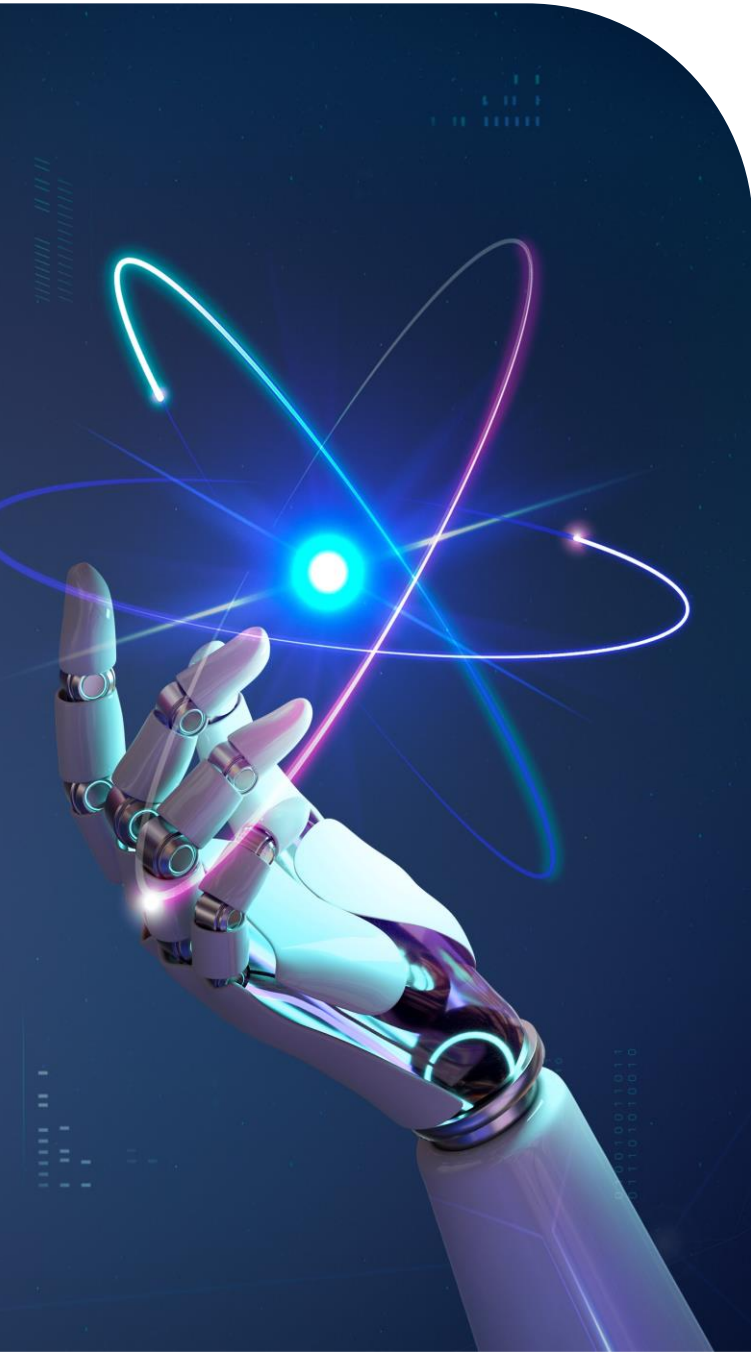


Far and Wide

Every week we share selection of six news from six continents that we believe will impact our world in the near or distant future

December 2023 | Issue #32



Europe has more AI talent than US, study finds

The European continent is now home to more highly skilled professionals in the field of **artificial intelligence than the US**, according to new research by Atomico, a Venture Capital firm headquartered in the UK. The overtaking has followed the decade of rapid progress, **with 1000% surge in tech talent** within a decade, has pushed an escalation of new startup in the continent. In 2023, AI companies raised **11 of Europe's 36 mega-rounds** of more **than \$100mn**. Of the seven companies to reach a valuation of **\$1 billion this year**, four focus on artificial intelligence: DeepL, Helsing.ai, Synthesia, and Quantexa, which has further helped Europe's ecosystem rebound to **a total value of \$3 trillion — equalling its 2021 peak**. In the last five years, Europe's IT workforce has grown from 750,000 **employees to more than 2.3 million today**, rate of job creation is now more than offsetting the redundancies highlighting the expansion of industry.

