



**Testimony of Matthew Malchano,  
Vice President of Software**

*Before the*  
**United States House of Representatives  
Homeland Security Committee  
Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Protection Subcommittee**

*Hearing on the topic of*  
**“DeepSeek and Unitree Robotics: Examining the National Security Risks of PRC  
Artificial Intelligence, Robotics, and Autonomous Technologies  
and Building a Secure U.S. Technology Base”**

March 17, 2026

Chairman Ogles, Ranking Member Swalwell, and distinguished members of the subcommittee. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this very important and timely topic. I am Vice President of Software at Boston Dynamics, the world’s leading developer of advanced mobile robots. I also serve as the company’s Security Officer, responsible for overseeing our cybersecurity and data sovereignty protocols. Having worked for the company for 22 years in leadership and technical roles, on both commercial products and government projects, I have witnessed our industry’s transition from its initial era of academic experimentation, to government-funded research projects, to early commercial deployment and, now, to a company that is engaged in one of the most consequential global competitions in advanced technology.

Our company, founded over 30 years ago by a Massachusetts Institute of Technology professor and his students, is at the forefront of an industry which will result in advanced mobile robots becoming common in industrial, public safety, entertainment, defense and security applications. Advanced mobile robots are still a new technology, but our robots are already in use in manufacturing facilities, semiconductor fabrication plants,<sup>1</sup> energy plants,<sup>2</sup> as well as in police departments. One of our robots has even taken bullets in the line of duty.<sup>3</sup> Our robots are

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<sup>1</sup> See Global Foundries Case Study, available at <https://bostondynamics.com/case-studies/globalfoundries/>.

<sup>2</sup> See Meet Chevron’s New Energy Watchdog, available at <https://bostondynamics.com/case-studies/meet-chevrons-new-energy-watchdog/>.

<sup>3</sup> See “Robotic police dog shot multiple times, credited with avoiding potential bloodshed,” Associated Press, March 27, 2024, available at <https://apnews.com/article/massachusetts-cape-cod-robot-dog-police-f63586d5286750702f396109c9a81836>.

used by the United States Secret Service to protect the President,<sup>4</sup> and by military agencies to investigate and neutralize the threat of improvised explosive devices.<sup>5</sup> We are headquartered in Massachusetts, with a growing workforce of over 1,000 employees, and we proudly design and manufacture our robots in the United States.

Exciting recent advances in AI are already accelerating the development of a new generation of mobile robots. Computer vision enables robots to perceive their environment, recognize objects, and offer contextually relevant services. Vision and natural language processing will enable us to more easily communicate with robots using language and gestures. Motion control software, created by machine learning and reinforcement learning, increasingly drives the robots, accelerating their development. Robots now learn tasks using AI technologies to observe and analyze the movements of people or other robots doing that task.<sup>6</sup> But these advances in AI also enable competitors, including those headquartered in foreign adversarial nations, to quickly close the gap in capabilities. Their robots and ours can now be built and programmed in 30 months to do what our company once took 30 years to develop.

### The New Generation of Robotics Raises Economic Security and National Security Risks

The types of products or machines that could be described as a “robot” are very broad. I focus my testimony on what I call *advanced robotic technologies*. *Advanced robotic technologies* consist of highly agile mobile robots designed to be put to work in a variety of environments and applications, and whose functionality is trained by, or enhanced by, artificial intelligence methodologies. These types of robots raise heightened economic security interests and national security risks, and therefore should most squarely be the focus of federal policy, for the following reasons:

- 1. Advanced robotic technologies are dual-use.** A robot developed to navigate complex environments, using legs or other methods providing enhanced agility and dexterity, will eventually be useful in the battlefield. Just in the past few months, we have seen Chinese-made quadrupeds exhibited during China’s military parade,<sup>7</sup> and videos of Chinese humanoids training to fight in hand-to-hand combat.<sup>8</sup> There have also been reports of quadrupeds, developed by Chinese robotics companies including the company identified in the title of this hearing, armed with machine guns and used

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<sup>4</sup> See “Robotic dogs are patrolling Mar-a-Lago to help protect Trump, Secret Service confirms,” FOX 59, November 8, 2024, available at <https://fox59.com/news/national-world/robotic-dogs-are-patrolling-mar-a-lago-to-help-protect-trump-secret-service-confirms/>.

<sup>5</sup> See “Boston Dynamics Awarded Contract to Supply Spot to the Dutch Ministry of Defence,” available at <https://bostondynamics.com/blog/boston-dynamics-awarded-contract-to-supply-spot-to-the-dutch-ministry-of-defence/>.

<sup>6</sup> For a recent explanation from our robotics AI team of how we are using AI to make robots more capable than ever before, with accompanying illustrative videos, please see “Large Behavior Models and Atlas Find New Footing,” Boston Dynamics, available at <https://bostondynamics.com/blog/large-behavior-models-atlas-find-new-footing/>.

