

NEWSLETTER

INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY (ICT)

26 January – 1 February 2026



China completes first phase of 6G technology trials

China has completed the first phase of its 6G technology trials, building a reserve of over 300 key technologies, the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology said. The second trial phase has begun. China has deployed 4.838 million 5G base stations and over 1.2 billion users, accounting for 42 percent of global standard-essential 5G patents, underscoring its advanced information infrastructure. **(China Daily)**

China clears key hurdle in its chip manufacturing push

China has developed its first domestically made tandem-type high-energy hydrogen ion implanter, ending reliance on foreign equipment for a critical semiconductor process. The breakthrough strengthens supply-chain security and supports localization of power chip manufacturing. As global semiconductor revenue nears \$1 trillion, driven by AI demand, it boosts China's technological autonomy amid tightening tech restrictions. **(China Daily)**

China reports policy-led record highs in sales of home appliances, communication devices in 2025

China's consumer goods trade-in policy drove record 2025 retail sales: home appliances hit 1.17 trillion yuan (\$167 billion) and communication devices 1.01 trillion yuan (\$144 billion). Over 91 million digital products and 129 million appliances were traded, mostly high-efficiency models. Mid-to-high-end AI smartphones dominated, while 360 million trade-in subsidy applications boosted related sales past 2.6 trillion yuan (\$372 billion). **(Xinhua)**

Computing power woven into hair-thin fibers, paving way for smart clothes, brain implants

Chinese scientists have embedded computing functions into hair-thin, flexible fibers, enabling chips to be woven into textiles. The fiber chips integrate processing, memory and signal functions, withstand extreme bending, and pack up to 100,000 transistors per centimeter. The breakthrough could enable smart clothing, virtual-reality haptics and safer brain-computer implants compatible with large-scale manufacturing. **(Xinhua)**

China spurs Africa's leap in AI technology

Chinese firms are accelerating AI adoption in Africa by promoting open-source models that cut costs for startups amid scarce computing power. Africa's digital economy is valued at about \$180 billion. China filed over 38,000 generative AI patents from 2014–2023, hosts 5,300 AI firms, and its AI industry exceeded 900 billion yuan (\$126.7 billion) in 2024, supporting inclusive, localized AI development. **(China Daily)**