

Press release

The UK can seize the robotics opportunity, new report sets out path to robotics leadership and economic growth

- *UK poised to unlock £150 billion opportunity in robotics*

[London, UK] 27 April 2026 – The United Kingdom has a significant opportunity to lead the next wave of robotics innovation and deployment, according to a new report published today by techUK.

The report – ‘*Seizing the Robotics Opportunity*’ – highlights how breakthroughs in AI, sensing technologies, computing power, and advanced materials are converging to create increasingly capable, connected, and autonomous robots. These are already beginning to reshape sectors such as healthcare, manufacturing, agriculture, and infrastructure, improving productivity, enhancing services, and unlocking new business models.

The UK must act now if it is to leverage its strengths across these technologies and turn this momentum into long-term growth.

Real-world Impact Already Underway

Case studies from across the techUK membership demonstrate how robotics technologies are already delivering tangible benefits in key sectors:

- **Siemens** has developed AI-powered robotic picking software that enables robots to identify and grasp unknown objects in milliseconds, unlocking faster and more flexible logistics operations.
- At the **Manufacturing Technology Centre (MTC)**, robotic systems for tunnel installation have delivered up to 40% productivity gains and 30% cost reductions while significantly improving worker safety.
- **Airbus Defence and Space** is advancing robotic systems for space exploration and in-orbit servicing, supporting emerging markets such as satellite repair, debris removal, and autonomous assembly.
- UK-based innovator **E-Nano** is deploying autonomous robotics and AI in agriculture and sports turf, enabling real-time data insights that improve decision-making and reduce manual processes.
- **Oxa** has secured £103 million in funding, including backing from the National Wealth Fund, to scale its autonomous vehicle technology across sectors such as logistics, agriculture, and defence.

These examples highlight how robotics is already delivering measurable gains today, while pointing to the much larger opportunity available through wider adoption across the economy.

The UK is home to world-leading research institutions, deep regional expertise, and a vibrant start-up ecosystem. The next step is to connect and scale these strengths, ensuring that robotics innovation translates into widespread adoption across the economy.

Unlocking Adoption Across the Economy

Through this report, techUK highlights the opportunity to expand the use of robotics technologies, particularly among small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), where adoption remains at an early stage. With the right support, businesses can increasingly deploy proven, off-the-shelf technologies to boost efficiency and competitiveness.

At the same time, strengthening the UK's capabilities in robotics hardware alongside its leadership in software and AI will help capture more economic value domestically and build more resilient supply chains.

The economic prize is substantial. Analysis from the Robotics Growth Partnership suggests that widespread adoption of robotics and smart machines could add up to £150 billion in Gross Value Added (GVA) over the next decade, alongside significant gains in productivity, job creation, and international competitiveness.

To realise this opportunity, the report sets out nine recommendations for the UK government across five priority areas:

Strategy

- Recognise robotics as a Frontier Technology to ensure a consistent and coordinated approach to robotics across government.
- Build additional robotics expertise within the Department for Science, Innovation and Technology (DSIT).
- Develop a Robotics Opportunities Action Plan to coordinate efforts across government and industry.

Ecosystem and Infrastructure

- Ensure strong national coordination for the new Robotics Adoption Hubs network to maximise impact.

Build

- Invest in domestic robotics hardware capabilities, building on initiatives such as those led by Advanced Research and Invention Agency (ARIA).

Deploy

- Strengthen public understanding and trust in robotics technologies.
- Support agile, innovation-friendly regulation through the Regulatory Innovation Office (RIO).
- Leverage public procurement to accelerate the adoption of robotics solutions.

Scale and Export

- Support robotics companies to scale internationally through targeted export and growth programmes.

The report concludes that the UK has already laid much of the groundwork for success in robotics. By building on these foundations and focusing on adoption, coordination, and scale, the country can position itself as a global leader in the technologies that will define the future economy.

Rory Daniels, Head of Emerging Technology and Innovation at techUK, said:

“Something significant is happening in the world of robotics, and it is happening fast. The UK must double down on its areas of leadership and leverage these to support innovators, accelerate deployment, and empower our most successful companies to scale and export.

“This report – put into practice through techUK’s new Robotics programme – will equip industry and government with the tools and understanding necessary to achieve this mission.”

-ENDS-

Notes to Editors

The report will be available at [this link](#). (from 00:01 on 27 April)

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About techUK

techUK is the technology trade association that brings together people, companies and organisations to realise the positive outcomes of what digital technology can achieve.

With over 1,100 members (the majority of which are SMEs) across the UK, techUK creates a network for innovation and collaboration across business, government and stakeholders to provide a better future for people, society, the economy and the planet.

By providing expertise and insight, we support members, partners and stakeholders as they prepare the UK for what comes next in a constantly changing world.