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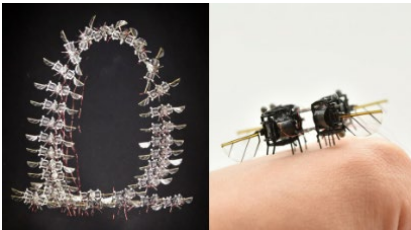
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AI • ROBOTICS • ENGINEERING

MIT’s tiny flying robot gets 450% faster with AI



A deep-learning controller made an insect-scale flapping microrobot dramatically more agile, boosting top speed by roughly 447% and acceleration by about 255%. The work shows how learned control can unlock performance that is difficult to obtain with conventional hand-tuned flight algorithms.

Massachusetts Institute of Technology | 22 September 2026

AI • MATERIALS • ENGINEERING

Physics-constrained machine learning for the inverse design of multifunctional composites



Researchers combined physical constraints with machine learning to inverse-design multifunctional composite phase-change materials. The method searches across multiple competing performance goals for transient thermal management, illustrating how AI can accelerate materials engineering while keeping solutions consistent with known physics.

Science China Press | 23 September 2026

AI • RESEARCH TOOLS • HEALTH TECH

Why Read a Research Paper When You Can Turn It Into an AI Agent?



Paper2Agent converts papers, code and data into tested AI agents that can run the published methods instead of merely explaining them. The open-source framework aims to make research more reproducible and usable by packaging scientific workflows into executable tools that other researchers can query.

IEEE Spectrum | 22 September 2026

ARCHITECTURE • SUSTAINABILITY • MATERIALS

Herzog & de Meuron reuses foundations for mass-timber Massachusetts school building



Amherst College’s new student center reuses concrete foundations and columns from the former Merrill Science Center, then adds mass-timber construction above. Reuse, timber structure and solar generation combine to cut embodied and operational carbon compared with a conventional replacement building.

Dezeen | 24 September 2026

CITIES • ARCHITECTURE • URBANISM

Designed for Walking: 6 Unbuilt Projects for Pedestrian Movement from the ArchDaily Community



Six unbuilt proposals explore urban design organized around walking rather than vehicle throughput. Across different contexts, the projects emphasize pedestrian safety, social interaction, sensory experience and human-scale movement, illustrating how design choices can reshape everyday access and public-space quality.

ArchDaily | 25 September 2026

CITIES • ROBOTICS • ENGINEERING

Pitt prototype puts potholes on notice



University of Pittsburgh researchers are prototyping a mobile robot that can identify and repair potholes. Automating repetitive road maintenance could improve worker safety, reduce repair delays and support more responsive urban infrastructure management if the system proves reliable at city scale.

University of Pittsburgh | 22 September 2026

CYBERSECURITY • AI • ROBOTICS

Simple visual patterns can trick AI-powered vehicles and robots, UF research finds

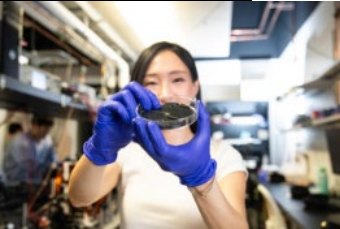


University of Florida researchers found that repeated black-and-white patterns can confuse stereo and depth-perception systems, causing AI-enabled vehicles and robots to misjudge obstacle distance. The result highlights a physical-world adversarial weakness that may require new sensor-fusion and validation defenses.

University of Florida | 22 September 2026

HEALTH TECH • QUANTUM • SENSORS

Electrical and computer engineering trailblazer Laura Kim targets endometriosis with prestigious award

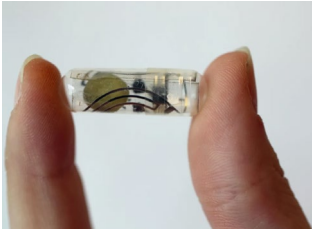


A University of Florida project is developing a minimally invasive diamond-based quantum sensing platform to detect subtle magnetic signals associated with endometriosis. The research explores whether highly sensitive quantum sensors can support earlier, less invasive diagnosis of a condition that is often difficult to identify.

University of Florida | 22 September 2026

HEALTH TECH • SMART DEVICES • MATERIALS

Ingestible Paper Battery Powers Biodegradable Medical Devices



A paper-based battery using biodegradable materials powered ingestible electronics in live pigs for up to three days, including RFID communication and gastric stimulation. The work addresses a key limitation of smart pills: creating a power source that can function safely inside the body and then break down.

IEEE Spectrum | 24 September 2026

MATERIALS • SUSTAINABILITY • ARCHITECTURE

How Can Thin Brick Support High-Performance Buildings?



Thin-brick envelope systems can preserve the durability and visual qualities of masonry while reducing weight and material use and accommodating high levels of insulation. The article examines how these assemblies can support all-electric and net-zero building strategies without giving up conventional brick expression.

ArchDaily | 21 September 2026

ROBOTICS • SUSTAINABILITY • MATERIALS

Barbara Mazzolai Wants to Build a New Field of Robotics

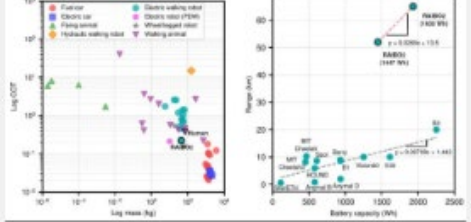


Roboticist Barbara Mazzolai argues for “sustainability robotics,” where environmental impact becomes a core design constraint rather than an afterthought. Her bioinspired work draws on plant roots, seeds and octopus anatomy while considering materials, energy use and ecological effects over a robot’s life cycle.

IEEE Spectrum | 22 September 2026

ROBOTICS • ENGINEERING • ENERGY EFFICIENCY

KAIST’s world-first full-course robot marathon completion published in Nature



KAIST’s RAIBO2 quadrupled completed a full 42.195-kilometer marathon on one battery charge. Beyond the endurance milestone, researchers used the run to study locomotion and energy efficiency, producing design insights for robots expected to operate for long periods outside laboratories.

Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (KAIST) | 23 September 2026