

TOP NEWS

Chinese companies willing to ramp up AI investment

By FAN FEIFEI
fanfeifei@chinadaily.com.cn

Chinese companies are accelerating the adoption of generative artificial intelligence, as the cutting-edge disruptive technology presents a significant opportunity for enterprises to boost operational efficiency, remain competitive and navigate the complex business landscape, according to a new report released by global consultancy Accenture.

The report said that 87 percent of the surveyed Chinese companies plan to ramp up AI investment in 2025 — a year of rapid change — while 58 percent of the interviewed business executives in China feel that their enterprises’ AI development is proceeding faster than initially expected.

Chinese enterprises’ current investment in generative AI is mainly concentrated on core technology infrastructure and data, such as AI platforms, cloud and data management, and talent and skills development, Accenture said in the report.

Inside

The top three reasons for higher investment in generative AI that Chinese company executives cited are capitalizing on advances in the technology, maintaining business competitiveness and increasing confidence in managing associated business risks, according to the report.

The top three areas in which the surveyed companies plan to implement generative AI in 2025 are information technology, engineering and manufacturing, and research and development, the report added. Chinese executives’ primary focus for investment in generative AI is creating new AI-powered products or services.

Generative AI refers to computer algorithms trained with huge amounts of data capable of generating content such as images, text, audio and video in a human-like fashion. It is the key technology underpinning United States-based research company OpenAI’s ChatGPT.

The report also found that in



Artificial intelligence-aided robots sort products at a logistics center of a garment company in Huzhou, Zhejiang province, on Wednesday. NI LIFANG / FOR CHINA DAILY

China, 77 percent of employees believe their roles will be affected by generative AI. About 85 percent of the interviewed Chinese employees are currently using generative AI-based tools in their work, with 63 percent leveraging these tools for more than a year, and their main purpose is for data analysis.

Nearly 60 percent of surveyed business leaders in China said they expect their generative AI solutions to be adopted on a large scale within their organizations this year, a 32-percent-age-point increase over 2024.

The research surveyed 790 company executives and 687 employees in 22 industries across the Asia-Pacific region.

Yu Yi, technology lead at Accenture China, said that as companies strive to stay ahead and adapt to fast-changing markets, they are increasingly turning to state-of-the-art AI technology to fuel their innovation efforts, adding that the proportion of Chinese companies stepping up investment and boosting the application of AI is rising dramatically.

He noted that Chinese enterprises have sped up digital transformation in their globalization push, with more generative AI technologies having been adopted amid enterprises’ efforts to expand their footprint in overseas markets.

Data from market research company CCID Consulting showed that China’s AI industry will make big strides in the next 10 to 15 years, with its market scale reaching 1.73 trillion yuan (\$237.4 billion) by 2035, accounting for 30.6 percent of the world’s total.

Industry insiders estimated that China’s generative AI will make technological breakthroughs and accelerate its integration with a wider range of fields in 2025.

The recent launch of DeepSeek-R1, an open-source and cost-effective AI model developed by Chinese startup DeepSeek, has captured worldwide attention and sent shockwaves through the tech industry.

The performance of DeepSeek’s latest model is on par with leading models from tech heavyweights such

as OpenAI in tasks like mathematics, coding and natural language reasoning, but at only a fraction of the cost and computing power of its rivals amid tightened export controls on AI chips from the US.

Pan Helin, a member of the Expert Committee for Information and Communication Economy, which is part of the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology, said the meteoric rise of DeepSeek has not only demonstrated Chinese companies’ growing independent innovation capacities in the fast-developing AI sector, but also promoted the evolution of the global AI ecosystem in an open and inclusive direction.

CITIC Securities said in a research note that despite the constraints of advanced chips, homegrown AI models have made significant technological progress based on low costs, high performance and open-source features, which will bolster the development of the domestic AI industry and drive the application of AI technology in a more diverse range of fields.

Animated feature tops nation’s all-time box office charts

By XU FAN
xufan@chinadaily.com.cn

Continuing its soaring momentum during the just concluded Spring Festival holiday, the animated blockbuster *Ne Zha 2* surpassed the 2021 war epic *The Battle at Lake Changjin* to claim the top spot on China’s all-time box office charts, signaling the domestic market’s huge potential.

Within just eight days from its debut on Jan 29, the film — a sequel to the 2019 top-grossing movie *Ne Zha* — raked in 6 billion yuan (\$822.9 million), with its final earnings estimated to reach 9.42 billion yuan, according to industry tracker Maoyan Pro.

After five years of production, which included over two years dedicated to script editing, the 144-minute movie boasts 2,400 shots, of which 1,900, or nearly 80 percent, are special-effects scenes, according to Coloroom Pictures, its production company.

Directed by Yang Yu, the franchise employs a bold and innovative narrative to reinterpret the titular character, a renowned figure in Chinese mythology.

