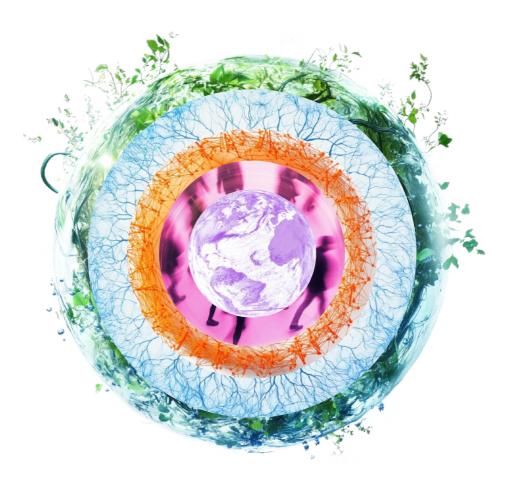
SUMMARY

2025

THE GLOBAL 50

FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES REPORT





Cite as **Dubai Future Foundation (2025) 'The Global 50'.** www.dubaifuture.ae/the-global-50

Introduction

In its fourth edition, The Global 50 continues to focus on the future through the lens of growth, prosperity and well-being.

We also explore the key pillars that make up our view of the future and share 50 new opportunities that cover ways to adapt, disrupt and innovate for future growth, prosperity and well-being. With the 50 opportunities in each of the 2022, 2023 and 2024 editions of The Global 50, readers now have 200 opportunities to consider that could inspire over 1,000 ideas and initiatives – be they economic, legal, societal, technological or a combination of all four.

The next 50 years are set to bring both opportunities and challenges for all generations. By exploring potential futures and imagining new possibilities, we can take proactive steps to navigate uncertainties, benefit from the opportunities and mitigate the risks.

This is a summary highlighting the 50 opportunities from the 2025 report.

To access the complete report, and other Global 50 related reports, please visit the Dubai Future Foundation website.

www.dubaifuture.ae/the-global-50

The 50 Opportunities

Health Reimagined

- 01. Sense and Serenity
- 02. Viral Solution
- 03. Power Fungi
- 04. Organ Map
- 05. Mindscape
- 06. Alg-Air Purifier
- 07. Nanomedicine Over the Edge
- 08. Game-Changing Link
- 09. Breath of Intelligence

Nature Restored

- 10. The Feel of Nature
- 11. Living Gardens
- 12. Floating Filters
- 13. Sonic Sweep
- 14. Planet Pulse
- 15. Deep-Sea Energy
- 16. Calcium Power Play
- 17. High Energy
- 18. Fish Waste to Value

Societies Empowered

- 19. Robot Rapport
- 20. Quantum X
- 21. Dystopian Inspiration
- 22. Reinventing Happiness
- 23. Aqua Tech
- 24. My Algorithm
- 25. Women's Prosperity
- 26. Healthy Play
- 27. Climate Ready
- 28. A Catalyst for Common Good

Systems Optimised

- 29. Cool Materials
- 30. Beyond Classifications
- 31. Public Publications
- 32. Nutrition Spray
- 33. Dynamic Power
- 34. Adaptive Patent
- 35. Perfect Chains
- 36. Global Sandbox
- 37. Renewable Asset Loop
- 38. Nature Shield

