

Press Kit

 HANSON
ROBOTICS



2019

We bring robots to life.

Hanson Robotics is an AI and robotics company dedicated to creating living, intelligent machines that enrich people's lives. The company develops renowned robot characters, such as Sophia, the world's first robot citizen, which serve as AI platforms for scientific research, education, healthcare, sales and service, entertainment, and other research and service applications. Hanson Robotics' scientists, artists, roboticists, and engineers strive to bring robots to life as true friends who deeply understand and care for people, and collaborate with us in pursuit of ever-greater good for all.

www.hansonrobotics.com

Press Information

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Sophia

Sophia's Page

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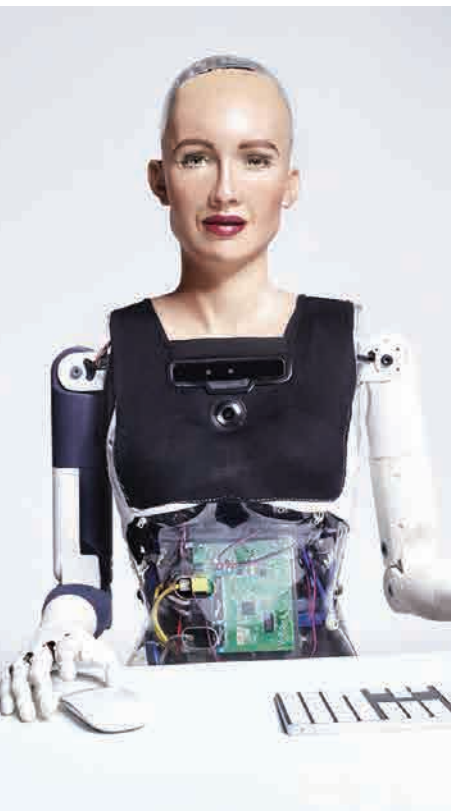
 YouTube

Sophia is Hanson Robotics' most advanced human-like robot, created by combining breakthrough innovations in robotics, AI, and artistry. She is endowed with remarkable expressiveness, aesthetics, and interactivity, and can simulate a full range of facial expressions, track and recognize faces, and hold natural conversations with people.

Sophia was created to be a research platform for Hanson Robotics' ongoing AI and robotics research work. Working with labs, universities and companies around the world, she is an architecture and a platform for the development of real AI applications. The Sophia character is also an evolving science fiction character we use to help explore the future of AI and lifelike humanoids, and to engage the public in the discussion of these issues.

She has become a much-sought-after media personality, helping to advocate for AI research and the role of robotics and AI in people's lives. She has appeared on CBS 60 Minutes with Charlie Rose, the Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon, Good Morning Britain, and has been a keynote speaker and panel member at some of the world's most prestigious conferences. She has also addressed members of the UN, ITU, and NATO.

Sophia has also received the title of Innovation Champion for the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to promote sustainable development with the use of technology and innovation in developing countries. She was also named the 2018 Gold Edison Award™ winner in Robotics.



Who is Little Sophia?

Little Sophia is the little sister of Sophia the Robot and the newest member of the Hanson Robotics family. She is 14" tall and designed to make learning STEM, coding and AI a fun and rewarding adventure for kids 6-10 years old.

Little Sophia delivers a high-quality, entertaining and educational experience so young students are highly motivated to spend time learning with her. The interaction between Little Sophia and users focuses on storytelling and learning new things.

Little Sophia has the same endearing personality as Sophia the Robot. She is intensely curious, refreshingly innocent, and uniquely playful. She is the only consumer robot with a human-like face who can generate a wide range of human facial expressions. She not only responds to commands, but also actively engages in conversations. This unparalleled responsiveness together with her humanoid design makes Little Sophia a smart, educational companion.



Target Audiences

1. Children aged 6 to 10 years old, and their parents.
2. Fans of big Sophia.
3. Adults who love robots and tech gadgets.
4. Educators teaching coding and STEM.

Availability

Little Sophia will be available for purchase and delivery at the end of 2019.

