

Who's Who

China's Robotics Industry

In 2014, Xi Jinping laid out his vision for the future of robotics in China. “We must not only improve the level of our robots, but also capture as much of the market as possible,” he [said](#).

A decade on, China's robotics industry is catching up to foreign rivals. China's industrial robots market is the world's largest and Chinese companies now supply about half of domestic demand, up from less than a third five years ago, [according to](#) the International Federation of Robotics.

The trend is likely to continue accelerating. Yet despite global recognition of China's growing robotics prowess, many of the country's top firms and their leaders are not well known.

In this latest *Who's Who* edition of industry leaders, *The Wire China* identifies the industrialists, entrepreneurs and academics responsible for advancing China's robotics industry, compiled from corporate documents, company and government statements, and media reports.

Those included range from the heads of China's oldest industrial robotics firms to leaders of a new wave of startups developing humanoids and robodogs, as well as the academics and policymakers paving the way for the industry's development. We have chosen to represent a broad swath of the industry, not including firms that specialize in drones or autonomous vehicles.

The 52 people below differ from their peers in China's artificial intelligence sector even though they are closely linked via a discipline known as ‘embodied AI,’ or the integration of AI into hardware. Less than half of the people on this list hold doctorates, and only a quarter earned their highest degree abroad. In *The Wire's* [previous review](#) of the movers and shakers in China's AI industry, four in five people held PhDs and half were educated overseas.

As with AI, robotics is male-dominated; no women appear on this list. Where possible, we have included the ages of people represented, who range from their early 30s to early 90s.

Of the 50 companies and universities represented here, 4 are blacklisted in some form by the U.S; they have a ‘’ next to their name. Though a bipartisan group of politicians in Washington have [raised](#)  national security alarms over Chinese robotics firms, President Donald Trump has not yet addressed the issue.

Read on for more information, or click the button below to download a PDF version of this page. *The Wire* is grateful to Kyle Chan, Reyk Knuhtsen and Lian Jye Su for their comments.

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Cai Hegao (蔡鹤皋)
Academia
HONORARY DIRECTOR, STATE KEY
LABORATORY OF ROBOTICS AND SYSTEMS


Cai Hegao, 91, is a founding father of China's robotics industry and the oldest person on this list. In the mid 1980s, he developed China's first industrial robots capable of welding. Cai is currently the honorary director of the State Key Laboratory of Robotics and...

...Systems at the Harbin Institute of Technology, where he previously directed the school's robotics



Cai Yinpeng (蔡颖鹏)
Robotic hands
FOUNDER AND CEO, INSPIRE ROBOTS

Cai Yinpeng, who is around 40, is [founder](#) and chief executive of Inspire Robots. The Beijing-based company specializes in components for robots, with a focus on [hands](#). It [claims](#) to have made the “first commercially mass-produced dexterous hand in...”

“...China.” Cai founded Inspire in 2016, having first become interested in robotics while in high school in



Chen Jianyu (陈建宇)
Humanoids
FOUNDER, ROBOTERA

Chen Jianyu, 33, is founder of RobotEra, a Beijing-based maker of humanoid robots that the company [says](#) can run 8 miles per hour. It also [claims](#) nine of the world's ten largest tech firms as customers. One RobotEra humanoid recently donned sneakers for a...

...[run through](#) the Gobi Desert. Chen started the company in 2023 with the support of backers including

institute. HIT is now one of the leading schools for robotics studies in China, and has been on the [U.S. Entity List](#) since 2020.

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Cheng Hao (程昊)
Humanoids
FOUNDER AND CEO, BOOSTER ROBOTICS

Cheng Hao is founder and chief executive of Booster Robotics, a maker of humanoid robots. Last year the company's T1 robot [placed first](#) in a humanoid race at an international robotics conference in France last year. In January, Nvidia CEO Jensen Huang [autographed](#)...

...the T1. Cheng founded Booster in 2023 with members of Tsinghua University's Department of Automation and backing from China Minsheng Bank and Zhongguancun Science City, a state-owned investment fund. He holds a master's degree from Tsinghua.

