

## NEWSLETTER

### MACHINERY & AUTOMOTIVE

18 - 24 May 2026



#### **China's industrial robot output hit 237,600 units in Q1, up 33% year on year**

Data from the National Bureau of Statistics shows that, in the first quarter of 2026 China's industrial robot output hit 237,600 units, up 33.2% year on year. Exports reached 3.157 billion yuan (\$463.59 million), a year-on-year increase of 42%, while the export volume increased by 14.5% year-on-year. The industry is shifting from single-product exports to technology, solutions and services. **(CMTBA)**

#### **Shanghai announced that 100,000 humanoid robots to be deployed in factories**

On May 18, 2026, Shanghai announced its goal of deploying 100,000 humanoid robots in its factories by the end of the 15th Five-Year Plan period (2026-2030), achieving an intelligent robot application penetration rate of over 80% in large-scale industrial enterprises. This marks the first time in China that a specific, quantifiable target for the humanoid robot market has been set at the local policy level. **(Tencent News)**

#### **Auto sector vrooms into new growth era**

According to statistics from the China Association of Automobile Manufacturers, new electric vehicles (NEVs) made up 53.2% of China's new car sales in April, up from 47.3% a year earlier. Chinese brands are steadily transforming towards the high-end market, with their passenger vehicles capturing a record 75% domestic market share in April, a record high. **(China Daily)**

#### **China car exports maintain strong momentum in April**

In the first four months, although China's auto output and sales fell 5.5% and 4.8% year-on-year, exports rose 61.5% to 3.127 million units; NEVs exports doubled to 1.384 million. Breakthroughs in battery technology, global cooperation, and increased brand awareness have helped Chinese brands take 61% of the global NEV market, and automakers sped up overseas expansion. **(China Daily)**

#### **Foreign carmakers repurpose Chinese plants as export hubs**

Nation's efficient manufacturing ecosystem helping develop vehicles for overseas markets. Foreign automakers are turning their China plants into export hubs. Nissan, Hyundai, Volkswagen use China's cost and tech advantages to export vehicles. Joint ventures revitalize idle capacity; NEVs are expected to make up over 60% of China's auto exports this year. **(China Daily)**