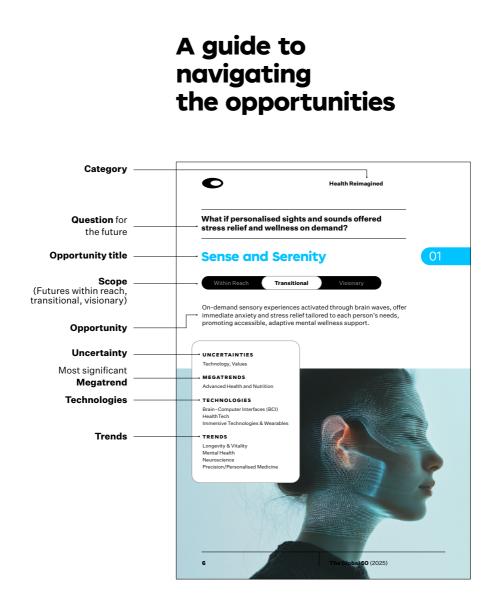
Transformational

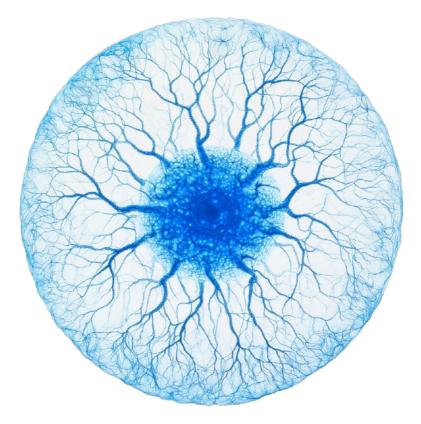
- 39. Future-Proof Agreements
- 40. Energy Without End 2.0
- 41. Economies on a Mission
- 42. Better Water Meter
- 43. Next-Gen Geothermal
- 44. Space Flex
- 45. Innovation Beyond Borders
- 46. Neural Charter
- 47. Dark Energy
- 48. Autoimmune Stem
- 49. Self-Assembling Molecules
- 50. Higher Paths

Navigating the Opportunities

The opportunities shared in this report are not exhaustive – they present just some of the potential pathways to future growth, prosperity, and well-being. Some opportunities may seem more relevant than others and some contexts will have the conditions in place to share in the benefits while others may not. Similarly, the risks associated with some opportunities might not be limited to those countries or organisations acting on them, as risks often travel faster than benefits. The main purpose of these opportunities is to inspire ideation and innovation, illustrating foresight in action and empowering creative thinking by offering readers multiple ways to explore each opportunity including uncertainties, megatrends, trends, technologies, sectors and keywords.

Each opportunity includes **a question for the future** with **a brief description** that succinctly covers the essential aspects of the opportunity. Additionally, for each opportunity we include a **scope** that is either 'within reach', the opportunity is likely to be relevant within two to three years, assuming the necessary conditions, systems and technologies are in place. Where 'transitional' is specified, the opportunity is likely to be relevant within 10 years and is tied to advances in technology, and other conditions and enablers. Where 'visionary' is specified, the opportunity is likely to be relevant beyond 10 years, either because it will depend on technologies that are still in the early stages of development or because it is part of a complex system of drivers and other factors.





Health Reimagined

Redefine mental and physical health, support longer lives, drawing on science, technology, and nature towards better health and new ways to personalise access for individuals and communities everywhere.



What if personalised sights and sounds offered stress relief and wellness on demand?

Sense and Serenity



On-demand sensory experiences activated through brain waves offer immediate anxiety and stress relief tailored to each person's needs, promoting accessible, adaptive mental wellness support.

UNCERTAINTIES

Technology, Values

MEGATRENDS Advanced Health and Nutrition

TECHNOLOGIES

Brain–Computer Interfaces (BCI) HealthTech Immersive Technologies & Wearables

TRENDS

Longevity & Vitality Mental Health Neuroscience Precision/Personalised Medicine





What if viruses eliminated the need for antibiotics?

Viral Solution



Bioengineered viruses serve as a form of precision treatment for bacterial infections, eradicating antibiotic-resistant infections and eliminating the need for antibiotics.





What if fungal fuel cells powered medical devices in remote communities?

Power Fungi



Bioelectricity generated by fungi powers small medical devices in remote areas, letting doctors check on patients even where there are limited sources of micropower, allowing advanced monitoring capabilities in previously unreachable areas.

UNCERTAINTIES

Nature, Technology

MEGATRENDS Materials Revolution

TECHNOLOGIES

Fuel Cells HealthTech Sensor Technologies

TRENDS

Biomimetics Communicable & Non-communicable Diseases Longevity & Vitality Mobilising Innovation



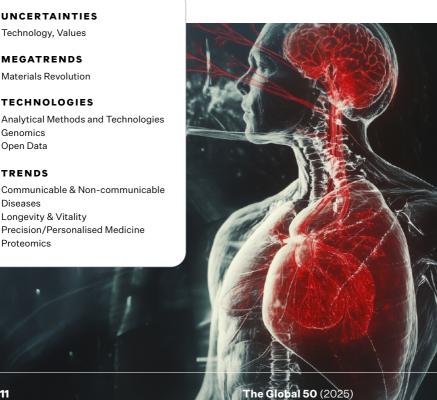


What if a small blood sample could predict and prevent organ failure?

Organ Map



Advances in mass spectrometry and plasma proteomics make it possible to identify - with a small blood sample - organ-specific age, enabling personalised medicine and early health interventions.



Genomics Open Data TRENDS

Diseases

Proteomics



What if a focus on early brain health provided cognitive health for life?

