

Physical AI may transform various industries as integration picks up

PHYSICAL artificial intelligence (PAI) is expected to transform various industries and boost their competitive advantage, professional services company Deloitte said.

In a new paper, Deloitte said physical AI, or the merger of physical systems with AI, is now shifting towards large-scale deployment from experimentation, although the level of integration remains low among enterprises.

“Physical AI marks the moment when intelligence moves off the screen and into the real world, transforming factories into learning systems that sense, decide and improve continuously. Organizations that are acting now will shape the operating models, skills and standards that define industrial leadership for the next decade,” said Chris Lewin, Deloitte Asia Pacific AI lead.

The company said just 5% of firms say physical AI is already transforming their operations, but 41% expect it will within three years.

“The gap between current impact and future expectations and the fact that only 3% of firms have PAI extensively integrated into operations today, a figure forecast to reach 18% within two years, highlights the urgency for early movers to build the capabilities that will define their operational edge and organizational learning underpinning their competitive advantage over the next decade,” Deloitte said.

The paper showed that industrial robotics has become the “proving ground” or test bed for physical AI.

“Business leaders around the world are now looking seriously at how to integrate PAI into their operations. Over 500,000

industrial robots were deployed in 2024, with annual installations forecast to reach 700,000 by 2028, and collaborative robots comprising a growing share at almost 65,000 installations in 2024,” Deloitte said.

“PAI is not simply a technology installation but a capability requiring disciplined operations and organizational learning. Leadership will depend on the ability to align operational maturity with technology readiness.”

Deloitte expects physical AI adoption to be the highest in the consumer and life sciences and healthcare sectors (22% apiece); technology, media and telecommunications (18%); and energy, resources and industrials (16%).

However, the main barriers to adoption are cost and resource requirements (41%), challenges identifying use cases (36%), talent and skills gaps

(33%), and technology or data availability (31%).

“There are internal readiness factors that determine how effectively businesses can deploy and scale any PAI solution, today or tomorrow and critically, they are in the organization’s control. Successful PAI implementation is as much about adapting as it is adopting,” Mr. Lewin said.

Deloitte said technology application maturity determines what is possible, while operational maturity determines what is executable.

“[E]ven the most sophisticated PAI system will deliver little value if deployed into an organization lacking the foundational discipline, flow, and human architecture to absorb it. The cost of moving too slowly is not just missed efficiency, but the loss of the organizational learning that comes from being an early mover.” — **Bettina V. Roc**

POCO M8s 5G now in the Philippines

THE LATEST smartphone in POCO’s mid-range M-series, the POCO M8s 5G, is now available in the Philippines.

The POCO M8s 5G is available in White and Black and in two variants, namely with 6GB RAM + 128GB storage and an 8GB+256GB model.

“In the Philippines, POCO M8s 5G will roll out first on Shopee during its initial exclusive sale window from April 21 to April 30, before opening to other platforms, including Lazada,” the brand said.

“During this Early Bird window, the 6GB+128GB variant will be available for P11,999, while the 8GB+256GB variant will be available for P13,999, giving local buyers a stronger value jump as they move up from the C-series to the M-series.”

The phone sports a 7,000mAh battery that promises up to two days of use on a single charge and supports 33-watt (W) fast charging and 18W reverse charging.

“Even at just 1% battery, users can still enjoy up to 59

minutes of calls or 7.5 hours of standby time, ensuring they stay connected when it matters most. Delivering long-life battery support for extended daily use, POCO M8s 5G’s battery retains 80% capacity or more even after 1,600 full charge cycles.”

The POCO M8s 5G has a 6.7-inch 1.5K display with triple TÜV Rheinland eye-care certifications and Wet Touch Technology 2.0.

It is powered by the Snapdragon 7s Gen 2 mobile platform and runs on Xiaomi HyperOS, supporting various AI features.

The phone also has a 50-megapixel dual camera system and features AI-powered editing tools.

“Other practical features include 200% volume boost support for immersive sound, a side-mounted fingerprint sensor for fast and secure unlocking, and IP64 dust and water resistance to overcome everyday challenges with ease.” — **BVR**

Banking industry scrambles for Anthropic’s Mythos as global regulators review risks

FRANKFURT/NEW YORK — The emergence of Anthropic’s Mythos is setting up a scramble from the banking industry to gain access and test the technology as regulators rush to examine the cybersecurity risks the new artificial intelligence model raises and how prepared financial firms are to tackle them.

Mythos is viewed by cybersecurity experts as posing significant challenges to the banking industry and its legacy technology systems, prompting a series of warnings from regulators and policymakers gathered at last week’s International Monetary Fund spring meeting in Washington. A string of US banks have so far been given access to Mythos — while the rest of the industry tries to catch up.

