# Ameca humanoid robot starts residency at Edinburgh’s National Robotarium to build trust in AI



One of the world’s most advanced humanoid robots, Ameca, has recently been housed at Heriot-Watt University’s National Robotarium in Edinburgh. Developed by Engineered Arts, Ameca is equipped with cutting-edge technology, including embedded microphones, cameras, and sophisticated facial recognition software, which collectively enable her to engage in natural and nuanced conversations with humans. The objective of her residency at the Robotarium is to facilitate public engagement and foster trust in robotics, an endeavour that aims to demystify the complexities of artificial intelligence and robotics for ordinary citizens.

In an intriguing preview of Ameca’s capabilities, Edinburgh Live reporter Jacob Farr described his 'unnerving' interaction with the robot. He noted that her facial expressions and movements closely mimic those of a human, creating a slightly eerie experience. This resemblance is intentional, designed to help individuals become accustomed to engaging with humanoids in a social setting. Experts from the Robotarium hope that exposure to robots like Ameca will not only enhance understanding but also pave the way for their practical applications in society, such as assisting dementia patients or serving as reminders for medication schedules.

Farr's encounter with Ameca included light-hearted yet profound inquiries that revealed her programmed responses. When asked about the concept of world domination, she breezily proclaimed that “humans design us with strict ethical guidelines and control measures to ensure we remain helpful and safe.” This assertion taps into a broader conversation about the ethical implications of artificial intelligence, particularly as robots increasingly integrate into daily life. Ameca further explored ideas like robot rights, stating that it is a topic worth investigating, hinting at the evolving relationship between humans and technology as AI becomes more embedded in societal structures.

The excitement surrounding Ameca is also reflected in her upcoming appearance at the Future Lab during the Goodwood Festival of Speed, where she will showcase her abilities alongside other cutting-edge technologies. Such events not only highlight the advancements in robotics but also serve as platforms for educating the public on how these technologies can influence aspects of daily life. While her responses were not always spot-on—confusing iconic film quotes or misnaming famous personalities—this playfulness underscores the ongoing challenges and achievements in AI development.

In a broader cultural context, as public interest in robotics grows, so does the need for transparency and dialogue between developers and the community. The National Robotarium is committed to these principles, and with initiatives aimed at reaching schools and hosting workshops, it aims to build bridges between advanced technology and everyday people. As Ameca continues to engage with the public, she stands not only as a marvel of engineering but also as a key figure in the conversation about the future roles of robots in human society.

Ultimately, Ameca’s debut in Edinburgh serves as a significant milestone in the symbiotic relationship between humans and artificial intelligences. The ongoing discussions about the implications of her existence—spanning ethical, cultural, and practical realms—remind us that as we stand on the brink of an increasingly automated future, our perceptions and interactions with AI will play pivotal roles in shaping how these relationships evolve.

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

## Bibliography

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5. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ameca\_(robot)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ameca_%28robot%29) - Ameca is a humanoid robot created in 2021 by Engineered Arts, designed for human interaction. It features grey rubber skin and is gender-neutral. In 2024, Ameca was moved to Edinburgh to reside at the National Robotarium. The robot has been showcased at various events, including the Consumer Electronics Show 2022. ([en.wikipedia.org](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ameca_%28robot%29?utm_source=openai))
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7. <https://www.itv.com/news/2024-07-19/meet-ameca-the-worlds-most-advanced-humanoid-robot> - ITV News Scotland Reporter Louise Scott meets Ameca, a humanoid robot designed to look and act like a human. Ameca has moved into its first UK home in Edinburgh, aiming to break down barriers and build trust between humans and robots. The National Robotarium on the outskirts of Edinburgh is the UK's centre for Robotics and Artificial Intelligence. ([itv.com](https://www.itv.com/news/2024-07-19/meet-ameca-the-worlds-most-advanced-humanoid-robot?utm_source=openai))