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Gao Jiyang (高继扬)
Humanoids
CEO, GALAXEA AI

Gao Jiyang, born in 1992, is founder and chief executive of Galaxea Dynamics. The embodied AI company makes robotics software, robotic arms and humanoids, which can [clean bathrooms](#) and play guitar. It has collaborated on [research](#) with Stanford...

...University and counts tech giants such as ByteDance and Samsung among its customers, according to its [website](#). The Beijing-based firm is valued at \$688 million as of April, and it raised an additional \$100 million in July, according to Pitchbook. Gao founded Galaxea in 2023 after working on autonomous driving at Google-backed Waymo and Chinese firm Momenta; earlier in his career he was an intern at Google and AI software company SenseTime. He holds a doctorate in electrical engineering from the University of Southern California.

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Guo Yandong (郭彦东)
Humanoids
CEO, AI² ROBOTICS

Guo Yandong, who is in his early 40s, is founder and chief executive of AI² Robotics. The Shenzhen-based embodied AI firm makes humanoid robots — [touting](#) their industrial and domestic applications such as sorting packages and doing laundry. Guo founded...

...AI² in 2023 after working on AI at Microsoft. He was also chief scientist at EV maker Xpeng and smartphone manufacturer OPPO. Guo holds a doctorate in electronics and communications engineering from Purdue University.

the early 2000s. He graduated from the University of Science and Technology Beijing.

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Ding Han (丁汉)
Academia
PROFESSOR, HUAZHONG UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Ding Han, 61, is dean of the School of Mechanical Engineering at Huazhong University of Science and Technology (HUST), one of the top schools for robotics in China. In 2011, he co-chaired the first International Conference on Robotics and...

...Automation held in mainland China. Ding specializes in the intersection of robotics and manufacturing and has [designed systems](#) widely used by defense contractor AVIC, according to HUST. He holds a doctorate in mechanical engineering from HUST.

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Gu Jie (顾捷)
Humanoids and medical
FOUNDER AND CEO, FOURIER INTELLIGENCE

Gu Jie, who is in his mid-40s, is founder and chief executive of Fourier Intelligence, a maker of humanoid robots. The embodied AI firm began by making [physical therapy robots](#) that help people recover from injuries. It recently [showcased](#) one of its models'...

...ability to lift 5 kilogram (11 pound) dumbbells. Chinese President Xi Jinping [visited](#) the company at its Shanghai headquarters in 2023. It is valued between \$300 and \$500 million, [according to](#) Chinese media outlet Caixin. Gu, who founded Fourier in 2015, holds a bachelor's degree from Shanghai Jiao Tong University.

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Han Fengtao (韩峰涛)
Humanoids
FOUNDER AND CEO, SPIRIT AI

Han Fengtao is founder and chief executive of Spirit AI, a maker of humanoid robots which run on wheels rather than feet. The embodied AI company [announced](#) that it raised \$84 million in initial funding in July. Han was chief technology officer and co-founder of...

...collaborative robot firm Rokae Robotics before starting Spirit AI last year. He holds a master's from Zhejiang University.

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Tsinghua University, where he runs a robotics lab and serves as an assistant professor. It is the only embodied AI firm backed by Tsinghua. Chen holds a doctorate in robotics from University of California, Berkeley.

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Ding Xuexiang (丁薛祥)
Government
FIRST VICE-PREMIER, CHINESE COMMUNIST PARTY

Ding Xuexiang, 62, is the [sixth-ranked official](#) on the party's Politburo Standing Committee, China's top governing body. He is responsible for science and technology, serving as director of China's Central Science and Technology Commission.

In March, the government's annual work report [pledged](#) to increase funding for embodied AI; the same day its central economic planning body, the National Development and Reform Commission, [announced](#) a new 1 trillion yuan (\$138 billion) guidance fund to invest in hard technology such as robotics. Ding rose through the party ranks as a cadre, serving on Xi Jinping's staff when Xi was party secretary of Shanghai.