Mindscape



Transitional

Visionary

05

Early integration of cognitive health in education and youth-focused public policy helps build cognitive reserve for lifelong mental resilience, reduced dementia risk, and cognitive health in later years.

UNCERTAINTIES

Systems, Technology

MEGATRENDS Advanced Health and Nutrition

TECHNOLOGIES

Artificial Intelligence Brain–Computer Interfaces (BCI) HealthTech

TRENDS

Longevity & Vitality Neuroscience Precision/Personalised Medicine





What if algae-powered air purification made indoor air cleaner and healthier?

Alg-Air Purifier



Powered by the Sun's rays or LED lighting, algal bioreactors regulate and purify indoor air, removing microorganisms and reducing respiratory issues.

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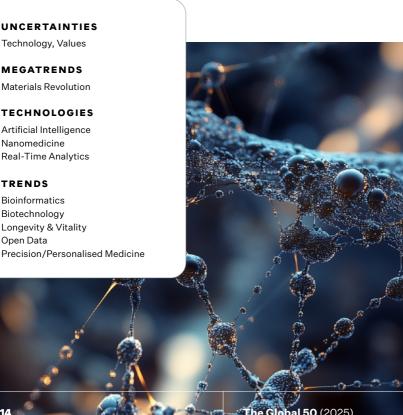


What if nanomedicine made the leap from potential to reality?

Nanomedicine Over the Edge



Advanced machine intelligence, open data, and genomic research unlock nanomedicine's potential by solving critical toxicity challenges, enabling advances in precision medicine.





What if sports analytics improved public health?

Game-Changing Link



Sports analytics integrates with public health through a secure data sharing platform, revealing links between fitness trends, injuries, physical activity patterns and health outcomes, and enabling breakthroughs in public health policy and targeted health interventions.

UNCERTAINTIES

Systems, Technology

MEGATRENDS Boundless Multidimensional Data

TECHNOLOGIES

Artificial Intelligence Open Data Real-Time Analytics

TRENDS

Big Data Cross-Sectoral Partnerships Longevity & Vitality Open Data Precision/Personalised Medicine



08



What if a single breath diagnosed communicable diseases and automatically triggered treatment?

Breath of Intelligence



Autonomous nanobiomaterial-based breath diagnostics enable rapid and precise detection of communicable diseases, automatically initiating personalised treatment.

<section-header> UNCERTAINTIES Systems, Technology DEGATEENS Advanced Health and Nutrition DECENDEDEE Atificial Intelligence Biotechnology Nanotechnology Boinformatics Bioinformatics Biotechnology Provide Comparisonalised Medicine



Nature Restored

Minimise environmental risks and harness nature's capacity to restore itself or have a positive impact on crucial environmental ecosystems and habitats, creating a more stable, healthier planet for all.



What if we truly connected with nature?

The Feel of Nature



Touchless haptic technology uses ultrasonic waves and smart sensors to convert environmental data into mid-air sensations, creating immersive, real-time and tangible connections that enhance awareness of nature.

UNCERTAINTIES Nature, Technology MECATRENDS Doundless Multidimensional Data CECHNOLOGIES Age Computing Immersive Technologies & Wearables Internet of Things (IoT) DEMENDIANS Muman-Machine New Materials Air Pollution



10

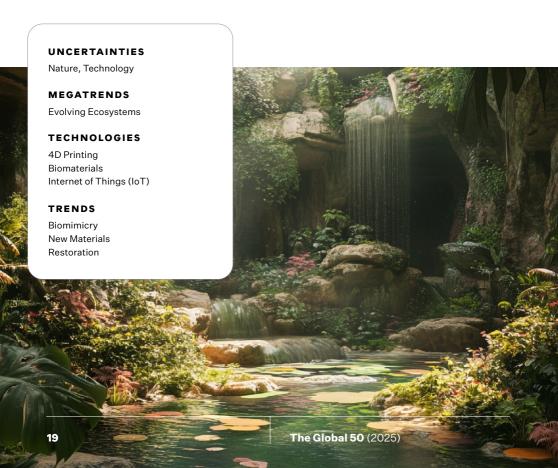


What if self-evolving microhabitats restored biodiversity in urban spaces while adapting to changing needs?

Living Gardens



4D-printed microhabitats in gardens dynamically respond to environmental and biodiversity changes, creating ideal conditions for plants, insects and microorganisms to grow together naturally.





What if floating ecosystems naturally cleaned polluted waters?

