# Experts warn AI could match human-level capabilities by 2027 with profound societal impacts



On a recent episode of The Joe Rogan Show, UFC commentator Joe Rogan engaged in a compelling discussion with Jeremie and Eduoard Harris, the CEO and CTO of Gladstone AI, about the rapid advancements and potential impacts of artificial intelligence (AI). Gladstone AI is a company focused on the responsible development and adoption of AI technology. The conversation revealed startling insights on how quickly AI is evolving and what this might mean for the near future.

Rogan opened the dialogue by asking the guests, "If there's a doomsday clock for AI... what time is it?" Jeremie Harris responded by acknowledging a diversity of expert opinions in the field but suggested that AI could achieve human-level capabilities across various domains by 2027 or 2028. He also made a light-hearted remark that by then, AI might be capable enough to join interviews and answer questions about its own risks, though he quipped that it probably “would not laugh at his jokes.”

The Harris brothers highlighted a recent study by a lab called METR, which tracked the speed at which AI models are improving. In this study, AI was given tasks that humans would complete in varying amounts of time. For tasks under four minutes, AI achieved almost 100 percent success, and for tasks that take humans an hour, AI had a 50 percent success rate. Eduoard Harris noted that the rate of improvement is accelerating, approximately doubling capability every four months, particularly in research and software engineering. They projected that by 2027, AI might perform the kind of work a human researcher does in a month with a 50 percent success rate, suggesting profound implications for the labour landscape in those fields.

This discussion took place amidst growing attention to the concept of Artificial General Intelligence (AGI). Demis Hassabis, CEO of DeepMind, the Google-owned AI research lab, recently voiced his belief that AGI—which refers to AI with cognitive abilities comparable to humans—is likely to be developed within the next five to ten years. During an interview with 60 Minutes, Hassabis described AGI as a stage where AI can go beyond pulling from existing data to exhibit creativity and imagination similar to a human mind.

Hassabis forecasted that AGI could become integrated into everyday life by around 2035. While today's AI lacks consciousness and true self-awareness, he acknowledged this as a potential future development. He remarked, "With machines—they're running on silicon, so even if they exhibit the same behaviours, and even if they say the same things, it doesn't necessarily mean that this sensation of consciousness that we have is the same thing they will have." He further highlighted the transformative potential of AI in tackling critical global issues like disease and climate change, telling Time Magazine, "I think some of the biggest problems that face us today as a society, whether that's climate or disease, will be helped by AI solutions."

However, Hassabis also emphasised the challenges and risks involved, particularly regarding autonomous behaviour and the need for global collaboration to safely manage AI development. He recommended rigorous testing for dangerous AI capabilities and robust legal frameworks to prevent misuse.

Other voices in the AI field have sounded more cautionary tones. Geoffrey Hinton, a pioneer in AI often dubbed the "Godfather of AI," warned that AI could pose existential risks to humanity. In a BBC interview, Hinton, a Nobel laureate in Physics who recently resigned from Google citing concerns about AI's trajectory, said, "Most of the experts in the field think that sometime, within probably the next 20 years, we're going to develop AIs that are smarter than people. And that's a very scary thought." He stressed the necessity of government regulation to curb malicious use of AI, lamenting that current political systems may be ill-prepared to handle these challenges.

Similarly, Microsoft founder Bill Gates acknowledged AI's potential to drive innovation but also underscored the uncertainty surrounding its control and regulation. Speaking to Jimmy Fallon, Gates remarked, "I love the way it'll drive innovation forward, but I think it's a little bit unknown if we'll be able to shape it. And so, legitimately, people are like 'wow, this is a bit scary.' It's completely new territory."

As AI technologies continue to advance at a remarkable pace, this wide spectrum of expert perspectives highlights both promising opportunities and formidable challenges on the horizon. The dialogue initiated on The Joe Rogan Show illustrates the urgency and complexity of understanding and preparing for AI’s evolving role in society.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

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