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Gu Yanmin (顾炎民)
Industrial robots
VICE PRESIDENT, MIDEA GROUP

Gu Yanmin, born in 1963, is the head of the robotics and automation division at Guangdong-based appliance company Midea Group, having worked at the company since 2000. Midea acquired German industrial robot maker KUKA in 2017, and Gu...

...now serves as chairman of the supervisory board of KUKA Group. He has a doctorate in sociology from Cornell University.

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He Xiaopeng (何小鹏)
Humanoids
FOUNDER AND CEO, XPENG

He Xiaopeng, 47, is the billionaire co-founder and chief executive of Xpeng, one of China's leading makers of electric vehicles. The New York- and Hong Kong-listed, Guangzhou-based firm has a market cap of more than \$17 billion. Xpeng's robotics division...

...[founded in 2016](#), unveiled a [humanoid robot](#) last year. The company plans to begin mass production in 2026. He [said](#) on a quarterly earnings call in May. He previously founded software company UCWeb, which he sold to Alibaba in a multibillion dollar deal in 2014.

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Bill Huang (黄晓庆)
Robotics software
FOUNDER AND CEO, DATAA ROBOTICS

Bill Huang, born in 1962, is chief executive of Dataa Robotics, a maker of cloud software for robotics firms. The company, then known as Cloudminds, filed to go public in New York in 2019 with the goal of raising \$500 million. It later canceled the IPO amid...

...scrutiny from Washington on technology transfer between its U.S. and Chinese offices. The U.S. Department of Commerce added the company's Chinese subsidiary to a trade blacklist in 2020, and the firm has since fallen on tough times. Huang founded Cloudminds in 2015 after serving as president of an R&D division at telecom firm China Mobile. He holds a master's in electrical engineering and computer science from the University of Illinois at Chicago.

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Jia Tinggang (贾廷纲)
Industrial robots
VICE PRESIDENT, SHANGHAI ELECTRIC

Jia Tinggang, born in 1973, is vice president at state-owned industrial equipment giant Shanghai Electric. The company has listed shares on the mainland and in Hong Kong, and a market cap of \$15.7 billion. Jia is the chairman of the company's automation group.

Jia also serves as vice chairman of Shanghai-Fanuc Robotics, a joint venture between the Shanghai government and Japanese robotics conglomerate Fanuc. He has a doctorate in control science and engineering from East China University of Science and Technology.

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Leng Xiaokun (冷晓琨)
Humanoids and logistics
FOUNDER AND CHAIRMAN, LEJU ROBOTICS

Leng Xiaokun, born in 1992, is founder and chairman of Leju Robotics. The Shenzhen-based embodied AI company makes humanoids that can man toll gates or work on assembly lines, as well as robots designed to work in hospitals and move heavy objects.

This year Leng, a member of the Chinese Communist Party's Youth League, won the May 4th Medal, the party's highest cross-disciplinary prize for people under 40. He started Leju in Shenzhen in 2016 and holds a doctorate from the Harbin Institute of Technology.

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Ji Defa (纪德法)
Industrial robots
FOUNDER, STEP ELECTRIC

Ji Defa, 73, is founder of Shanghai STEP Electric Corporation. He founded the firm in 1995 as a manufacturer of elevator control systems and expanded it into a producer of industrial robots. The Shenzhen-listed firm has a market cap of \$1.9 billion...

...appliances giant Haier is its controlling shareholder. Ji has a master's degree in industrial automation from Shandong University.

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Jia Yonghua (贾永华)
Industrial robots
CHAIRMAN, HIKROBOT

Jia Yonghua, born in 1977, is chairman of state-owned Hikrobot. The Hangzhou-based firm was founded as a spinoff of surveillance equipment company Hikvision in 2016, with backing from China's State Council. It specializes in industrial robots for use in...

...manufacturing and logistics. Jia joined Hikvision in 2002. He holds a bachelor's degree in engineering from Xidian University.