“It’s certainly not something that’s causing panic or setting off any alarm bells on our end right now, but it’s definitely something we need to keep in mind in our day-to-day risk management — and that’s exactly what we’re doing,” Deutsche Bank CEO Christian Sewing, who leads Germany’s biggest bank, told journalists. Mr. Sewing said banks were in close contact with European watchdogs about Mythos.

“The banks are prepared for this and have their own responses. So this is something we have to live with, and of course everyone is trying to gain access, but I also think it’s right that access is limited for now,” he said, adding that a German banking association would discuss the issue on Monday.

Anthropic has so far restricted access to the model to partners in its Project Glasswing initiative and about 40 additional organizations that build or maintain critical software infrastructure. JPMorgan, which is part of

Glasswing, was the only bank Anthropic has publicly said has access, although Bank of America has been part of Glasswing since the start and has been testing the Mythos technology internally, according to a source familiar with the matter.

Other US banks have more recently said they have been given access to Mythos.

Morgan Stanley CEO Ted Pick told analysts during the bank’s earnings call last week that the bank has been discussing cyber risks within the Financial Services Forum. “And yes, we are permissioned on Claude Mythos Preview,” he said, adding that cyber risk is an increasing threat. “So we will, I imagine, collectively get better via that, and then there will be other competitive products.”

Goldman Sachs CEO David Solomon also confirmed during the bank’s earnings last week that it had access.

“We’re aware of Mythos and its capabilities,” Mr. Solomon said on the call. “We have the model. We’re working closely with Anthropic and all of our security vendors to kind of harness frontier capabilities wherever it’s possible.”

Citigroup also has access to Mythos and is using it for internal tests, one person with knowledge of the matter said.

Some banks without access have questioned whether there should be broader access to Mythos and whether JPM received an advantage, a topic that is likely to be raised with the US Treasury, a source familiar with the matter said. JPM declined comment. The Treasury and Anthropic did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

Multiple senior banking and regulatory sources in Europe told Reuters they were not

aware of any European financial institution with access to Mythos yet.

‘SUBSTANTIALLY MORE CAPABLE AT CYBER OFFENSE’

The British government wrote an open letter to Anthropic leaders on April 15 saying that testing by its AI Security Institute had shown Mythos to be “substantially more capable at cyber offense than any model we have previously assessed.”

Some Asian regulators said on Monday they were also monitoring the development. South Korea’s Financial Supervisory Service said it met with information security officials from financial firms last week to review Mythos-related risks.

Mythos was a key topic on the sidelines of the IMF meetings last week. European supervisors are not yet overly concerned and for now are assessing it through their existing cyber resilience processes, three European supervisory sources told Reuters.

One banking source said the ECB and other regulators have been in contact with European banks to assess their preparedness for new cybersecurity risks. Supervisors have asked about banks’ awareness of the threat and their ability to respond, the source said.

The capabilities of Mythos to code at a high level have given it a potentially unprecedented ability to identify cybersecurity vulnerabilities, experts say, prompting greater scrutiny from regulators globally.

Barclays CEO C.S. Venkatakrisnan said on Friday in Washington that Mythos was a serious threat to the global banking system and likely to be followed by similar, more powerful cyberthreats. — **Reuters**

SpaceX says unproven AI space data centers may not be commercially viable, filing shows

NEW YORK — SpaceX warned investors that its ambitions to build space-based artificial intelligence (AI) data centers, as well as human settlements on the moon and Mars, rely on unproven technologies and may not become commercially viable, according to a company filing.

The business risks laid out in SpaceX’s pre-IPO filing, which have not been previously reported, present a far more cautious assessment of the rocket maker’s future than the vision laid out publicly by billionaire CEO Elon Musk in recent weeks, as the company gears up for what could be the largest initial public offering (IPO) in history.

Risk factors in a prospectus are required by US securities law and are designed to inform investors of potential pitfalls while also shielding companies from future legal liability.

“Our initiatives to develop orbital AI compute and in-orbit, lunar, and interplanetary industrialization are in early stages, involve significant technical complexity and unproven technologies, and may not achieve commercial viability,” SpaceX said in an excerpt from the S-1 filing, which was seen by Reuters.

Any future AI orbital data centers will operate “in the harsh and unpredictable environment of space, exposing them to a wide and unique range of space-related risks that could cause them to malfunction or fail,” the document said.

MUSK SAYS AI IN SPACE IS A ‘NO-BRAINER’

Companies use the S-1 registration document to disclose their finances and risks before going public. SpaceX is targeting a listing in the coming months at a valuation of roughly \$1.75 trillion with a \$75 billion raise, which would make it the largest initial public offering in history.