This year, the continent has seen the emergence of an **estimated 14,000 founders**, surpassing the United States by 1,000. Unfortunately, the continent's investor landscape can't yet match the ambitions of its founders. In the first five years, startups in the US are 40% more likely to secure venture capital funding. However, once initial seed investments are secured, the likelihood of reaching a billion-dollar valuation is same between Europe and the US. This underscores the need for improved access to institutional investments in Europe. Atomico also emphasizes the transformative impact that funding a single company can have, citing the example of Skype. Alumni from Skype's network of entrepreneurs have successfully launched over **900 companies spanning 50 countries**, a phenomenon referred to as the **"flywheel effect."** Additionally, to sustain and enhance this momentum, increased support from investors is crucial to keep the **"flywheel effect" in the industry.**

INSIDE

Stories in Focus



Health

Hospitals in China gearing up for spike in respiratory cases



Global Trade & Policy

South Korea Seeks Naval Shipbuilding Opportunities In North America

Australian education in long-term decline due to poor curriculum, report says



Technology

Europe has more AI talent than US, study finds

U.S. and African Development Bank Collaborate to Accelerate Africa's Digital Transformation



Promoting Green Energy

Cargill Announces Commitment to Eliminate Deforestation and Land Conversion in Brazil, Argentina and Uruguay by 2025



Europe

Europe is now home to 2.3mn AI tech talent, more than US, study finds



European tech industry has started to bring the shine back with AI taking the turbocharge of the recovery. The overtaking of the skilled workforce in Europe has followed a decade of rapid progress, with a **1000% surge in tech talent** within a decade, which has pushed an escalation of new startups in the continent. In 2023, AI companies **raised 11 of Europe's 36 mega-rounds** of more than \$100mn. Of the seven companies **to reach a valuation of \$1 billion this year**, four focus on artificial intelligence: DeepL, Helsing.ai, Synthesia, and Quantexa, which has further helped Europe's ecosystem rebound to **a total value of \$3 trillion — equalling its 2021 peak**. In the last five years, Europe's IT workforce has grown from 750,000 employees to more **than 2.3 million today**. The rate of job creation is now more than offsetting the redundancies highlighting the expansion of industry.

This year, the continent has seen the emergence of an estimated **14,000 founders, surpassing the United States by 1,000**. Unfortunately, the continent's investor landscape can't yet match the ambitions of its founders. In the first five years, startups in the **US are 40% more** likely to secure venture capital funding. This underscores the need for improved access to institutional investments in Europe. Atomico also emphasizes the transformative impact that funding a single company can have, citing the example of Skype. In order to sustain and enhance the growth momentum, increased support from investors is crucial to keep the "flywheel effect" in the industry.

Source: The Next Web

<https://thenextweb.com/news/european-ai-supporting-tech-sector-recovery>



North America

South Korea Seeks Naval Shipbuilding Opportunities In North America

South Korea's Defence Acquisition Program Administration (DAPA) along with delegates from the nation's leading shipbuilding companies visited U.S. shipyards and met with the U.S. **Navy's Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA)** from November 13th to November 17th to tour facilities and discuss opportunities for mutual cooperation. The South Korean delegation included representatives from HD Hyundai Heavy Industries, Hanwha Ocean, HJ Heavy Industries, and SK Ocean Plant, all of which are esteemed for their proficiency in building naval vessels for the Republic of Korea Navy.

