

NEWS

The Year Wearables Start Thinking for Themselves

The AI moves toward the body, thereby confirming ScreenWay's principle

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By 2026, wearables had learned to compute. At MWC in Barcelona, Qualcomm unveiled the Snapdragon Wear Elite, the first wrist-worn chip with its own AI processing unit. It runs language models with up to two billion parameters directly on the watch, without having to go through a data center. Speech recognition, object recognition, a voice assistant that asks questions all of this now happens right on your wrist. What was long just a data transmission to the cloud is now becoming a standalone device.

Smart glasses are driving the market. Google unveiled its first AI glasses in collaboration with Samsung and Warby Parker; Meta is selling Ray-Ban Display glasses featuring Lumus's waveguide optics, made from Schott specialty glass; and from China come RayNeo, Rokid, and Xreal, which are flooding the market with sheer volume. On the finger, rings are replacing watches. In the ear, headphones are becoming approved hearing aids. On the horizon, artificial intelligence is set to be embedded in the eye in contact lenses and on the wrist as a neural band that translates muscle signals into commands.

Smart glasses are no longer a niche phenomenon. At CES, nearly half of the smart glasses exhibitors were from China; sales of AI glasses are expected to quadruple within a year; and Apple is shifting its focus from smart glasses to lightweight everyday eyewear. Wearable AI has become the platform that the entire industry is rushing toward.

As different as these devices may be, they all raise the same question: Where is the data generated by the body processed? This is the most sensitive data a person produces from heart rate to sleep patterns to brain activity. The industry's answer is clear: it processes the data on-device. On-device processing means lower latency, longer battery life, and measurement data that never leaves the device. For the same reason, the EU with its AI Regulation and countries such as South Korea are tightening the rules for health wearables.

That has always been ScreenWay's approach only for the space rather than the body. What the new watch on your wrist does, ScreenWay does for the surface on the wall: on-site processing, hosted in Europe, integrated with what's already there. While the world is bringing its intelligence closer to people, ScreenWay keeps it close to the location and under the control of those who work there. The wearable and the screen belong to the same layer. It's called physical AI, and it's best kept local.