Floating Filters



Transitional

Visionary

As an effective nature-based solution, floating wetlands are optimally designed using advanced machine intelligence for various water networks and locations, naturally filtering polluted water networks and making them clean and safe.

UNCERTAINTIESNature, TechnologyMEGATRENDSEvolving EcosystemsDECHNOLOGIESBiotechnologyNanotechnologyNanotechnologySustainable Waste Management



12

The Global 50 (2025)



What if ultrasound eliminated microplastics from oceans and lakes?

Sonic Sweep



A chemical-free and scalable solution, ultrasonic waves remove microplastics from water, creating cleaner oceans and safer drinking water globally.





What if quantum sensors predicted disasters and protected lives?

Planet Pulse



A global quantum sensor network monitors air, land and sea environments in real time, providing instant environmental data analysis and disaster prediction enabled by advanced machine intelligence and international collaboration.





What if ships generated their own energy and helped reduce emissions at sea?

Deep-Sea Energy



Ocean-powered ships use temperature differences between surface and deep seawater to generate their own renewable energy while autonomously identifying and following optimal routes, contributing to a more sustainable future for marine transport.



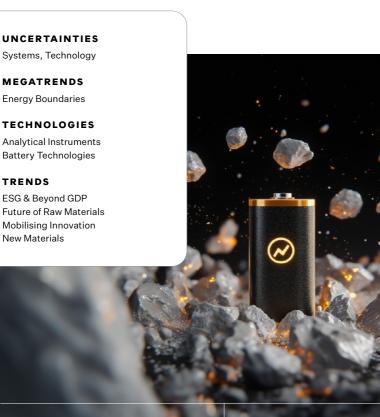


What if calcium became the new lithium?

Calcium Power Play



Calcium batteries outperform lithium-ion to address energy storage needs through advances in design and materials for reliable performance across temperatures and cycles.





What if airborne wind farms became a widespread reality?

High Energy



Next-generation airborne wind turbines, durable and resilient to high winds, provide a new form of urban and remote energy generation by capturing energy from high-altitude winds to power future cities.

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Anne - All Market



What if fish waste became a great source of value?

Fish Waste to Value



Advanced technologies and biotechnology turn fish waste collected during capture, processing and consumption, into valuable bio-based products such as fertiliser and wound-healing and cosmetic agents, enhancing efficiency in these industries and supporting sustainable fishing practices.





Empower societies by offering solutions to humanity's most complex and universal needs, optimising systems they rely on, safeguarding risks that could make societies more fragile in the face of crises, and extending individual and collective potential for growth and development.



What if humans trusted robots in the workplace?

Robot Rapport

Within Reach

Transitional

Visionary

19

An international, cross-disciplinary research working group establishes a new model and global standards for human-robot interactions, focusing on building trust by addressing emotional responses and workplace dynamics.

UNCERTAINTIES

Technology, Values

MEGATRENDS

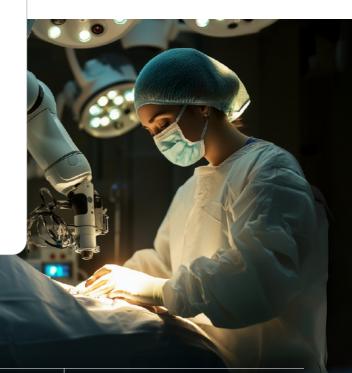
Life with Autonomous Robots and Automation

TECHNOLOGIES

Automation Robotics

TRENDS

Cross-Sectoral Partnerships Digital Communities Human–Robot Interactions International Collaboration Mobilising Innovation





What if quantum theory inspired innovative solutions to global challenges?

Quantum X



Quantum theory provides a unique way to address and unpack complex global challenges, from climate and health to urban development and logistics, inspiring a new set of innovative solutions.





What if experiencing dystopian futures inspired purposeful action towards a better future?

Dystopian Inspiration



Multisensory simulations of dystopian scenarios immerse decision-makers in possible futures, inspiring purposeful and collective action that shapes policies to enhance preparedness and adaptation to evolving challenges.

UNCERTAINTIES

Systems, Values

MEGATRENDS Future Humanity

TECHNOLOGIES

Artificial Intelligence Immersive Technologies & Wearables Real-Time Analytics

TRENDS

Cross-Sectoral Partnerships ESG & Beyond GDP Government Agility International Collaboration Open Data





What if living meaningful lives became the new well-being?