This visit has brought industry and government representatives from both nations to discuss on a new mutual cooperation to solve challenges and explore opportunities. Additionally, concurrent meetings between researchers from **Korean Agency for Defense Development (ADD)**, Defense Agency for Technology and Quality (DTaQ) and **U.S. NSWC** were held to explore cooperation in advanced technology development and quality improvement for naval ships, including the establishment of manned and unmanned integrated control systems and quality assurance during ship design stages. **Hanwha Ocean's strategic move into the North American defense market** includes establishing a U.S. subsidiary **Hanwha Ocean US Holding Company and potential acquisitions**, reflecting a broader plan to capture naval vessel sales. Speculation surrounds Hanwha Ocean's interest in Philly Shipyard, though both companies remain cautious in confirming any decision.



Source: Naval News

[South Korea seeks naval shipbuilding opportunities in North America - Naval News](#)



South America

Cargill Announces Commitment to Eliminate Deforestation and Land Conversion in Brazil, Argentina and Uruguay by 2025



As an initiative to protect **South America's natural ecosystem**, Cargill is announcing a commitment to eliminate deforestation and land conversion from its direct and indirect supply chain in **Brazil, Argentina, and Uruguay by 2025**. The commitment spans several important commodities in the global food system, including in-country origination of soy, corn, wheat, and cotton, building upon the company's global commitment of deforestation-free commodities and conversion-free soy across South America by 2030. Combined, Argentina, Brazil and Uruguay provide **approximately 30 percent of the world's trade flows** and 13 percent of total production of in-country originate crops. Cargill's commitment will help protect native vegetation and support sustainable agriculture in these countries. Cargill will leverage **World Resources Institute's (WRI)** geospatial expertise alongside improved traceability to strengthen its monitoring, reporting and verification of natural ecosystems and farm areas. WRI is committed to supporting implementation for deforestation- and conversion-free supply chains, which are critical components of food security, biodiversity conservation, and climate action.

Cargill is dedicated towards empowering farmers and prioritizing sustainability in the long-term strategy. **The ESG report of 2023**, outlines the company's efforts in key areas of sustainable agriculture. "At Cargill, we are actively shaping a future where critical ecosystems will be protected for generations to come," said Pilar Cruz, Cargill's Chief Sustainability Officer.

Source: Business Wire

[Cargill Announces Commitment to Eliminate Deforestation and Land Conversion in Brazil, Argentina and Uruguay by 2025 | Business Wire](#)



Asia

Hospitals in China gearing up for spike in respiratory cases

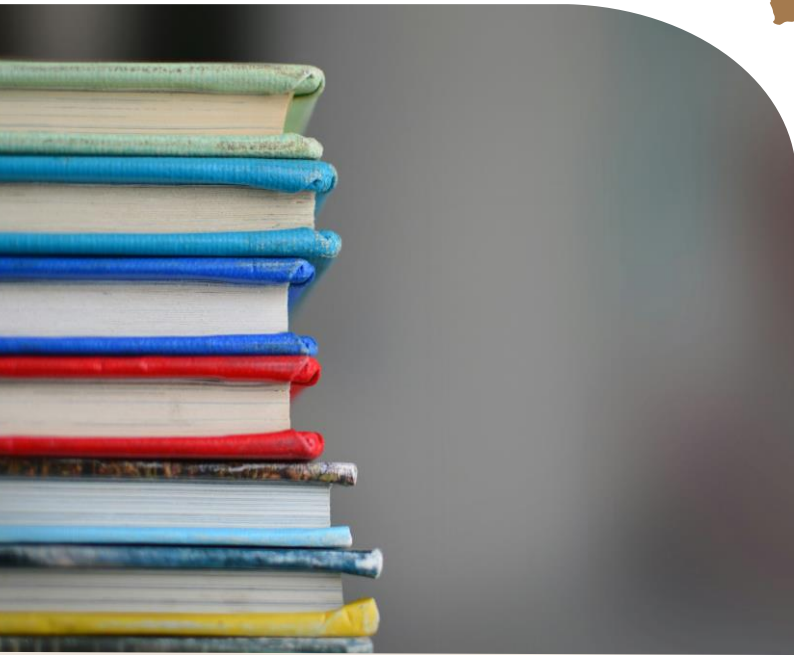
The recent surge of cases relating to **respiratory illness in China** is attributed to the simultaneous spread of **multiple pathogens**, and hospitals are gearing up to handle a surge in patients, health officials and experts said on 26 November 2023. The spokesman of the National Health Commission, Mi Feng, stated that **while influenza is the dominant respiratory virus in circulation at present**, rhinovirus, mycoplasma pneumoniae, respiratory syncytial virus and adenovirus are also on the rise. **Children from age 1 to 4 and 5 to 14** have become vulnerable to these infections. In order to reduce the risk of cross infections and burden on **hospital, public to be guided to use online** hospitals and visit grassroots medical institutions, along with an urge to get vaccination and take protective measures. The rising infections have filled the hospitals to capacity, people are facing issues in obtaining doctor appointments, especially at pediatric facilities.

