

NEWS

2026, the Year of the Humanoids

Six Questions and Answers About the Pivotal Year for Humanoid Robots.

28 June 2026, Tobias Engl



Why is 2026 called the Year of the Humanoids?

Because several developments are coming to fruition at the same time. The hardware is nearing practical usability, capital is flowing in on a large scale, and the labor shortage is making its deployment urgent. Above all, artificial intelligence is driving this transformation. The question has shifted: It is no longer whether humanoids work, but how quickly they will become widespread. 2026 is the year the industry will transition from demonstrations to commercial deployment.

What is the current state of the art?

Modern humanoids are no longer rigidly programmed machines. They perceive complex environments, make decisions in real time, and learn from experience. In factories, they are already sorting parts or handling battery cells. This is made possible by a combination of powerful on-board computing power and large, learning models - the vision-language-action systems.

What's new this year?

The numbers. A car manufacturer announced that it would deploy more than 25,000 humanoid robots in its plants the largest order of its kind to date. Manufacturers are converting production lines to mass production; a Chinese supplier produced its 10,000th robot within a matter of months; and the first units are finding their way into private households. Around 90,000 deliveries are expected by 2026, with a steep upward trend. At the same time, the price is falling from over a million dollars in 2020 to under 100,000 today.

How powerful are they, and what are their limitations?

In a structured environment, they work reliably and persistently. Two things still need a little more time: fine manual dexterity and confidence in cluttered spaces. A living room is harder to navigate than an assembly line. The final step toward everyday reliability is currently being taken; some are calling it the GPT-2.5 moment in robotics.

What's in the works, and what will be possible soon?

The roadmap is clear: by 2028, broader industrial pilot projects with semi-autonomous operation; followed by commercial deployments in logistics and services; and, in the 2030s, increasing autonomy even in open environments. At the same time, safety standards and certifications are being developed, and universal base robot models are learning to function across different body types.

What potential do they offer, and where does ScreenWay stand?

The potential is vast because humanoids are built for a world that's already designed for humans: stairs, doors, tools. They will initially supplement the workforce, especially in areas where judgment and proximity matter. Success depends on acceptance, and acceptance stems from safety and clarity. This is exactly where ScreenWay comes in—as a neutral interface that shows what the robot is doing, makes it approachable, and integrates it into the home. The data remains local, and the control system is secure.

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