Reinventing Happiness



As the world shifts towards a possible future of self-sufficient communities, eudaemonic well-being – emphasising personal growth, meaningful relationships, and collective purpose – shapes policies and institutional frameworks around a more fulfilling concept of human development. 22

UNCERTAINTIES

Systems, Values

MEGATRENDS Future Humanity

TECHNOLOGIES

Advanced Computing Advanced Connectivity Artificial Intelligence

TRENDS

ESG & Beyond GDP Future of Education Future of Purpose & Work Longevity & Vitality Mental Health





What if sustainable desalination could provide drinking water for everyone?



Smart, renewable desalination systems combine renewable energy and novel materials to turn seawater or groundwater into freshwater in water-scarce regions.

UNCERTAINTIES

Systems, Technology

MEGATRENDS Evolving Ecosystems

TECHNOLOGIES

Climate Tech Nanotechnology

TRENDS

Biomimicry Cross-Sectoral Partnerships Food–Water–Energy Nexus International Collaboration New Materials



What if personal algorithms let us control our digital experiences?

My Algorithm



A personal quantum-secured algorithm empowers individuals to selectively activate or deactivate data exchange across platforms, enabling transparent and regulated digital experiences around the world and changing the way we manage our data and engage in the digital economy.



UNCERTAINTIES

Systems, Technology

MEGATRENDS

Digital Realities

TECHNOLOGIES

Artificial Intelligence Quantum Technologies

TRENDS

Advanced Connectivity Cross-Sectoral Partnerships Cybersecurity Digital Economy Interoperability



What if women attained their expectations for prosperity and well-being?

Women's Prosperity

ansitional

Visionary

A futures-focused women's prosperity and well-being agenda bridges gaps in subjective well-being, aligning aspirations with realities through multidimensional, data-driven approaches informed by global experiences, ushering in a new era for women and creating positive spillover effects that benefit everyone.

UNCERTAINTIES

Collaboration, Values

MEGATRENDS Future Humanity

TECHNOLOGIES

Artificial Intelligence Open Data Real-Time Analytics

TRENDS

ESG & Beyond GDP Future of Education Future of Purpose & Work International Collaboration Mobilising Innovation



34



What if video games improved mental and physical health?

Healthy Play



Physical and mental well-being become the core of the video gaming ecosystem, unlocking gaming's potential to uplift society through researchbacked insights that address well-being and support better health.

UNCERTAINTIES Technology, Values MEGATRENDS Future Humanity TECHNOLOGIES Artificial Intelligence Data Protection & Privacy Immersive Technologies & Wearables TRENDS Digital Art & Design Digital Therapeutics Gaming & Entertainment Mental Health Neuroscience



35



What if our survival depended on smart, climate-resilient households?

Climate Ready



Transitional

Visionary

Individuals and households actively adapt to climate shifts, safeguarding their well-being and assets through tailored resilience and disaster preparedness plans informed by real-time data and advanced machine intelligence, enhancing climate resilience and contributing to communitywide climate adaptation.

UNCERTAINTIES

Nature, Technology

MEGATRENDS Evolving Ecosystems

TECHNOLOGIES

Artificial Intelligence Data Protection & Privacy Immersive Technologies & Wearables

TRENDS

Community-Based Solutions Government Agility Mobilising Innovation Open Data





What if long-term uncertainty became the greatest investment opportunity?

A Catalyst for Common Good

Within Reach Transitional Visionary

A global equity fund tackles humanity's greatest long-term challenges by combining decentralised governance for transparency with multilateral development bank capital to scale breakthrough innovations for climate, energy, food and water security.

UNCERTAINTIES

Collaboration, Systems

MEGATRENDS Future Humanity

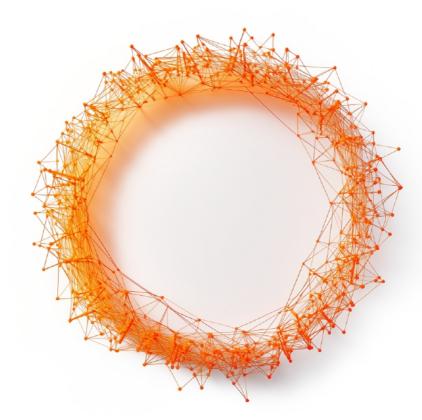
TECHNOLOGIES

Decentralised Autonomous Organisations Fintech

TRENDS

Community-Based Solutions Cross-Sectoral Partnerships ESG & Beyond GDP International Collaboration Mobilising Innovation





Systems Optimised

Improve and build more effective and resilient systems underpinning advances in services and solutions at various levels of business, government and society.