Mr. Musk said at the World Economic Forum in January that building AI data centers in space was “a no-brainer” and that it would be the cheapest place to put AI within two to three years. In February, after announcing a merger between SpaceX and his social media and artificial intelligence firm xAI, he said “space-based AI is obviously the only way to scale.”

SpaceX did not immediately respond to a request for further comment. — **Reuters**

Nickel Asia buys 20% of Kazakhstan venture



NICKELASIA.COM

NICKEL ASIA CORP. is acquiring a 20% stake in a Kazakhstan-based copper venture as part of its strategy to diversify beyond nickel and expand its regional footprint.

In a disclosure on Wednesday, the listed miner said it signed a membership interest sale and purchase agreement with Silk Road Resources Ltd. and East Copper Production LLP to acquire a minority stake in East Copper.

East Copper is the sole owner of GRK MLD LLP, which holds subsoil use rights for the Karchiga copper mine in Kazakhstan. The deposit is located within the Central Asian Orogenic Belt, a highly mineralized region known for significant copper resources.

The transaction remains subject to due diligence on East Copper and GRK,

as well as regulatory approvals and other closing conditions.

Nickel Asia said GRK has an annual production capacity of 8,500 tons of copper sulfide concentrate with an average grade of 1.8%, and 2,000 tons of copper cathode with an average grade of 1%.

The investment marks a step in the company’s broader push to diversify its natural resource portfolio and reduce reliance on nickel.

It also aligns with its goal of expanding market capitalization and building a stronger presence across Asia.

“This investment supports the company’s strategy to expand market capitalization and earnings by evolving beyond nickel into a diversified natural resource development platform,” Nickel Asia said. — **V.A.E. Villamiel**

Atlas Mining 2025 net loss widens as revenue declines

ATLAS CONSOLIDATED Mining and Development Corp. posted a wider net loss of P246.22 million in 2025, as weaker revenue and higher nonoperating charges offset lower operating costs.

In a regulatory filing on Wednesday, the listed miner said its net loss rose 6.6% a year earlier.

Revenue from copper concentrates and mine wastes fell 7.7% to P17.19 billion, reflecting lower production volumes. The company earlier reported that copper concentrate output dropped 18% to 124,000 dry metric tons (DMT) last year.

Operational indicators also weakened, with milling tonnage and aver-

age daily throughput both down 14% to 15.6 million DMT and 42,739 DMT, respectively.

Despite this, Atlas reduced its total costs and expenses by 10.9% to P16.5 billion from a year earlier. Mining and milling costs fell 12.7% to P14.01 billion, while general and administrative expenses dropped 9.7% to P1.37 billion.

However, other charges more than doubled to P772.51 million, driven by higher finance costs, fair value losses and foreign exchange losses, which weighed on overall earnings.

Shares in Atlas Mining fell 4.27% or 35 centavos to close at P7.85 each. — **Vonn Andrei E. Villamiel**

ERC orders bigger, faster Meralco refund to ease impact of higher power costs

By **Sheldeen Joy Talavera** Reporter

CUSTOMERS of Manila Electric Co. (Meralco) will receive a bigger electricity refund starting May after the Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC) ordered the acceleration of a P19.96-billion rebate to help ease the impact of higher power costs linked to global oil price pressures.

In a 24-page decision dated April 22, the ERC ordered Meralco to refund the remaining P14.17-billion balance of its regulatory adjustment covering the period July 2022 to December 2024. The period formed part of the utility’s distribution rate “true-up” or reconciliation process.

The accelerated refund will be implemented over 12 months instead of the original 36-month schedule, resulting in an average refund rate of

P0.2511 per kilowatt-hour (kWh). The amount will appear as a separate line item in consumers’ monthly electricity bills starting in the next billing cycle.

Meralco head of public relations Claire-Ann Marie C. Feliciano in a Viber message said Meralco would issue a statement about the refund.

For households, the adjustment translates to an estimated reduction of P0.4278 per kWh in total electricity

charges, providing near-term relief amid expectations of higher generation costs.

Meralco had already begun an initial refund of P19.96 billion in April last year, equivalent to P0.1189 per kWh, under the earlier 36-month schedule. The latest order effectively speeds up the return of remaining amounts to consumers.

“To provide more immediate relief, particularly given the expected rise in generation charges due to the Middle East conflict, the ERC has mandated that the remaining amount be refunded over a shorter period of 12 months instead of the original 36 months,” the regulator said.

FULL STORY



Read the full story by scanning the QR code or by typing the link
tinyurl.com/yuhtxdud