the science bureau in Jinzhong, a city in Shanxi.

Fujian province in east China has found a way to bring private capital into research beyond public funding. On May 9, it called for more partners for its fourth-phase joint natural science fund, giving contributing firms the right to set topics and join project reviews. So far, it has leveraged nearly 170 million RMB in joint funds.

"We have taken steps to bring industry leaders such as battery giant CATL into the National Natural Science Foundation's joint fund program for private companies, so that more enterprises can lend strong support to original innovation," said an official in charge of the Basic Research and Fund Management Division at the Fujian Provincial Department of Science and Technology.

Steady, Upward Chinese Economy Draws More Foreign Capital

Comment

By QI Liming

The IMF has raised its growth forecast for China's economy by 0.2 percentage points this year in its July report. Against the backdrop of overall downward revisions to global economic growth projections, China is one of the few major economies whose growth outlook has been upgraded.

The IMF report pointed out that China's economic performance in the first quarter exceeded expectations. The main reasons for this were the outstanding performance of China's high-tech manufacturing sector, as well as the strong boost from related exports.

Goldman Sachs expects China's economic growth to rebound in the third quarter on faster fiscal spending and lower oil prices.

Manufacturing saw the clearest improvement, according to the China Beige Book, an independent survey of Chinese businesses released in July. The survey, covering 1,321 businesses from June 1 to 22, pointed to a surge in luxury goods sales.

According to Reuters, the Chinese renminbi is seen as going further, with global banks revising up year-end forecasts for gains beyond June's 3-1/2-year high of 6.7522 per U.S. dollar. "There has been renewed demand for China bonds, which we believe was driven by relative safety and low volatility," said Wee Khoo Chong, Asia-Pacific macro strategist at American financial services

company BNY.

CNBC reported that Singapore's state investment firm Temasek Holding's China exposure grew by about 7.7 billion USD over the past year, its highest net investment in the country since 2021. The China exposure has grown by about 18.57 billion USD over the past decade. Temasek is repositioning its China portfolio toward AI-related hardware and infrastructure, robotics, biotech and energy transition.

More and more overseas businesses are realizing that China's energy transformation strategy is focused on the long term, its production and supply chain system is complete and efficient, and the market resource advantages continue to be prominent. These elements have formed the "resilience code" that enables China's economy to move forward

and the cost of cross-functional collaboration high. Software enterprises have fallen into the growth trap of "the more they deliver, the higher the labor costs and the thinner the profits."

Gao Tongqing, chairman of the Global Intelligent Internet of Things Consortium, made a judgment on the transformation of business models: "AI agents have significantly reduced the demand for human resources, and the original revenue logic is unsustainable. The industry urgently needs to shift from selling software products to a new business model based on tokens and service results."

"Industrial AI should not only generate text, but also build a foundation model for understanding the physical world to develop industrial AI agents that can autonomously plan and handle undefined tasks," Li Peigen, an academician of

business revenue reached 15.48 trillion RMB, with a year-on-year growth of 13.2 percent. Out of this, the revenue of industrial software was 333 billion RMB and the revenue of basic software 214.6 billion RMB.

"The old approach of relying on manpower and project-based delivery is no longer feasible," Jia Zijun, deputy director of the Information Software Institute of the China Center for Information Industry Development, said. The core challenges of traditional software industry include the entire process of development relying heavily on manual coding, and engineers spending much time on drawing sketches and searching historical code.

The project iteration cycle is long

AI Reshapes Software Industry

AI Ripples

By QI Liming & ZHANG Ye

China's software industry has surpassed 15 trillion RMB in scale. The rapid development of AI technology is bringing transformative challenges, with traditional models of R&D, business operations, and underlying technical systems facing multiple bottlenecks. All this has made transformation necessary and urgent.

Data from the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology of China shows that in 2025, China's software