Canada Robotics International
INDEPENDENT · NON-PROFIT

CRI BRIEF · NO. 2 · NOVEMBER 2026

A Bodyguard Robot? Stand Back.

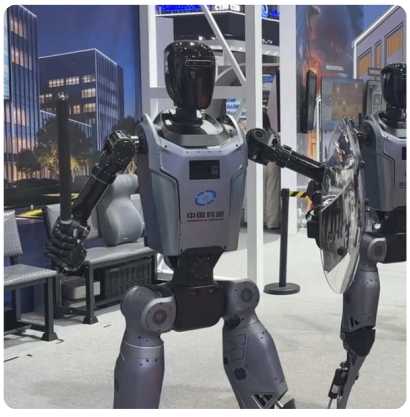
On 21 October Unitree posted a one-minute video of its H2-X *Kung Fu Legend Guardian*. It disarms a knife-wielding intruder, lifts a car off a dummy and, the caption says, can stand guard for eight hours. That caption is the entire product spec: *powerful performance to serve and guard you*. Asked whether any of it was autonomous, the company referred reporters back to the video, which also asks viewers to keep two to three metres away. Shares fell 2% that day. That is the humanoid market in one clip: astonishing motion, unproven tasks, nervous capital. The number that matters arrived more quietly: close to 25,000 humanoids shipped in the first half of 2026, more than 95% of them built in China, and 69% bought by laboratories, schools, showrooms and government data centres rather than by anyone with a job to fill. The market is real. It is still mostly a market for learning.

Background: EngineAI's T800 on a stand screen, WRC 2026, Beijing. Photo: CRI.

▶ WATCH THE CLIP, 1 MIN

Unitree H2-X "Kung Fu Legend Guardian", official video, 21 October 2026

Video and stills © Unitree Robotics. We link rather than reproduce.







Guards on parade in Beijing, long before the video: humanoids drilling with sword and shield; a humanoid in traffic-police uniform behind AiMOGA's Mornine; EngineAI's T800 on the PaXini stand. *Photos: CRI, WRC Beijing 2026.*

25,000	~$30,000	69%
humanoids shipped January to June 2026, up 432% on a year earlier (IDC)	average price, from IDC's $740M market size. Down from about $37,000 in 2025	went to research, education, exhibitions and government data centres. Down from 84% in 2025

Sources: IDC via Forbes, 30 September 2026. Counts differ by definition: IFR counts about 7,000 full-size humanoids sold for commercial use in all of 2025.

TECHNOLOGY

ROBOTS + AI

The brain moves on board. South Korea is spending ₩800bn (about $606M) over five years on AI chips that run inside the machine, with Mobilint leading the humanoid track and Hyundai, LG and Doosan as anchors. Meanwhile Google DeepMind taught Apptronik's Apollo a new game from a single video of a person playing it. The two halves of the same race: cheaper chips in the body, faster learning in the head. Source →

ROBOTS + VR

The human behind the robot. 1X is delivering its NEO home robot to early customers with a remote operator in a VR headset on standby; early testers report no chore finished without one. In Ontario, Mirsee drives its MH3 from 1,500 km away. For the next two years, teleoperation is the product. Source →

HANDS AND PARTS

PRICE WATCH

No magnets, no fingers. China's pause on rare-earth export controls expires on 10 November. Dysprosium oxide, which keeps motor magnets working when hot, sells for $1,250 to 1,675 a kilo in Rotterdam against $270 to 330 inside China. A humanoid carries dozens of such motors. Source →

$29,900, before tax. That is Unitree's list price for the H2, the 1.82 m, 70 kg platform under the guardian video, with a three-hour battery on its own spec sheet. The H2-X itself has no price, no weight and no date. At the other end, Faraday Future listed a 20-joint developer humanoid at $2,490. The spread between a toy and a tool is now 12 to 1. Source →

MARKET AND RULES

DEPLOYED

200 at once. Swiss retailer Denner runs 200 Pudu CC1 cleaning robots across its stores, Pudu's largest European fleet; the company has shipped more than 130,000 robots to 85 countries. UBTech of Shenzhen sold 921 full-size humanoids in the first half of 2026, against 45 a year earlier, and opened a plant in Liuzhou built for 10,000 a year. Wheels and cleaning are still where the volume is. Source →

MONEY

The queue for Hong Kong. Noetix, backed by battery maker CATL, filed confidentially for a Hong Kong listing on 22 October. XPeng told Paris on 12 October that its IRON humanoid enters mass production this year, with deliveries in the first half of 2027 and Europe in the second. Unitree's own filing warned investors the industry is "still in the early commercialization stage"; its shares trade at 388 times earnings. Source →

