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ITA Beijing Office

NEWSLETTER

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China's Embodied AI Robot Sales Rise 22.6% in First Three Quarters
China's consumer market showed steady growth in the first three quarters of 2026, with service retail sales rising 5% year-on-year. Sales on major platforms increased 22.6% for embodied AI robots, 46.4% for exoskeleton devices and 110% for smart glasses, reflecting growing demand for intelligent and upgraded consumer products. **(China News Service)**

China's Innovation Index Rises 6.4% in 2025
China's innovation index rose 6.4% year-on-year to 185.5 in 2025, with 2015 set as 100, according to the National Bureau of Statistics. Innovation output grew fastest among four categories, up 8%, driven partly by a 12.1% increase in high-value invention patents per 10,000 research and development (R&D) personnel, marking four consecutive years of double-digit growth. **(National Bureau of Statistics)**

Unitree Founder Expects Humanoid AI Breakthrough Within Two Years
Unitree Robotics founder Wang Xingxing expects embodied artificial intelligence (AI) to reach a "ChatGPT moment" within one to two years, driven by rapid advances in AI models. Robots are already being tested in factories and automobile plants, but broader deployment still depends on improving task generalization, versatility and operational efficiency. **(China Daily)**

Tech Innovations Take Center Stage at Canton Fair
The 140th Canton Fair in Guangzhou (15 Oct-4 Nov, 2026) showcases China's shift toward high-tech and green manufacturing. Of 32,000 exhibitors, 64% use AI and industrial internet technologies. New and green products account for record shares of 23.2% and 26%, respectively. Exoskeleton maker RoboCT's overseas sales rose 149.76% in January-August 2026. **(China Daily)**

China Plans to Add 34 Leading Smart Factories
China's Ministry of Industry and Information Technology has proposed 34 factories for its 2026 leading smart factory development list, including Xiaomi's AI-driven electric vehicle manufacturing facility. By the end of September, China had established over 13,000 advanced-level and 500 excellence-level smart factories, alongside 15 leading-level facilities. **(Xinhua)**