

Today's headlines suggest a sector in which the only certainty is acceleration. Samsung has unveiled yet another generation of foldables, as though the hinged form factor might finally yield to gravity through sheer repetition alone. In Shanghai, an AI firm called TARS won a prestigious academic award for its "embodied" intelligence — a phrase that sounds more like science fiction than engineering, until one considers how quickly the latter has become the former. Meanwhile Dassault Systèmes absorbed ArisGlobal, a move that adds artificial intelligence to life-sciences software in much the way one might add salt to soup: quietly, and with consequences best measured over years rather than quarters.

Hardware

Samsung folds the future once more — and again

London · 23 July 2026

At its second Galaxy Unpacked event of the year, Samsung announced the Z Fold 8, the Z Fold 8 Ultra, and the Z Flip 8 — a trio of devices whose very existence raises more questions than it resolves.

The announcement was made in London on Wednesday, a city chosen perhaps because British consumers still purchase foldables at rates that exceed even South Korea's. The new Fold 8 continues the trend toward thinner hinges and larger inner displays; the Ultra variant adds what reviewers are calling "a genuinely useful" camera array, which is to say an improvement measurable rather than merely perceptual. Early reviews of the Z Flip 8 suggest a mixed verdict: welcome changes alongside concerns that have persisted since the first generation.

The broader point, however, is not any single device but the strategy behind them. Samsung has now held two Unpacked events in twelve months — a cadence that would exhaust even the most devoted tech enthusiast. The foldable market, once a novelty, is approaching a size at which it must begin to compete on merits rather than novelty alone. Whether it will remain novel for long enough to discover those merits is an open question.

Source: Gadgets 360 / MSN

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Artificial Intelligence

TARS wins SAIL award at WAIC 2026, promises "trustworthy physical AI"

Shanghai · 23 July 2026

TARS, an AI firm with a name borrowed from a Christopher Nolan film, debuted at the World Artificial Intelligence Conference (WAIC) 2026 and took home a prestigious SAIL award for its "AWE" embodied foundation model.

The company described its vision as one of "trustworthy physical AI" — a phrase that does considerable rhetorical work. Trustworthiness, after all, is not merely an engineering problem; it is also a social one. An embodied system that can navigate a factory floor with precision may still struggle to justify its existence to the workers whose tasks it has absorbed.

What distinguishes TARS's approach — or at least what its press material suggests it distinguishes — is the attempt to build foundation models for physical action rather than language alone. The SAIL award, administered by a consortium of academic institutions, carries weight in certain circles. Whether it will translate into commercial traction remains to be seen.

Source: WOWK 13 News / PR Newswire

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In brief

PitchBook and Madrona are set to discuss AI and capital concentration at Seattle Tech Week, a timely pairing given how venture funding continues to cluster around a small number of firms. The implication is that the next wave of AI investment may prove less democratic than the last.

Nordic Capital's sale of ArisGlobal to Dassault Systèmes represents a quiet consolidation in life-sciences software. The platform has been repositioned as an "AI-enabled" operation — a descriptor that, like "trustworthy," means different things depending on who is using it.

Security & Infrastructure

Ontinue wins Gold Stevie for autonomous security operations

Zurich · 23 July 2026

Ontinue, a managed security provider, received a Gold Stevie® Award for its work in "autonomous, governed security operations" — a phrase that captures the industry's current ambition: machines that detect and respond to threats without human intervention, yet remain accountable to humans who may not understand how they arrived at their conclusions.

The award, given by the Stevie® Awards Foundation, recognises achievement in business innovation. The real test for Ontinue will be whether its platform can demonstrate that "autonomous" does not mean "opaque." Cybersecurity firms have long struggled with the tension between speed and explainability; an AI that acts faster than a human analyst but cannot justify its actions is little comfort to a CISO whose board demands answers.

Source: KWKT FOX 44 / PR Newswire

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\$4.86 million for materials recovery research

Rochester, N.Y. · 23 July 2026

The REMADE Institute has announced \$4.86 million in new technology-research funding aimed at increasing materials recovery, remanufacturing, and recycling within U.S. manufacturing. Ten projects were selected in the latest round.

It is a modest sum for an industry of such enormous scale, but the direction is clear: as supply-chain vulnerabilities persist — from rare-earth dependencies to semiconductor shortages — research into circular-materials technologies has moved from academic curiosity toward strategic necessity. The question is whether government-backed research can outpace the pace at which new materials are invented faster than they can be recovered.

Source: St. Clair News-Aegis / PR Newswire

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The week ahead

Fujifilm's Business Innovation and Imaging divisions will exhibit print solutions at IPIC 2026 (26–30 July) in Las Vegas — a reminder that some industries, even those steeped in chemistry and optics, remain stubbornly resistant to going fully digital. TAT Technologies reports second-quarter results on 5 August; investors may wish to note the date.