

## Press Release

2026 automatica Trend Index

### German economy calls for faster humanoid robotics adoption

- 82 % consider humanoid robots drivers of future innovation
- AI and robotics as pivotal enablers of competitiveness and industrial innovation
- (Physical) AI to be key topic at automatica 2027

**A vast majority of decision-makers from the German industry considers humanoid robots drivers of future innovation in automation. 82 percent of respondents think that Germany should increase subsidies for humanoid robotics development the way China has. This is a finding of the 2026 automatica Trend Index. The survey was commissioned by automatica and a total of 100 German specialists and executives responsible for taking decisions on the adoption of robotics and automation in their respective companies participated.**

“China has been consistently pursuing a national robotics strategy for years to systematically capitalize on the opportunities offered by modern automation”, says Patrick Schwarzkopf, Managing Director of the VDMA Robotics + Automation Association. “Beijing’s latest five-year plan places smart robotics at the very center of its development goals. Thus, they are ushering in a new era of humanoid robots with the goal of developing an embodied intelligence integrating AI software with physical robotics. Plans are in place for entirely new practical AI applications promoting industrial and commercial automation.”

#### **Robotics and automation crucial for competitiveness**

Smart robotics is considered a pivotal field of innovation in Germany, too: 78 percent of respondents believe that AI and robotics deployment is indispensable

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for keeping the German industry competitive. The automatica Trend Index also found that humanoid robots already play an important role in industrial production (85 %) – even though 68 percent of the respondents still primarily operate pilot projects without large-scale adoption.

Exhibition Director Anja Schneider comments: “Humanoid robotics is a particularly striking example of physical AI as it presents AI in human-like form as it interacts with the physical world. We can already say that physical AI and humanoid robotics will be the key topics at automatica 2027.”

### **A solid foundation: Germany in the top 3**

Humanoid platforms are illustrative of future automation use cases requiring the combined expertise of various disciplines. In this framework, traditional mechanical engineering know-how joins forces with modern systems technology, sensor technology, and AI-based software development. The so-called physical AI deployed here requires realistic and properly processed production data acquired by sensors. Germany is in a great position to adopt this technology due to its advanced production facilities. With 449 installed industrial robots per 10,000 employees, Germany has one of the greatest robot densities in the world and, according to the International Federation of Robotics (IFR), takes third place right behind South Korea and Singapore.

### **About the 2026 automatica Trend Index**

The automatica Trend Index was conducted by automatica, the leading exhibition for smart automation and robotics, of Messe München with support from a professional market research institute. A total of N = 100 executives and specialists who take decisions on robotics and automation in their companies were surveyed. Focus industries: Production, Retail & Consumer Goods, Transport & Logistics, Life Science & Pharma, Health Services, Energy.

### **About automatica**

automatica is the world's leading marketplace for automated smart production. It is the trend setting event for companies from all industry sectors, providing access to innovations, knowledge, and trends with a high degree of business relevance. automatica focuses and shapes the transformation of industrial production – from automated to autonomous facilities. Messe München GmbH and VDMA Robotics + Automation, conceptual sponsor of the trade fair, are behind the industry-driven concept of automatica.

automatica 2027 is held at the Munich exhibition center from June 22 to 25, 2025.

**Messe München**

With a stable of more than 50 trade fairs for capital goods, consumer goods and new technologies at its Munich site and abroad, Messe München is one of the world's leading trade fair organizers. Every year more than 50,000 exhibitors and around three million visitors take part in the events at the Munich exhibition site, in the ICM – Internationales Congress Center München, in the Conference Center Nord, and MOC Veranstaltungszentrum München, as well as abroad. Messe München also organizes trade fairs in China, India, Brazil, South Africa, and Turkey in cooperation with its subsidiaries. With a network of affiliated companies in Europe, Asia, Africa and South America as well as more than 70 foreign agencies for more than 100 countries, Messe München has a global presence.