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Li Jianguo (李建国)
Robotics components
PRESIDENT, MANUFACTURING, HUAWEI

Li Jianguo, born in 1964, is the president of the manufacturing division at tech conglomerate Huawei. The firm established an embodied AI innovation center last November and has signed cooperation deals with robotics firms UBTECH and Leju. It has also created...

...its own robotics subsidiary, Jimu Machinery, which Li leads. Li joined Huawei in 1993. He holds a master's in engineering from Huazhong University of Science and Technology.

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He has a net worth of \$3.6 billion, according to Forbes, and holds a bachelor's degree in computer science from South China University of Technology.

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Jia Kui (贾奎)
Humanoids
FOUNDER, DEXFORCE TECHNOLOGY

Jia Kui, who is in his mid 40s, is the founder of DexForce Technology. The firm develops software to help robots identify objects using AI, and has financial backing from Chinese computer giant Lenovo among others. In January, it launched its own humanoid robot.

Jia is also a professor at the Chinese University of Hong Kong, Shenzhen, and specializes in machine learning and computer vision. He holds a doctorate in computer science from Queen Mary University of London.

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Lai Jie (来杰)
Humanoids
FOUNDER AND CEO, ASTRIBOT

Lai Jie, who is in his late 30s, is founder and chief executive of Astribot, a developer of humanoid robots that can vacuum and make waffles. The embodied AI company says its S1 robot has operating parameters "comparable to those of an adult male" and touts its...

...ability to pour tea and fold laundry. Lai founded Astribot in Shenzhen in 2022 after leading robotics teams at tech giants Baidu and Tencent. He holds a master's from Wuyi University.

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Li Mingyang (李明洋)
Collaborative robots
CHAIRMAN, JAKA ROBOTICS

Li Mingyang, born in 1981, is chairman of Jaka Robotics, a maker of so-called 'cobots' or collaborative robots, which are designed to work alongside humans on tasks like welding. The company is one of the largest players in China's industrial robot market and also...

...has offices in the U.S., Japan, and Germany. It was worth \$545 million as of 2022, according to Pitchbook. Li founded Jaka in 2014. He holds a bachelor's from Shanghai Jiao Tong University.

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Li Tong (李通)
Service robots
CEO, KEENON ROBOTICS

Li Tong is founder and chief executive of Keenon Robotics, a Shanghai-based maker of commercial service robots, which perform tasks like waiting tables and scrubbing floors. It unveiled two such robots at a conference in Shanghai earlier this year.

The Softbank and Saudi Aramco-backed company is currently worth \$1 billion, according to S&P Capital IQ, and controls the largest share of the global market for its sector, according to research firm IDC. Li founded Keenon in 2010 after working in robotics at Microsoft. He holds a master's in electrical engineering and automation from Huazhong University of Science and Technology.

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Liu Peichao (刘培超)
Collaborative robots
CEO, DOBOT ROBOTICS

Liu Peichao, born in 1986, is chief executive of Dobot Robotics. The firm makes collaborative robots, which are designed to work with human guidance, and is developing humanoids.. The company claims to have created the first 'cobot' small enough to fit on a desk.

Now listed in Hong Kong, Dobot has a market cap of \$3 billion. Liu founded the firm in 2015. He holds a master's degree in mechanical engineering from Shandong University.

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Peng Zhihui (彭志辉)
Humanoids
FOUNDER AND CTO, AGIBOT

Peng Zhihui, born in 1993, is founder and chief technology officer of Agibot, which makes humanoid robots that can perform a range of tasks such as pushing wheelchairs and manufacturing cars. One model can lift up to 40 kilograms (88 pounds), while...

...an Agibot humanoid shook hands with soccer legend David Beckham at a June event in China. The Shanghai-based embodied AI company, also known as Zhiyuan Robotics, has attracted investments from the likes of BYD and Hillhouse and was valued at \$2.1 billion as of March, according to Pitchbook. Peng participated in a "genius youth" program at Huawei before starting Agibot in 2023. He holds a master's in information and communication engineering from the University of Electronic Science and Technology of China.

