



10 Breakthrough Technologies of 2026

Each year, MIT Technology Review reporters and editors assemble a list of the top breakthrough technologies that will change the world. We ask ourselves: What will really matter in the long run? And while we can't see the future, we expect these technologies to affect our world in a big way, for decades to come.

Artificial Intelligence



The AI Revolution in Math Has Arrived

AI is being used to prove new results at a rapid pace. Mathematicians think this is just the beginning.



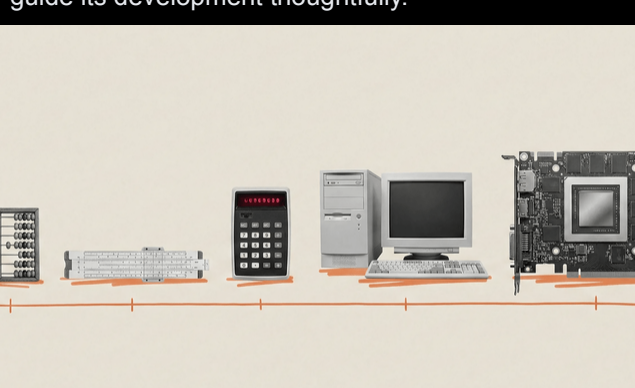
AI's influence on society has never been more pronounced

At Stanford HAI, we believe AI is poised to be the most transformative technology of the 21st century. But its benefits won't be evenly distributed unless we guide its development thoughtfully.



What 81,000 people told us about the economics of AI

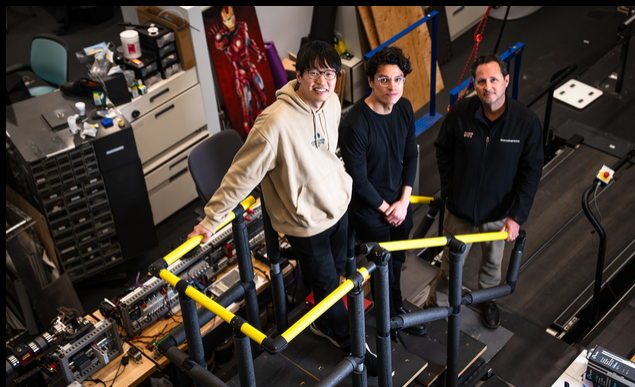
Anthropic is an AI safety and research company that's working to build reliable, interpretable, and steerable AI systems.



Mustafa Suleyman: AI development won't hit a wall anytime soon-here's why

Mustafa Suleyman, CEO of Microsoft AI, explains why AI development won't hit a wall anytime soon. In fact, he says, the compute explosion is the technological story of our time. And it is still only just beginning.

Life Sciences



Turning muscles into motors gives static organs new life

A new biohybrid system reprograms living muscles into fatigue-resistant, computer-controlled motors that can be implanted inside the body to restore movement in organs. Development of the myoneural actuator was led by Hugh Herr and colleagues at MIT.



'It's going to be huge': The 'diabolical' molecule poised to become biotech's next gold rush

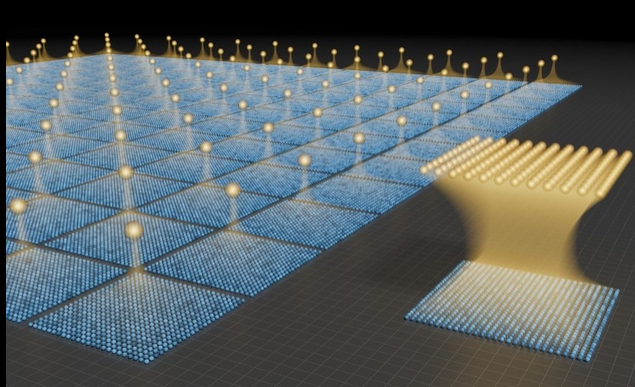
In the early 1960s, Norwegian physician Kåre Berg, M.D., was trying to identify new blood types when he accidentally discovered a lipoprotein with perplexing properties.



Personalized CRISPR therapies could soon reach thousands - here's how

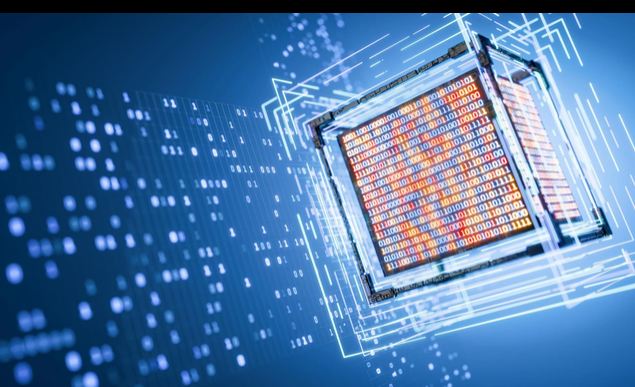
A fresh approach to trialling treatments for rare genetic diseases could make their production an economically viable prospect at last. A fresh approach to trialling treatments for rare genetic diseases could make their production an economically viable prospect at last.