Originally depicted as a mischievous celestial being in the Ming



A moviegoer takes a photo of a display board for *Ne Zha 2*, the highest-grossing film in Chinese history, at a movie theater in Hangzhou, Zhejiang province, on Thursday. LONG WEI / FOR CHINA DAILY

Dynasty (1368-1644) novel *Fengshen Yanyi* (*The Investiture of the Gods*), the character evolved into a heroic figure who fights against feudal patriarchy in the 1979 classic animated film *Nezha Conquers the Dragon King*.

In the 2019 film, the character’s traditional image was subverted with an unconventional design — a child sporting dark circles under his eyes and a gap-toothed smile — a departure from the previous handsome portrayal. Through humor and

unexpected twists, the movie has quickly captivated audiences by recounting an unlikely hero who fights his unfair fate.

This year’s sequel has adhered to the familiar formula but expanded upon it, delving into a deeper and broader theme. Even villains like Shen Gongbao, a leopard demon turned celestial being, are portrayed with seemingly rational motivations for their actions, resulting in all characters possessing profound personalities.

In recent years, *Ne Zha 2* was one of the most anticipated animated films, earning it a lot of popularity even before its release on the first day of the Year of the Snake, said Lai Li, an analyst with Maoyan Pro.

With the new sequel garnering a high score of 8.5 points out of 10 on the popular review aggregator Douban, Lai said that it will encourage more Chinese filmmakers to focus on creating quality works and improving visual effects.

Yuan Yun’er, a Beijing-based critic, said the film effectively targeted family audiences during the festival with its touching storytelling, which resonates with many viewers.

In addition, the film’s successful marketing strategy, exemplified by its authorization of subscribers on social platforms like Bilibili to take promotional videos for generating their own content, has further boosted its online popularity and garnered positive word-of-mouth praise, she added.

Rao Shuguang, president of the China Film Critics Association, hailed the film as a significant milestone for the Chinese film industry, attributing its box office success to its incorporation of Chinese mythology with modern expressions.

Monitoring of blood glucose revolutionized

Noninvasive detection method for diabetic patients shuns finger pricking

By ZHOU WENTING in Shanghai
zhouwenting@chinadaily.com.cn

Researchers have devised a revolutionary, noninvasive method to monitor blood glucose, allowing for accurate measurements of blood glucose level by simply placing a palm on a monitoring device, Ruijin Hospital in Shanghai said on Wednesday.

Medical experts said that such an innovative monitoring method, which eliminates the need for painful finger pricks or blood draws associated with traditional glucose monitoring methods, may significantly enhance patients’ compliance with regular blood glucose monitoring and improve their quality of life.

Diabetes is a serious public health problem, affecting more than 500 million people around the world. The prevalence of diabetes among adults in China is as high as 12 percent, according to national data from last year.

Effective and regular blood glucose monitoring is the foundation of diabetes management, and the commonly used blood glucose monitoring methods require invasive actions involving the skin, which may cause problems, such as pain and infection, and pose challenges for patients’ compliance with long-term monitoring.

Noninvasive blood glucose detection technology has been at the frontier of research in recent decades, but it has faced challenges in accuracy and versatility.

In the new research, a team used optical coherence tomography technology to determine the distribution range of human epidermal thickness, enabling the targeted development of the noninvasive blood glucose monitoring technique based on what is known as multiple μ -spatially offset Raman spectroscopy (μ muSORS).

The technology enables simultaneous detection of subcutaneous tissues at different depths while effectively reducing background signal interference from the epidermis, or outermost layer of skin, and thus enhances glucose monitoring accuracy, according to the researchers.

“In the first phase of the study, we determined that the optimal detection depth of noninvasive blood glucose monitoring comes from or below the dermal-epidermal junction, where there are rich

capillaries and interstitial fluid carrying information about blood glucose,” said Wang Weiqing, a leading researcher on the team.

“Also, we confirmed that (the new method) can effectively collect human blood glucose-related Raman spectral signals in a completely noninvasive manner. And an analytical algorithm showed that the spectra of the extracted main factors are found to be highly consistent with the Raman spectra of glucose,” said Wang, who is a professor at the National Clinical Research Center for Metabolic Diseases at Ruijin Hospital Affiliated with Shanghai Jiao Tong University School of Medicine.



A patient uses a noninvasive blood glucose monitoring device at Ruijin Hospital in Shanghai. PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

In the second phase of the research, the team validated the accuracy and universality of the technology through clinical studies involving 200 patients with diabetes and 30 healthy individuals. Their study confirmed that the average absolute error between the noninvasive blood glucose readings and venous blood glucose readings was 14.6 percent, with 99.4 percent of the noninvasive readings falling within the acceptable range regarding clinical error.

“Another advantage is that the technology doesn’t require calibration for different individuals, and is suitable for diverse populations across various age groups, skin colors and body shapes, laying the foundation for future large-scale applications,” Wang said.