What if new materials provided sustainable cooling solutions in a warming world?

Cool Materials



Advanced cooling systems with nanoengineered materials dynamically adapt to temperature changes, reducing air-conditioning needs and enhancing efficiency of cooling solutions.





What if new economic classifications unlocked progress?

Beyond Classifications

Within Reach Transitional	Visionary
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Dynamic metrics replace traditional country development and income classifications, driving greater global cooperation, more effective trade flows, and innovation aligned with shared global goals and challenges and enabling progress beyond financial aid.



TRENDS

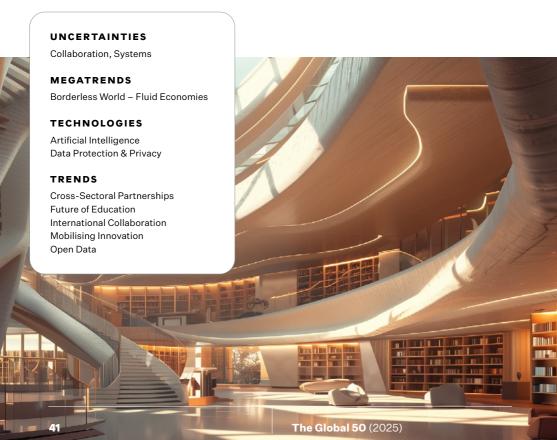


What if all academic publishing became open access?

Public Publications



Academic publishing shifts to a centralised platform with universal access, advanced machine intelligence and blockchain, enhancing research quality, innovation, diversity, collaboration and global research.





What if we could spray our way to personalised nutrition?

Nutrition Spray



Spray-based fortification uses nanoencapsulation and biomass for personalised nutrient delivery, addressing global micronutrient deficiencies and laying the foundation for 3D and 4D printed food applications.





What if cities adjusted the energy mix in real time?

Dynamic Power Within Reach Transitional Visionary

Citywide autonomous systems adjust energy generation and transmission in real time, optimising usage and extending asset life.





What if patents were adaptive?

Adaptive Patent

Within Reach

Transitional

Visionary

34

An adaptive intellectual property (IP) system that ensures equitable access to essential technologies driving social-impact-focused innovation while enhancing transparency and supporting sustainable development for societal progress.

UNCERTAINTIES

Systems, Technology

MEGATRENDS Borderless World – Fluid Economies

TECHNOLOGIES

Advanced Computing Artificial Intelligence Blockchain

TRENDS

Cross-Sectoral Partnerships Ideation, IP & Entrepreneurship International Collaboration Mobilising Innovation Open Data



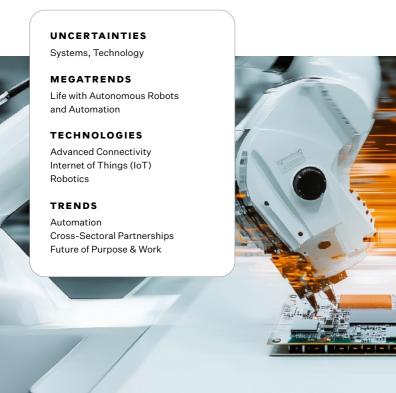


What if synchronised robots perfected global supply chains?

Perfect Chains



Collaborative robots reshape industries and global supply chains through intelligent task-sharing, adaptive learning, real-time problem-solving, and continuous optimising and self-improvement across domains.



The Global 50 (2025)



What if a global sandbox streamlined cross-border innovation?

Global Sandbox



Transitional

Visionary

36

A global sandbox enables simultaneous testing of innovations across jurisdictions, advancing regulations and accelerating market entry while ensuring consumer protection through coordinated international oversight.

UNCERTAINTIES

Systems, Technology

MEGATRENDS Borderless World – Fluid Economies

TECHNOLOGIES

Artificial Intelligence Data Protection & Privacy

TRENDS

Cross-Sectoral Partnerships Government Agility Ideation, IP & Entrepreneurship International Collaboration Legal Transformation

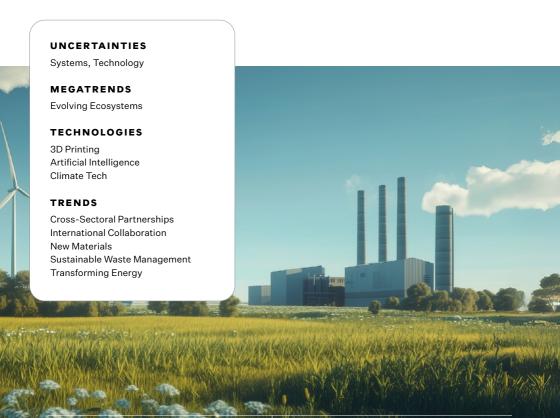


What if renewable wind and solar energy became fully circular?