Infrastructure



Quantum breakthrough cuts 1,000 qubits to five, speeds computing

New research cuts qubit needs in quantum computing, bringing practical machines closer than expected.



How Should We Prepare for the Looming Quantum Encryption Apocalypse?

The dreaded Q-day could arrive sooner than expected, and when it does, experts say we need to be ready.

Advanced Materials



Record-breaking photonics approach traps light on a chip for millions of cycles

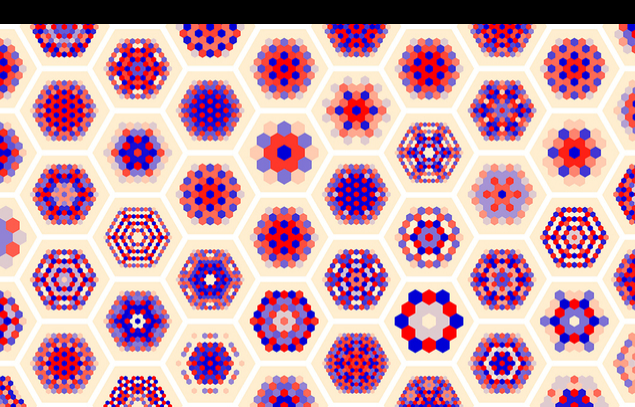
For years, scientists have dreamed of using atomically thin van der Waals (vdW) materials to build faster, more efficient photonic chips. These materials can be stacked and tuned with extraordinary precision, opening possibilities far beyond those of conventional technologies. The challenge is that they are extremely fragile, making them notoriously difficult to shape with standard nanofabrication tools.

In the Lab



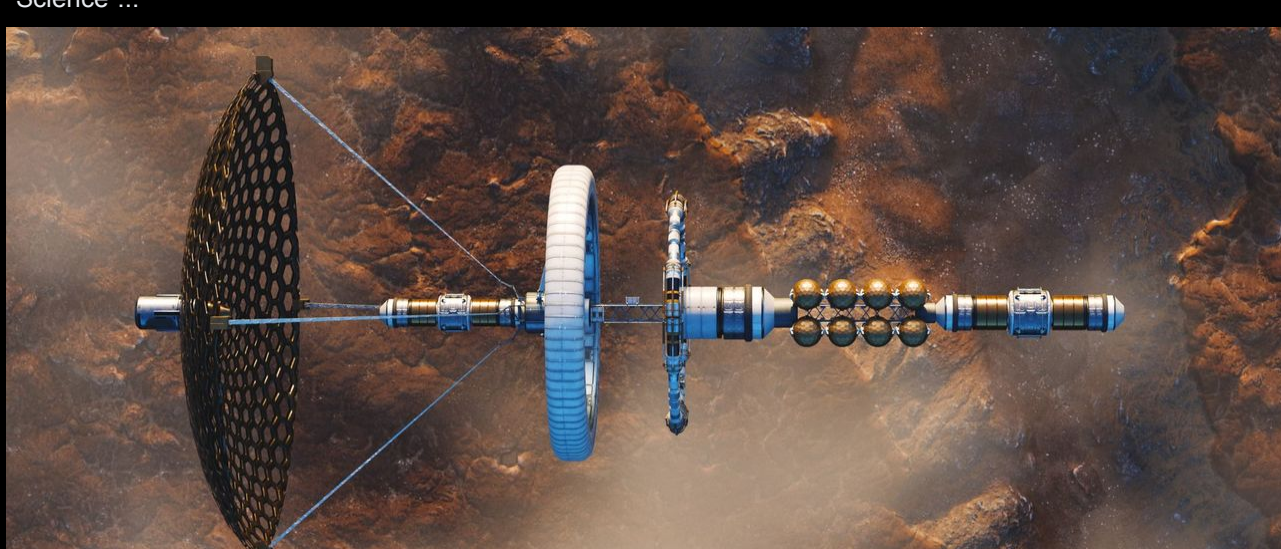
2026 Breakthrough Prize Ceremony Hosted by James Corden: Hollywood Honors Scientific Achievement

Under the lights of Hollywood, the twelfth Breakthrough Prize ceremony honored scientists responsible for landmark advances in gene therapy, neurodegenerative disease, theories of fundamental particles and forces, and the mathematics of critical systems. Known around the world as "the Oscars® of Science"...



A Powerful New 'QR Code' Untangles Math's Knottiest Knots

With a newly discovered mathematical tool, researchers are hoping to gain unprecedented insight into the structure of complex knots.



World-first light propulsion 'metajets' could enable 20-year mission to Alpha Centauri

Micron-scale "metajets" are the first light propulsion system to enable full 3D maneuverability via laser manipulation.