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Qian Dongqi (钱东奇)
Robotic appliances
FOUNDER AND CHAIRMAN, ECOVACS ROBOTICS

Qian Dongqi, 67, is the billionaire founder and chairman of Ecovacs Robotics, China's leading maker of robotic appliances such as the 'Deebot' vacuum cleaner and 'Winbot' window cleaner. Qian founded the Suzhou-based firm in 1998. It is now listed in...

...Shanghai and has a market cap of \$7.9 billion; Qian has a net worth of \$5.4 billion, according to Forbes. He holds a master's in philosophy from Nanjing University.

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Qiu Chunxin (邱纯鑫)
Lidar
CHIEF SCIENTIST AND CHAIRMAN, ROBOSENSE

Qiu Chunxin, born in 1983, is chief scientist and chairman of RoboSense, a maker of Lidar systems that autonomous robots use to navigate. The Hong Kong-listed firm has a market cap of around \$2.6 billion. Qiu co-founded RoboSense, a competitor to Hesai, in...

...2014. He holds a doctorate in control science and engineering from Harbin Institute of Technology.

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Qu Daokui (曲道奎)
Industrial robots
FOUNDER, SIASUN ROBOTICS

Qu Daokui, 63, is the founder of Siasun Robot & Automation, a robotics manufacturer with a market cap of \$3.75 billion whose largest shareholder is the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS). The firm specializes in industrial robots that can perform...

...tasks like welding and sorting. It became the first Chinese robotics company to float its shares when it went public in Shenzhen in 2009. Qu founded Shenyang-based Siasun in 2000 and has run several national robotics industry groups. He retired from the company last year. He holds a master's degree from Shenyang Institute of Automation, which is part of CAS.

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Shao Tianlan (邵天兰)
Robotics software
FOUNDER AND CEO, MECH-MIND ROBOTICS

Shao Tianlan, who is in his mid-30s, is founder and chief executive of Mech-Mind Robotics. The company designs embodied AI software for industrial robots with a focus on robotic 3D vision. It was worth \$828 million as of 2022, and it raised another \$70 million...

...in August, according to Pitchbook. Shao founded Mech-Mind in 2016. He holds a master's in informatics from the Technical University of Munich.

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Shi Zelin (史泽林)
Academia
DIRECTOR, SHENYANG INSTITUTE OF AUTOMATION

Shi Zelin, born in 1965, is the director of the Shenyang Institute of Automation (SIA) at the Chinese Academy of Sciences. SIA is one of the foremost robotics research institutions in China, hosting several national labs dedicated to the study of robotics.

The U.S. Department of Commerce added SIA to the Entity List in 2022, restricting exports of products made with American technology to the institution. Shi is an expert on precision guidance technology and holds a doctorate from the Chinese Academy of Sciences.

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Sun Kai (孙恺)
Lidar
CHIEF SCIENTIST, HESAI TECHNOLOGY

Sun Kai, 40, is chief scientist at Hesai Technology. The Shanghai-based company makes laser systems known as Lidar that can help robots and self-driving cars navigate. Nasdaq-listed Hesai has a market cap of \$3.6 billion and calls itself "the most commercially..."

"...successful lidar company globally." The United States added the firm to a list of Chinese military companies last year; Hesai has denied wrongdoing and sued, unsuccessfully, for its removal. Sun co-founded Hesai in 2014. He has a doctorate from Stanford University.

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Tao Kong (孔涛)
Robotics software
FORMER DIRECTOR OF ROBOTICS RESEARCH, BYTEDANCE



Wang Guangneng (王光能)
Collaborative robots
FOUNDER AND CEO, HUAYAN ROBOTICS



Wang He (王鹤)
Humanoids
FOUNDER AND CTO, GALBOT

Tao Kong led robotics research at tech giant Bytedance — which owns TikTok — from 2019 until earlier this year. He was the team lead on the company's [GR-3 AI model](#), which can program robots to complete tasks such as hanging clothes or cleaning up a dinner table.