Renewable Asset Loop

Within Reach Transitional Visionary

A global consortium advances circular standards for solar and wind assets, promoting sustainable design, recycling technologies and policies to maximise resource use and eliminate waste.





What if biomimicry made cybersecurity more resilient?

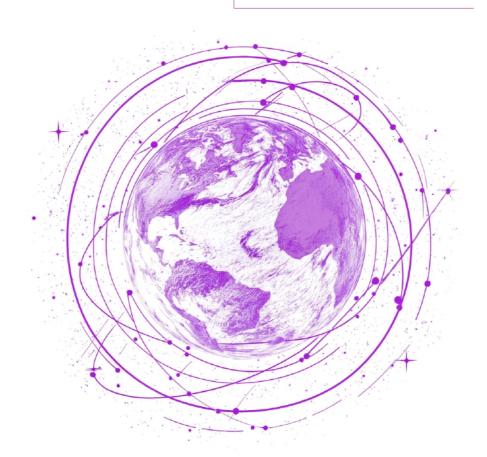
Nature Shield



A biomimetic cybersecurity framework enhances digital ecosystems' ability to detect, respond to, and evolve against cyberthreats.

UNCERTAINTIES Systems, Technology MEGATRENDS Technological Vulnerabilities DECHNOLOGIES Artificial Intelligence Internet of Things (IoT) Real-Time Analytics Diomimicry Cybersecurity Government Agility International Collaboration Mobilising Innovation





Transformational

The power to radically change ways of life by replacing the models that countries, communities and individuals live by. These new models enable individuals and communities to innovate and improve the transformation of humanity to new digital and non-digital realities.



What if strategic foresight guaranteed international cooperation success?

Future-Proof Agreements



Strategic foresight strengthens international agreements by embedding scenario planning, anticipating challenges, and developing adaptive responses, increasing the likelihood of successfully achieving shared goals.

UNCERTAINTIES Systems, Technology MEGATRENDS Future Humanity TECHNOLOGIES Artificial Intelligence Quantum Technologies Real-Time Analytics TRENDS

Cross-Sectoral Partnerships Future of Purpose & Work Government Agility International Collaboration Open Data





What if energy was limitless, at room temperature?



Breakthroughs in room-temperature fusion offer unlimited, sustainable and clean energy, transforming the global energy landscape.





What if national economies were centred around specific objectives?

Economies on a Mission



Mission-driven economies align public, private and civil society sectors to focus on specific objectives, replacing traditional economic models.

UNCERTAINTIES Collaboration, Values MEGATRENDS Teture Humanity DECHNOLOGIES Artificial Intelligence Internet of Things (IoT) Real-Time Analytics Dommunity-Based Solutions Cross-Sectoral Partnerships ESG & Beyond GDP Future of Purpose & Work International Collaboration



What if the world knew exactly how much water we use and could predict future water needs and shortages?

Better Water Meter



Industrial Internet of Things (IIoT) and satellite data form an automated and comprehensive water accounting system that provides insights into water usage and flows and a better understanding of how much water we really need to support more informed decisions on global water policies and conservation efforts.

UNCERTAINTIES

Collaboration, Technology

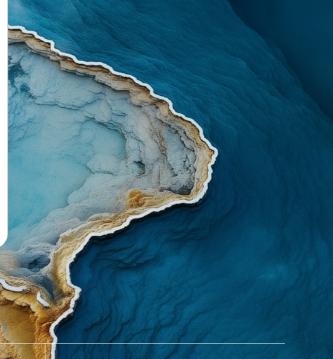
MEGATRENDS Boundless Multidimensional Data

TECHNOLOGIES

Artificial Intelligence Internet of Things (IoT) Real-Time Analytics

TRENDS

ESG & Beyond GDP Food–Water–Energy Nexus International Collaboration Open Data





What if next-generation geothermal energy enabled universal energy access?

Next-Gen Geothermal



Innovative approaches to geothermal energy combined with advanced machine intelligence and materials make geothermal energy accessible, cost-effective and less dependent on location, promoting a sustainable source of renewable energy.