A paper about the study, which was a joint effort by researchers from the National Clinical Research Center for Metabolic Diseases at Ruijin Hospital, the Medical Chip Research Institute of Ruijin Hospital, and PhoVie, a Shanghai-based enterprise that focuses on combining integrated circuit chip technology and biotechnology, was published on Wednesday on the website of online-only journal Nature Metabolism.

Ties: China, Thailand mark Golden Jubilee of friendship

From page 1

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Thailand, as well as the Golden Jubilee of China-Thailand Friendship.

Bilateral trade last year reached \$133.98 billion, up 6.1 percent year-on-year, according to China’s General Administration of Customs.

Paetongtarn said Bangkok looks forward to working with Beijing to boost high-level exchanges, enhance cooperation on connectivity, economy, trade and agriculture, and promote people-to-people exchanges to usher in the next five decades of shared peace and prosperity.

Xi said China is ready to work with Thailand to align development strategies, expand mutually beneficial cooperation, and “effectively implement flagship projects such as the China-Thailand Railway”.

Before Paetongtarn’s trip to China, Thailand’s Cabinet approved on Tuesday the second phase of the high-speed rail project, which will connect the Southeast Asian country with China through Laos.

Also on Thursday, Premier Li Qiang and Zhao Leji, chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People’s Congress, met separately with Paetongtarn in Beijing.

In an interview with China Daily, Paetongtarn said her visit to China “has been very amazing”.

Referring to her tight schedule on Thursday, she said, “It’s been a long day for me, but I don’t feel like it’s a long day at all”.

She said she takes the safety of Chinese citizens in Thailand “seriously”, and has looked into the security aspects herself.

“Thai people always come to China and feel like home, so I hope that Chinese people can come to Thailand and feel like home as well,” she said.

Speaking to the Thai leader on collaboration in regional and global affairs, Xi said China supports Thailand’s role as co-chair of the Lancang-Mekong Cooperation mechanism and congratulates Thailand on becoming a BRICS partner country.

Beijing will work closely with Bangkok to firmly defend the international system with the United Nations at its core and the international order based on international law, enhance the unity and cooperation of the Global South, safeguard world peace and promote common development, he added.

Paetongtarn said that Thailand is willing to strengthen coordination and collaboration with China to address global challenges.

Harbin: Cambodia, Saudi Arabia to make Winter Asiad debut

From page 1

With more countries and regions from Southeast and West Asia joining in, the Harbin edition of the Winter Asiad, which features a record number of 34 participating delegations, has witnessed the expansion of winter sports in Asia.

Cambodia and Saudi Arabia are both making their Games debut in Harbin, while more than 10 countries and regions from Asia’s usually snowless areas, including Thailand and Kuwait, will be competing in a wider range of sports than at previous Games.

Thailand, a continental power in summer events, such as soccer, badminton and golf, is committed to promoting winter sports as well, in a bid to help diversify its leisure and tourism sector, said Yuthaya Cheenheet, director of the Elite

Sports Development Department of the Sports Authority of Thailand.

“We are a hot country; we don’t have snow and we don’t have a winter sports training center yet. But we need to develop our winter sports to try and catch up with international standards,” Cheenheet said at Beijing Capital International Airport on Wednesday before boarding a flight to Harbin.

“I totally agree that it’s a good move to expand winter sports, particularly ice events at indoor facilities, to some tropical countries as well, because it’s helpful for developing an economy around sports and tourism,” he added.

A record number of 87 Thai athletes have signed up to compete in six sports at Harbin 2025, with some set to make surprising appearances in altitude events such as ski mountaineering and alpine skiing.

Cambodia’s debut Winter Asiad

campaign, featuring four teen snowboarders set to compete in the men’s half-pipe, is expected to send home an encouraging message, no matter where their athletes land in the high-flying discipline, said Vath Chamroeun, secretary-general of the National Olympic Committee of Cambodia.

“This is the first time for Cambodia, as a tropical and hot country, to have a team participate at the Asian Winter Games,” Chamroeun told Xinhua News Agency. The country’s participation reflects the vision of the International Olympic Committee to encourage more countries and regions that have hot weather, or are without snow and ice, to participate in winter sports, he added.

With the next Asian Winter Games to be held in Saudi Arabia in 2029 at Trojena, a resort situated in the heart of the country’s northwestern mountain regions, interest in

promoting winter sports and related tourism businesses has been piqued across the Gulf nations.

Kuwait is one of the ambitious newcomers from West Asia that is determined to make some noise in Harbin with a 65-strong contingent of athletes.

“Our participation in Harbin will be Kuwait’s largest since our debut in 1999,” said Fahid Al-Ajmi, head of the Kuwaiti delegation. Kuwaiti teams have undergone rigorous preparation at domestic as well as international training camps, and they will compete hard to make their presence felt in Harbin, Al-Ajmi added.

Jasem Al-Awadhi, the captain of Kuwait’s ice hockey team and a three-time Asian Winter Games veteran, said, “We are determined to secure victories and elevate Kuwait’s standing, building on our thorough preparation.”