Bytedance [says](#) the model outperforms the “state-of-the-art baseline” developed by U.S. firm Physical Intelligence. Tao is now working on an undisclosed new venture. He holds a doctorate from Tsinghua University.

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Wang Shiquan (王世全)
Industrial robots
FOUNDER AND CEO, FLEXIV

Wang Shiquan, born in 1988, is founder and chief executive of Flexiv, a maker of industrial robots. The Shanghai-based firm [claims](#) to have created the world's first “adaptive” robotic arm in 2019, a precursor to embodied AI. As of May it had raised \$332 million...

...since its founding, according to Pitchbook, with backing from firms including Meituan, Xiaomi CEO Lei Jun's [Shunwei Capital](#), and [ZhenFund](#). It has been worth more than \$1 billion since 2022, [according to](#) [ITJuzi](#). Wang co-founded Flexiv in 2016. He holds a doctorate from Stanford University.

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Wei Hongxing (魏洪兴)
Collaborative robots
CHAIRMAN, AUBO ROBOTICS

Wei Hongxing, 51, is chairman of Aubo Robotics. The company controls around a quarter of the Chinese market for collaborative robots, more than any other firm, [according to](#) market researcher IDC. Wei is also a professor in the School of Mechanical Engineering...

...and Automation at Beihang University and has published more than 100 academic papers. He holds a doctorate in engineering from Harbin Engineering University.

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Xin Guobin (辛国斌)
Government
VICE MINISTER, MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Xin Guobin, 59, is China's [vice minister](#) of industry and information technology. He helps lead the division of the State Council that oversees the robotics industry. He previously directed the ministry's industrial policy efforts and served as a provincial official in Qinghai...

Wang Guangneng, who is in his mid 40s, is chief executive of Huayan Robotics, a maker of collaborative robots used on production and assembly lines. The Shenzhen-based firm, formerly known as Han's Robot, [says](#) it has exported its products to more than 100...

...countries. The company had raised more than \$100 million as of 2022, [according to](#) Wang. Its parent firm, Han's Laser, has a market cap of \$5.5 billion. Wang holds a master's in engineering from Beihang University.

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Wang Tianmiao (王田苗)
Academia
HONORARY DIRECTOR, ROBOTICS INSTITUTE, BEIHANG UNIVERSITY

Wang Tianmiao, 65, is a professor at Beihang University, where he also serves as honorary director of the school's robotics institute. Beihang is known for its robotics and defense programs; the U.S. Department of Commerce [added](#) it to a trade blacklist in 2023.

Wang, an expert on surgical robots, is also president of Zhongguancun Zhiyou Research Institute, a Beijing-based robotics research group. He has served as an advisor on robotics for two of China's five-year plans. He holds a doctorate from Northwestern Polytechnical University.

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Wu Bo (吴波)
Industrial robots
FOUNDER AND CHAIRMAN, ESTUN AUTOMATION

Wu Bo, born in 1954, is the billionaire founder and chairman of Estun Automation, a maker of industrial robots and other machines that automate manufacturing. The Shenzhen-listed company has a market cap of \$4.4 billion; it purchased Germany's...

...Carl Cloos Welding Technology for \$216 million in 2019 and took stakes in Barrett, a U.S. company and a pioneer in robotic arms, in 2017. Wu founded Estun in 1993 and has a net worth of \$1.5 billion, [according to](#) *Forbes*. He holds a master's in mechanical engineering from Southeast University.

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Xiong Youjun (熊友军)
Humanoids
CEO, X-HUMANOID

Xiong Youjun, who is in his late 40s, is general manager of the Beijing Humanoid Robot Innovation Center, also known as X-Humanoid. The embodied AI firm made the winning robot at a humanoid [half-marathon](#) in Beijing in April. It is backed by...

Wang He, born in 1992, is chief technology officer of Beijing-based Galbot. The embodied AI company [makes](#) AI software for robots and has designed its own humanoids, which can stock shelves at retail stores: Nvidia CEO Jensen Huang recently [posed](#) with one...

