



10 Breakthrough Technologies 2026

Here are our picks for the advances to watch in the years ahead-and why we think they matter right now

Artificial Intelligence



The Thinking Game | Full documentary | Tribeca Film Festival official selection

The inside story of the AI breakthrough that won a Nobel Prize. -- The Thinking Game takes you on a journey into the heart of leading AI lab DeepMind, capturing a team striving to unravel the mysteries of intelligence and life itself.



The office block where AI 'doomers' gather to predict the apocalypse

Safety researchers feel excessive financial rewards and an irresponsible work culture have led some to ignore a catastrophic risk to human life



What's next for AI in 2026

Our AI writers make their big bets for the coming year- here are five hot trends to watch.

Robotics



Physical AI: robotics are poised to revolutionise business

Multi-tasking robots equipped with artificial intelligence will change the world. Mankind has to be ready to get the best out of them. How this is done will be decided in boardrooms and tech labs



Progress made on AI-powered humanoid robots

Engineers and computer scientists are developing AI-powered robots that look and act human. Boston Dynamics invited 60 Minutes to watch its humanoid, Atlas, learn how to work at a Hyundai factory. "60 Minutes" is the most successful television broadcast in history.

Life Sciences



5 Takeaways From This Week's J.P. Morgan Healthcare Conference

The rise of China, the buzz around AI, challenging global market dynamics, the recent surge in dealmaking and exciting new modalities were the talk of JPM this year.



Scientists are inventing treatments for devastating diseases. There's just one problem.

Gene therapy treatments for rare diseases are being developed, but getting them out of the lab has proved challenging.

Artificial Sensing



NOAA deploys new generation of AI-driven global weather models

NOAA has launched a groundbreaking new suite of operational, artificial intelligence (AI)-driven global weather prediction models, marking a significant advancement in forecast speed, efficiency, and accuracy. The models will provide forecasters with faster delivery of more accurate guidance, while using a fraction of computational resources.

In the Lab



Why There's No Single Best Way To Store Information

The math of data structures helps us understand how different storage systems come with different trade-offs between resources such as time and memory.



Are your memories illusions? New study disentangles the Boltzmann brain paradox

In a recent paper, SFI Professor David Wolpert, SFI Fractal Faculty member Carlo Rovelli, and physicist Jordan Scharnhorst examine a longstanding, paradoxical thought experiment in statistical physics and cosmology known as the "Boltzmann brain" hypothesis-the possibility that our memories, perceptions, and observations could arise from random fluctuations in entropy rather than reflecting the universe's actual past.

After Hours



Gladys West, mathematician whose work paved the way for GPS, dies at 95

A self-described "little farm girl" in the Jim Crow Era, Gladys West's complex and pioneering work for the U.S. Navy helped to improve billions of lives - and keep us from getting lost.



In 1844, Chess Was Already Online

The first U.S. telegraph line was only 6 months old when it became a virtual chessboard

