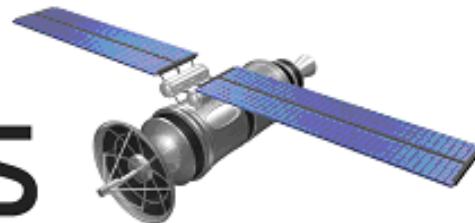


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Intel India to open Maker Lab for start-ups

Local innovators and start-ups will get a boost in their capabilities with Intel India's plan to build and open Maker Lab, an innovation centre, in its Bengaluru campus, a report from The Economic Times stated. The move is also intended to speed up hardware design innovation in the country.

The timing of the plan is perfect as the Indian government offers tax incentives and higher foreign direct investment limits, among others, to attract more companies from abroad. In addition, Asia's third largest economy is slowly becoming enthusiastic about the concept of maker spaces. Among the top maker spaces in its shores right now are Workbench Projects and IKP EDEN.

Man or machine? Robots on the rise

Since manufacturers introduced the first robot arms onto assembly lines in the early 1960s, the fear that they will take human jobs has slowly spread. European Automation's Darren Halford continues the discussion.

In facilities all around the world, many jobs have already been delegated to robots, including assembly; farming; surgery, and even vacuuming.

This speed of technological change has led Google's director of engineering, Ray Kurzweil, to estimate that robots will, "reach human levels of intelligence by 2029".

For many, the idea of artificial intelligence (AI) surpassing human intellect is a daunting thought.

While certainly not the first example of evil AI in pop culture, HAL the homicidal computer from 2001: A Space Odyssey is a prime example of the recurring 'robot uprising' theme we see depicted in film and literature.

Fears of financial crisis rise as Russia's economy shrinks

Russia's economy contracted by 4.6 per cent in the second quarter compared with the same period in 2014, the largest drop in six years, marking the country's first recession since the financial crisis in 2009.

The Federal Statistics Office did not offer any details with its first estimate, but analysts said the preliminary figure was likely to be revised downward as sectoral statistics — which includes retail sales, industrial production and household incomes — pointed to an even steeper drop in real terms.

The 4.6 per cent contraction was slightly worse than analysts' consensus estimate. Economists warned that the renewed slide in oil prices, which has pushed the rouble lower, would make a quick recovery even more unlikely.

Chip fab location still unconfirmed; company coming 'could become huge,' expert says

It has been almost three weeks since the public learned of an agreement between New York state and Austrian semiconductor company AMS for the placement of a computer chip manufacturing plant somewhere in the state.

Yet there is still no indication from state officials about where the plant will go.

Local officials this week would point only to their previous statements about the strengths of a site in Marcy that has been groomed for such a plant for more than a decade.

But experts in the computer chip field said wherever the chip fabrication plant, known as a fab, goes, it will be a benefit.

"I'm sure everybody in New York is hoping their area gets picked," said Jim Feldhan, president of Semico Research Corp., a market research and consulting firm. "AMS has been around a long time and they are well established."

The company gave public notice of the agreement, as required by European law, on July 27.