What if we could prevent bone loss and muscle atrophy in space?

Space Flex



Personalised bioengineered supplements prevent bone and muscle loss in space and on other planets, reducing limitations on humans' ability to spend extended periods beyond Earth while also offering a new solution for addressing bone and muscle mass decline on Earth.

UNCERTAINTIES Systems, Technology MEGATRENDS Advanced Health and Nutrition TECHNOLOGIES Biotechnology Genomics Nanomedicine TRENDS Future of Space Mobilising Innovation





What if frugal innovation from marginalised economies redefined global development?

Innovation Beyond Borders

45

Within Reach

Transitional

Visionary

Local innovation hubs connected to global networks scale innovations from economically marginalised communities worldwide, enabling local ingenuity to inspire worldwide sustainable development.

UNCERTAINTIES

Collaboration, Technology

MEGATRENDS Borderless World – Fluid Economies

TECHNOLOGIES

Advanced Connectivity Data Protection & Privacy

TRENDS

Community-Based Solutions Cross-Sectoral Partnerships Mobilising Innovation





What if the world agreed on a charter for brain-computer interfaces (BCIs)?

Neural Charter



A global brain–computer interface (BCI) charter and framework ensure global alignment through openness, safety standards, and responsible deployment, enabling ethical implementation and equitable access worldwide.

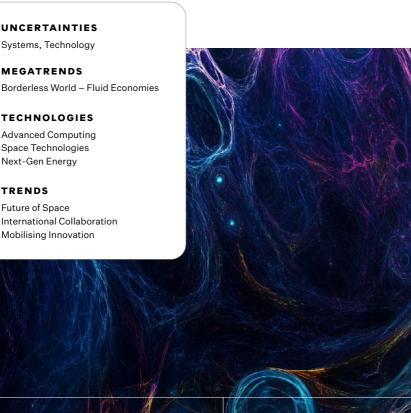
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What if the theoretical possibilities of dark energy inspired us to push our boundaries?



A deeper understanding of dark energy, the force pulling the universe's expansion, opens new doors to advance space travel, discover limitless energy for Earth, and inspire curiosity about science and humanity.





What if stem cell therapy was the answer to autoimmune disease?

Autoimmune Stem



Advanced machine intelligence enables precise stem cell therapy for autoimmune diseases, moving beyond variable results to establish treatments that achieve permanent disease remission.

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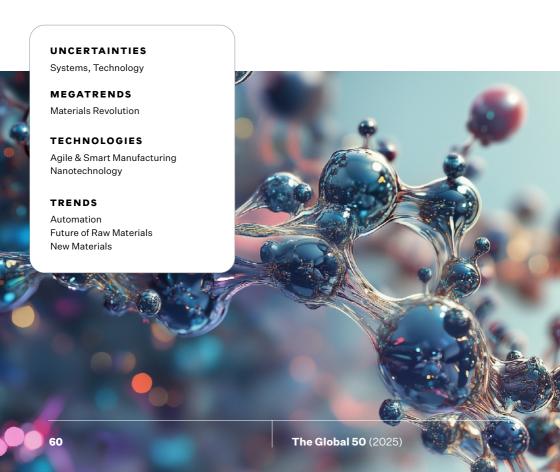
The Global 50 (2025)



What if products built themselves?



Engineered through nanotechnology and computational design, self-assembling molecules represent the next generation of manufacturing, autonomously forming and transforming when triggered by chemicals or light.





What if higher education was no longer about the number of years but the quality of years?

Higher Paths



Higher education shifts to personalised and practical learning, prioritising critical thinking and real-world problem-solving. This shapes lifelong learners, with success measured through demonstrated competencies rather than fixed time periods.

UNCERTAINTIES	
Collaboration, Values	
MEGATRENDS	
Future Humanity	
TECHNOLOGIES	
Digital Communities	
Digital Realities	
TRENDS	
Community-Based Solutions	
Cross-Sectoral Partnerships	
Future of Purpose & Work	
Mobilising Innovation	-
Transforming Education	
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50

This research was undertaken by the Dubai Future Foundation's Dubai Future Institute. The Dubai Future Foundation produces insights and foresight reports using evidence-based analysis and imagination that enable stakeholders to anticipate and better navigate the future.

Our publications can be found at **www.dubaifuture.ae/insights/**



Visit The Global 50 Webpage for more ways to explore The Global 50 report and opportunities.