...of its models. Galbot, which Wang founded in 2023, [says](#) it has raised more than \$335 million from backers including Chinese battery firm CATL and China Development Bank. Wang is also an [assistant professor](#) at Peking University, which hosts a Galbot robotics lab, and the director of the Beijing Academy of Artificial Intelligence Center of Embodied AI. He holds a doctorate in electrical engineering from Stanford University.

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Wang Xingxing (王兴兴)
Humanoids and quadrupeds
CEO AND CTO, UNITREE ROBOTICS

Wang Xingxing, born in 1990, is the founder, chief executive and chief technology officer of Hangzhou-based robotics firm Unitree, which is reportedly [planning a \\$7 billion](#) IPO. In graduate school Wang developed a four-legged drone called XDog.

He later worked at dronemaker DJI for two months before founding Unitree in 2016, with XDog as the basis of its earliest product. Unitree robodogs have appeared at the [NFL Super Bowl](#) and in [Chinese military drills](#). Wang holds a master's in mechanical engineering from Shanghai University.

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Xiang Diyun (向迪昀)
Humanoids and quadrupeds
GENERAL MANAGER, XIAOMI ROBOTICS

Xiang Diyun is the leader of the robotics division at Xiaomi, the electronics company that makes everything from smartphones to SUVs. Xiaomi, which is listed in Hong Kong and has a market cap of more than \$180 billion, first unveiled work on its “Cyberdog”...

...[robodog](#) in 2021 and “CyberOne” [humanoid](#) the year after. Xiang has worked at Xiaomi since 2012. He holds a bachelor's degree from Nanjing University.

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Xu Lijin (许礼进)
Industrial robots
FORMER CHAIRMAN, EFORT INTELLIGENT EQUIPMENT

Xu Lijin, 49, is the former chairman of Efort Intelligence Equipment, a maker of industrial robots. The Anhui-based firm was spun out of automaker Chery in 2007 and is one of China's leading manufacturers of factory robots.

...in western China.

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Yang Wei (杨威)
Logistics robots
FOUNDER AND CEO, QUICKTRON ROBOTICS

Yang Wei, who is in his early 40s, is founder and chief executive of Quicktron Robotics. The company makes autonomous mobile robots for factories designed to move items more efficiently; it says it serves more than 1,000 customers across over 20 countries.

Quicktron has raised \$192 million since Yang founded the firm in 2014, according to Pitchbook. He holds a master's in software engineering from Peking University.

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Zhang Zhengyou (张正友)
Humanoids
DIRECTOR, TENCENT ROBOTICS X

Zhang Zhengyou, 60, is the director of Robotics X, the robotics division of tech giant Tencent. The firm has so far pitched its robots toward the elderly care sector. Zhang, who also directs an AI lab at Tencent, is a highly cited roboticist who previously worked at...

...Microsoft for two decades. He holds a doctorate in computer science from the University of Paris-Sud.

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Zheng Yong (郑勇)
Logistics robots
FOUNDER AND CEO, GEEK+

Zheng, 45, is founder and chief executive at Geek+, which claims to be the global market leader for so-called autonomous mobile robots used in warehouses. The Beijing-based, Hong Kong-listed firm has a market cap of \$4.4 billion and offices in...

...the U.S., Europe and Asia. Zheng began his career at European robotics firm ABB and founded Geek+ in 2015. He holds a joint master's in production engineering from Tsinghua University and Germany's

...UBTech, Xiaomi, and the Beijing municipal government. Xiong is also the part-time chief technology officer of UBTech, which he co-founded in 2012. He holds a doctorate in engineering from Huazhong University of Science and Technology.

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Felix Zhang (张涛)
Commercial service robots
FOUNDER AND CEO, PUDU ROBOTICS

Felix Zhang, 40, is founder and chief executive of Pudu Robotics, a maker of service robots. The company says it has sold more than 100,000 robots that perform tasks like waiting tables and cleaning hotel rooms. The company is worth more than \$1 billion, according to...

