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The start-ups making robots a reality

Here's why I'm excited about the potential of robotics technology.

By Bill Gates



These days, when people talk about the next technological frontier, they're often focused on artificial intelligence. But a decade ago, the technology that people obsessed over—the one that promised to change work and life as we know it—wasn't AI. It was robotics.

In the time since, AI has advanced further and faster than most people predicted. Today, it can do a lot of what we expect from a human brain, and it's only getting better by the day. Less progress has been made on robots, which should ideally be able to do physical tasks similar to the human body—like gripping, walking, climbing, and carrying—but many still struggle with these apparently basic skills.

Fortunately, there are some start-ups and labs that are working to make better robots. In the near-term, they'll be able to help out on factory floors, farms, and even soccer fields. But if robotics technology continues to improve, then their uses will be almost limitless: They can serve as first responders during natural disasters and public health crises, perform precision surgeries where there's no room for error, and so much more.

You can read more about these start-ups, and my thinking on the future of robots.

Thanks for being an Insider.

Bill Gates