RULES

China writes six standards. On 19 October China approved its first six national standards for humanoid robots, covering perception, planning, motion control, task operation and test platforms, in force from 1 April 2027. The same day nine ministries told the industry to push robots into homes and logistics. The EU, meanwhile, delayed its high-risk AI duties to December 2027. Source →

FIELD CHECK

Someone will test in the heat. Ras Al Khaimah and UBTech signed an MoU in October for live deployments and a proposed climate research initiative to evaluate robots under Gulf conditions. No protocols or results yet. It is the first direct answer to the 0-45°C problem we raised last month. We will ask to see the test plan. Source →

PLACES

MODEL OF THE MONTH

Shanghai's shared training hall. The city's embodied-AI centre in Pudong runs a 5,000 m² hall where more than 100 robot types train side by side, logging 20,000 to 30,000 data entries a day towards 150,000 hours of real-robot data. Firms share the floor, the city pays for the building, and a standards pilot runs in the same room. What a mid-sized city can copy: one shared hall, co-owned, with the standards body inside it. Source →

CANADA CORNER

Ottawa names robotics. The federal Regional AI Initiative was topped up to $700M on 14 October, with robotics listed as a priority sector. Budget 2026 lands on 5 November. And Sanctuary AI of Vancouver has stopped selling only a body: its software ran a wire-plugging task on a standard industrial arm at 99.5% success for a Tier 1 auto supplier. Source →

GLOBAL SOUTH

Rwanda did it first. In February Rwanda became the first country with nationwide autonomous delivery, including Africa's first urban drone network, under a $150M pay-for-performance deal: the United States funds the infrastructure, Rwanda pays for operations. Zipline will build its first overseas robotics test facility there. Source →

THE FUNDING DOOR

Regional AI Initiative, Southern Ontario. Open now to Canadian businesses adopting or commercialising AI, robotics included. Apply by 24 November if your costs start before 31 March 2027; the intake closes 19 January 2027. Other regions have their own pages. Not in Canada? Hub71 Abu Dhabi's Access programme is open until February 2027. Source →

CLOSE

DATES

5 Nov Canada's Budget 2026
10 Nov China's rare-earth export pause expires
2-4 Dec RoboNext, Osaka, the Japan Robot Association's new show
7-11 Dec GITEX Global, Dubai, with a new robotics show

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Humanoids Daily: a free weekly email and the best single feed on humanoid robots. We read it every morning.

READER QUESTION

"Which robots can I actually buy today?"

Fewer than the headlines suggest. Most of this year's 25,000 went to labs. For work you can buy now: wheeled

CRI NEWS

Registered in Ontario. CRI filed its Ontario initial return in October, completing its registration.
Interests published. The director's declaration of interests

service robots for cleaning, delivery and restaurants, from Pudu, Keenon and others, shipped in the tens of thousands. Industrial humanoids from UBTech, AgiBot and Unitree come on pilot terms, not catalogue terms. Home humanoids are an early-access experiment. Our October rule holds: humanoid where the environment cannot change, specialised where the task does not.

is on our website, including every outside board and advisory role.

From Tunis. This issue is written in Tunis. In September the government sent six Tunisian start-ups, including teams working on AI-based robotics, to LEAP in Riyadh to find customers. We met people here who want to advance robotics in Tunisia, and we will put them in touch with manufacturers.

Advisers wanted. Country advisers from diverse geographies, and an independent reviewer for our assessments.

COMING UP: THE NEXT SIX MONTHS

1-2 Dec	**Humanoids Summit**, San Mateo, California
2-4 Dec	**RoboNext, Japan Robot Association**, Osaka
7-11 Dec	**GITEX Global, with GITEX World Robotix**, Dubai
6-9 Jan	**CES 2027**, Las Vegas
1-3 Feb	**World Governments Summit**, Dubai
1-4 Mar	**MWC Barcelona**, Barcelona
2-4 Mar	**European Robotics Forum**, Birmingham
15-18 Mar	**NVIDIA GTC**, San Jose
1 Apr	**China's six humanoid standards take effect**
5-8 Apr	**Hannover Messe**, Hannover
19-21 Apr	**ProMat**, Chicago
10-13 May	**Automate 2027**, Las Vegas
24-28 May	**ICRA 2027**, Seoul

Dates checked against each organiser on 24 October 2026. Tell us if we have missed one.

What should we cover? A topic, a category, a country, a company you want looked at: write to us. We would love to hear from you, and we read every reply.

If this was useful, forward it to one colleague who buys, funds or regulates technology. Questions, corrections and robots you want us to look at: reply to this email or write to support@canadaroboticsinternational.org.

Advit Nath
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