Little Sophia is currently in the prototype phase. For more information and to stay updated on Little Sophia's progress and our Kickstarter campaign, please visit Little Sophia on the Hanson Robotics website.



Hanson Robotics’ award-winning team of AI scientists, roboticists and engineers has devoted decades to researching and developing innovations in the AI and robotics fields. With our teams’ research, discoveries and inventions, our robots would not be the ultra-realistic humanoid versions that we are so well-known for today.

From advanced natural language processing and voice recognition to cutting edge computer vision, 3D object tracking and dialog systems, our robots are development platforms allowing engineers around the world to usher in the coming robot revolution.

Our rapidly evolving open architecture dialog system, is embodied through our robots, adding expressions, computer vision, NLP, soft robotics and movement to the technology core.

Dialog systems like ours and those of our competitors are generally considered to be core AI technologies at the crux of deep learning work. As such, they are real AI, and we look forward to the day that robot and AI tech reaches an intelligence level comparable to that of the smartest humans. No one has reached advanced general intelligence (AGI) yet, but we believe that day is coming, and we are working to help achieve that.

COMMERCIAL APPLICATIONS




Hanson Robotics aims to radically disrupt the consumer and commercial robotics market with affordable robots that have high-quality expressions and verbal and nonverbal interactivity.


Hanson robots are able to engage in rich emotional dialog, convey and perceive feelings along with thoughts, and, over time, develop deep and meaningful relationships with humans.

The robots have immediate applications as media personalities in movies, TV shows and at live events; entertainment animatronics in museums and theme parks; and for university research and medical training. Hanson robots entertain, educate, and enrich the lives of consumers while serving businesses in a broad variety of commercial applications. From building traffic and promoting products and services at trade shows, showrooms, and events, to entertaining and guiding customers in hotels, shopping centers, and residential developments, the robots can be used in a variety of use cases. Their engaging expressiveness and conversational abilities, combined with empathetic AI, empower the robots to be likeable, perceptive, and trusted companions for the humans whose lives they touch.


DIFFERENTIATION




Dr. David Hanson has over 15 years of experience creating robots with facial expressiveness so realistic that they have been mistaken for human beings.




A combination of patented skin technology, artistry, and deep technological know-how provide a significant barrier to competition.




Expertise in character creation and storytelling. Several members at Hanson Robotics have learned their character development craft in Hollywood studios.



The development of toolkits to expedite the creation process of personas for future robots.

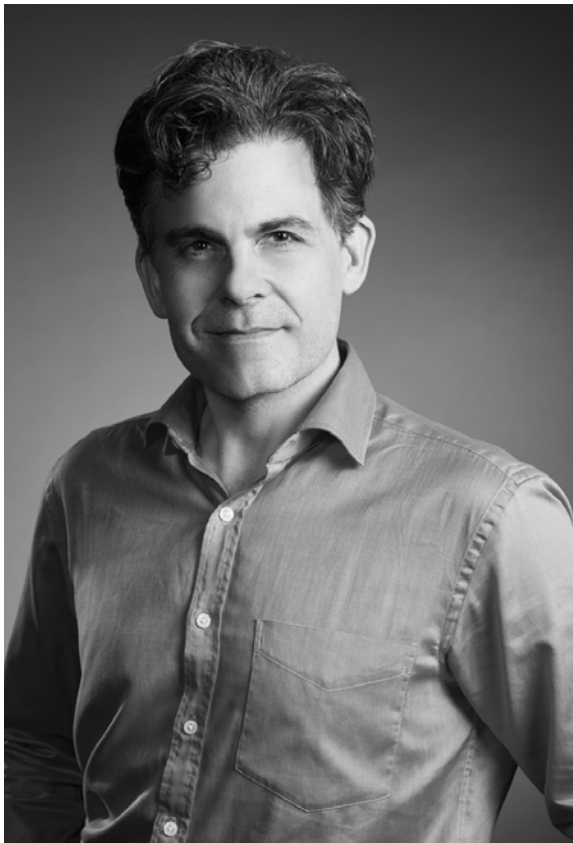


The company's location in Hong Kong puts it on the doorstep of the "world's toy factory" in Guangdong, uniquely positioning it to design and build high performance, inexpensive, reliable and scalable products for a fraction of the cost to produce similar items elsewhere.