The commission said earlier last week **that primary medical institutions'** capability in handling mild cases and detecting early signs of severe symptoms should be strengthened. Measures are also **being implemented in places** with vulnerable populations, such as schools and elderly care homes, to reduce the flow of people and visits. In Hangzhou, clinics for respiratory and fever are extending service hours to meet public needs, and additional support personnel have been mobilized to address the increased demand for respiratory disease clinics.



Source: ANN (Asia News Network)

[Hospitals in China gearing up for spike in respiratory cases - Asia News Network](#)



Australia

Australian education in long-term decline due to poor curriculum, report says

The education research and consulting group Learning First released findings in November 2023, benchmarking **Australia's science curriculum** against seven comparable education systems. The report found that Australian students were **learning 44 science topics** in their **first nine years of schooling compared** with an average of 74. Australia's curriculum also lacked the depth of learning – with five topics covered in depth compared with an **average of 22 across** the same timeframe. Since the introduction of the Australian National Curriculum, student performance in international science assessments is now one full year below where it was, with results also falling in reading and maths. Compared with students in the highest-performing country, Singapore, Australians were more **than a year behind in reading**, about three years behind in mathematics, and almost two years behind in science. The report hints towards the need for a curriculum overhaul citing **New South Wales' draft of its new year 7-to-10 curriculum**, which includes over **50% more science content**. A spokesperson for Acara, responsible for the Australian curriculum, defends the current version, Version 9.0, calling it "world-class" and highlighting its endorsement by all education ministers in April 2022.

Source: The Guardian

[Australian education in long-term decline due to poor curriculum, report says | Australian education | The Guardian](#)



Africa

U.S. and African Development Bank Collaborate to Accelerate Africa's Digital Transformation

A new **strategic collaboration** has been announced by the U.S. Commercial Service and the **African Development Bank**, to drive digital transformation across Africa. The collaboration catalyses opportunities through a **series of dialogues** on potential ways in which U.S. digital innovation can **support development goals** across Africa. **The key themes** would include embracing new technologies, improving internet access, enhancing skills, **and creating a regulatory environment** conducive to innovation etc. for the discussion. Both countries will readily explore areas of collaboration aiming towards **economic growth** and ways to tap the potential of Africa's emerging markets through American technology firms. The initiative is built on **\$2 billion investment** by African Development Bank in digital infrastructure which includes development of regional and **national broadband** the creation of **favorable policy environments** for private sector investments, the expansion of digital skills, and the support of innovative enterprises. As a result of bank's efforts, the cost of internet access has been lowered, digital literacy has improved, and a business-friendly policy environment has been successfully cultivated. With the expertise of the U.S. Commercial Service in international trade, the collaboration aims towards leading the digital transformation in Africa, envisioning a future where technology catalyzes growth and prosperity.



Source: African Development Bank Group

[U.S. and African Development Bank Collaborate to Accelerate Africa's Digital Transformation | African Development Bank Group - Making a Difference \(afdb.org\)](#)