...Chinese media. Zhang founded the firm in 2016. He holds a master's from the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology.

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Zhao Tongyang (赵同阳)
Humanoids
FOUNDER AND CEO, ENGINEAI

Zhao Tongyang, who is in his mid-30s, is founder and chief executive of EngineAI, a maker of humanoid robots that can do front-flips and recently performed the axe gang dance from the 2004 movie Kung Fu Hustle. As of February, the embodied AI company is...

...valued at \$206 million, according to Pitchbook. Zhao founded EngineAI in 2023. He previously started a robodog manufacturer and led humanoid robotics development at electric carmaker Xpeng.

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Zhou Jian (周剑)
Multisector
CEO, UBTECH ROBOTICS

Zhou Jian, 48, is chief executive of Shenzhen-based UBTech Robotics, which he co-founded in 2012. The Hong Kong-listed firm has a market cap of about \$7.5 billion and makes humanoids and other robots specialising in delivery, cleaning, and logistics.

UBTech says that its humanoid is the first in the world able to change its own batteries. Zhou's company, in which he is the largest shareholder, refers to him as China's "father of robots." He has a bachelor's degree in

The Shanghai-listed firm has a market cap of \$2 billion, and in 2022 it took a 49 percent stake in Italian motion control system developer Robox. Xu stepped down as chairman in 2023 but remains a board director and, through holding firms, the largest individual shareholder, according to WireScreen. He graduated from Nanchang University.

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Zhang Wei (张巍)
Humanoids and quadrupeds
FOUNDER, LIMX DYNAMICS

Zhang Wei, who is in his mid 40s, is founder of LimX Dynamics, a maker of humanoid robots and robotic dogs. Their hallmark product is a two-legged robodog with a robotic arm; a separate humanoid can bend, twist and squat. The Shenzhen-based embodied AI...

...company announced more than \$70 million in initial funding earlier this year from backers including Alibaba and Lenovo, and is worth between \$300 and \$500 million, according to Caixin. Zhang founded LimX in 2022 while teaching at the Southern University of Science and Technology. He holds a doctorate in electrical and computer engineering from Purdue University.

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Zhao Yue (赵越)
Robotics controllers
FOUNDER AND CEO, SEER ROBOTICS

Zhao Yue, who is in his mid 30s, is founder and chief executive of SEER Robotics. The firm says it is the global market leader in remote controllers for robots and counts more than 1,500 companies worldwide as customers. It also makes autonomous forklifts and...

...other factory robots and is valued at \$448 million as of April, according to Pitchbook. In May, the company filed to go public in Hong Kong. The firm has investments from Ecovacs, insurance giant Ping An, private equity firms GLP and IDG, and several local governments. Zhou founded SEER in 2020. He holds a master's in control science and engineering from Zhejiang University.

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Zhu Qiuguo (朱秋国)
Quadrupeds
FOUNDER AND CEO, DEEP ROBOTICS

Zhu Qiuguo, born in 1982, is founder, chairman and chief executive of Deep Robotics, a maker of robotic dogs that can climb steep stairs in pitch darkness and cope with hazardous terrains. The embodied AI company claims to be the first in China whose...

...robots can autonomously inspect power substations. It is worth between \$300 and \$500 million, according to Caixin. Zhu founded DEEP Robotics in 2017, and holds a doctorate in engineering from Zhejiang

RWTH Aachen University.

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Zhu Xingming (朱兴明)

Industrial robots
CHAIRMAN, INOVANCE

Zhu Xingming, 58, is the founder and chairman of Inovance Technology, a maker of industrial robots that competes with the likes of Siemens and ABB. It is the largest automation company in China by value: the Shenzhen-listed firm's market cap is \$30 billion.

Zhu founded Inovance in 2003 as part of a group of former engineers at Huawei, and the company is known as 'Little Huawei' in the industry. His net worth is \$3 billion, according to Forbes. He holds a master's from Yanshan University.

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wood processing engineering from Nanjing Forestry University.

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University, where he is also an associate professor.

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