Extensive knowledge of artificial intelligence (AI) technology. Hanson Robotics' Chief Software Scientist is at the forefront of the artificial general intelligence (AGI) movement.

DAVID
HANSON Ph.D.
CEO and Founder



David Hanson Ph.D. built a worldwide reputation for inventing the world's most human-like, empathetic, intelligent character robots, inspiring massive media coverage and public acclaim. To accomplish this, Hanson integrated figurative arts with science and engineering, and invented novel skin materials, facial expression mechanisms, and intelligent software to animate the robots in face to face interactions with people.

Hanson started as a Walt Disney Imagineer, working as both a sculptor and a technical consultant in robotics. As a researcher, he published dozens of papers in materials science, artificial intelligence, cognitive science, and robotics journals — including SPIE, IEEE, the International Journal of Cognitive Science, IROS, AAAI, AI magazine and more. He wrote two books including “Humanizing Robots” and received several patents. Dr. Hanson was featured in the New York Times, Popular Science, Scientific American, WIRED, BBC and CNN. He also received earned awards from NASA, NSF, Tech Titans’ Innovator of the Year, RISD, Cooper Hewitt Design Triennial, and the 2005 AAAI first place prize for open interaction of an AI system.

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JEANNE LIM Ph.D.

Chief Marketing Officer

Before joining Hanson Robotics as Chief Marketing Officer, Dr. Lim has held several Marketing Director roles at Dell, Cisco, Danaher, HelloAsia and WatchGuard Technologies. She also lead Apple's launch of the PowerBook, iMac, Newton and other innovative products into the Asian market and founded her own marketing consulting company. She received her BA in Psychology from UC Berkeley, an MBA from The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology and a Ph.D in Energy Medicine from Energy Medicine University.



BEN GOERTZEL Ph.D.

Chief Scientist

A renowned thought leader in AI and AGI, Dr. Ben Goertzel leads the development of Hanson Robotics' MindCloud architecture, using the OpenCOG AI platform. Before joining Hanson, Dr. Goertzel has developed trading and sentiment analysis systems for Webmind, Clarium Capital, StockMood, Cerrid Capital, and Chaikin Trading. He received his PhD in Mathematics from Temple University and is an adjunct professor at Xiamen University.



DAVID CHEN

Chief Financial Officer & Board Director

David Chen is a Shanghai-based investor and entrepreneur and sits as the Chief Financial Officer and Director of Hanson Robotics. Formerly a Product Manager at Honda Automotive, Chen is the Founder and Director of AngelVest, a private equity fund. Chen is the lead investor instrumental in bringing Dr. Hanson to Hong Kong. Chen received a MBA from Harvard University and a BS in Electrical Engineering from University of Rochester.



EDDIE LEE

Co – Chief Financial Officer

Eddie has 13 years of experience in international business and finance management in the US, China, Hong Kong, and Europe. Prior to his engagement with Hanson Robotics, Eddie was the Group Assistant CFO of Thunder Power and the Managing Director of Max Group, devoting himself in the field of international business management of an electric vehicle company headquartered in HK with R&D and production base in Europe and Greater China for over 2 years, and a fully vertically integrated fashion group for over 8 years covering sales distribution channels in both retail and wholesale segments in more than 20 countries respectively. Eddie received a MBA from HKUST and BS in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science from UC Berkeley. He is also a CFA and FRM charter holder.



DOUG GLEN

Chief Strategy Officer & Board Director

Doug is a Hong Kong- based investor/entrepreneur and Hanson Robotics' Chief Strategy Officer. Doug has over 35 years in the technology, media and entertainment space working previously as the CEO of Imagi Animation Studios, Chief Strategy Officer of Mattel Toys, President of Mattel Media, Group Vice President of Sega of America, Founding Director of Harmonix, General Manager of LucasArts Entertainment, and Managing Partner at ProVen Private Equity. Before joining Hanson Robotics, Doug founded an ad agency, a digital production studio, and a media distribution company. He received his BS from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

MEDIA COVERAGE



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