ITALIAN TRADE AGENCY

ITA Beijing Office

NEWSLETTER

HI-TECH & INNOVATION
16 - 22 November 2026



China Completes Maiden Flight of Solar-Powered Commercial Drone
China has completed the maiden flight of a solar-powered electric drone with an 8-meter wingspan and a designed endurance of up to 30 hours. Developed for low-cost, rapid deployment and mass production, the aircraft targets long-distance pipeline and water infrastructure inspections, land surveys, disaster response and large-area monitoring. **(Xinhua)**

China Advances High-Precision Underground Navigation Technology
China has developed a BeiDou-based underground positioning system enabling navigation where satellite signals cannot reach. Field tests show pedestrian positioning accuracy of better than 0.2 meters, while a domestically developed UWB chip supports precise navigation. Applications include smart parking, underground logistics, autonomous mining vehicles and personnel safety monitoring. **(People's Daily)**

South Africa and China to Expand Science and Technology Cooperation
South Africa plans to deepen science and technology cooperation with China, focusing on space information technology, digital healthcare and smart hospitals. The partnership also covers AI, agriculture, energy and mining. A bilateral forum in Wuhan will bring together government officials, businesses and researchers to explore practical applications of joint innovation. **(Xinhua)**

China Expands International Cooperation on Practical AI Applications
China has signed an agreement with three Asian engineering and academic organizations to establish an AI application cooperation center serving Southeast Asia. The center will focus on SME training, industrial pilot projects, joint research and technical standards. Cooperation with Brazil will also explore AI, agricultural automation and engineering education. **(China Daily)**

China Advances Clinical Research on Noninvasive Brain-Computer Interfaces
A Tianjin University-led project has completed China's first clinical research filing for a noninvasive brain-computer interface under new biomedical regulations. The system combines brain-signal detection, spinal cord stimulation and a powered exoskeleton to support walking rehabilitation in stroke patients. The study will assess safety and feasibility; clinical benefits remain unproven. **(China Daily)**