<sup>7</sup> See “Weaponised ‘robot wolves’ make cameo at China military parade,” The Guardian, September 5, 2025, available at <https://www.theguardian.com/world/video/2025/sep/04/weaponised-robot-wolves-make-cameo-at-big-china-military-parade-video>.

<sup>8</sup> See “China Just Held the First-Ever Humanoid Robot Fight Night,” Vice.com, May 27, 2025, available at <https://www.vice.com/en/article/china-just-held-the-first-ever-humanoid-robot-fight-night/>.

in joint military training exercises in Cambodia.<sup>9</sup> And of course, U.S. forces have been using mobile robots for years to investigate and mitigate IEDs. Robots with enhanced mobility and AI-powered capabilities will be even more important in military applications, and we have seen in recent years how *aerial* robotics (drones), including those designed and intended for commercial or consumer use, can become consequential, or even outcome-determinant, in warfare.<sup>10</sup> Therefore, ensuring the success and growth of the domestic advanced robotics industry, including ground robotics systems designed and developed for commercial and industrial applications, is of national security importance.

2. **Advanced robotic technologies are increasingly crucial in the manufacture, production, and supply chain of other goods.** These technologies will help address workforce shortages of the future due to demographic inevitabilities arising from diminishing birth rates in the United States and elsewhere. Humanoids and similar form factors allow for automated physical operations in workspaces designed and built for humans, allowing existing infrastructure and factories to remain in operation even during labor shortages. The countries that build and deploy these advanced robots will be the ones that are best poised to manufacture on their own shores efficiently, and to protect their supply chains in other industries including automobiles, ships, defense materiel, and rail cars. Manufacturing in these other sectors has already been recognized by the federal government as being of national security importance to the United States. The robots that *enable and sustain* such manufacturing are a matter of economic security as well. Fast, agile manufacturing is, in turn, a key flywheel for advanced research and development. It is likely that robot acceleration may create a run-away amplification effect for technology development and industrial dominance.
  
3. **Advanced robotic technologies are the physical embodiment of artificial intelligence.** Various officials in the United States government have rightfully emphasized the need for the United States to win the AI race. Advanced robots are the physical manifestation of AI, leveraging everything from computer vision and reinforcement learning to visual language action and large behavior models -- to learn how to interface with the real world and perform a wide range of useful tasks. Some of these tasks will have national security importance. Even if the United States leads on software AI, the potential for dominance of robotic hardware by foreign adversaries will create national security vulnerabilities. If U.S.-sourced software can

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<sup>9</sup> See “Meet the Chinese army’s latest weapon: the gun-toting dog,” The Guardian, May 30, 2024, available at <https://www.theguardian.com/science/article/2024/may/30/chinese-armys-latest-weapon-gun-toting-dog>.

<sup>10</sup> “Ukraine Says More Than 80% of Enemy Targets Now Destroyed by Drones,” Defense News, January 28, 2026, available at <https://www.defensenews.com/global/europe/2026/01/28/ukraine-says-more-than-80-of-enemy-targets-now-destroyed-by-drones/>.

only be deployed in machines that have been produced elsewhere because of the erosion of the domestic robotics industry, AI-only security will be insufficient. To win the AI race, the United States must win the robotics race.

4. **Using foreign advanced robotics technology in critical roles creates a risk of interference, access, and denial of service.** The unique combination of hardware, software, sensors, mobility, and communication mechanisms makes advanced mobile robots higher risk than other internet-of-things technologies, and it can be practically impossible to rule out tampering by adverse interests if done by the manufacturer. As robots become a critical part of key infrastructure, they become a potential and potent threat vector to that infrastructure.

### **Other Nations, Including U.S. Adversaries, Are Prioritizing Robotics**

The economic, strategic and national security importance of robotics is evident from efforts made by other nations to support and promote their domestic robot industries. Nations that have implemented some form of national strategy initiative for robotics include Japan, South Korea, Singapore, Germany, France, the Netherlands, India and China. *See* “A Time to Act: Policies to Strengthen the US Robotics Industry,” Information Technology & Innovation Foundation, July 18, 2025, available at <https://itif.org/publications/2025/07/18/time-to-act-policies-to-strengthen-us-robotics-industry/>.

Recent events demonstrate that China, especially, has recognized the national security implications of its advanced robotic technologies sector. In February 2025, the CEO of prominent Chinese robotics company Unitree, which develops and manufactures quadrupeds and humanoids, was seated prominently across from Chinese President Xi at a summit of tech executives. *See* “What did China’s tech entrepreneurs tell Xi Jinping at the symposium?” *South China Morning Post*, February 21, 2025, available at <https://www.scmp.com/tech/big-tech/article/3299599/what-did-chinas-tech-entrepreneurs-tell-xi-jinping-symposium>. China also recently hosted a humanoid half-marathon and humanoid “Olympics.” *See* “China’s robots race against humans – and their U.S. counterparts,” *NBC News*, April 23, 2025, available at <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/world/china-robots-race-humans-half-marathon-rcna195586>; “Tesla Optimus rival Unitree shines at the ‘World Humanoid Robot Games’ in China,” *CNBC*, August 18, 2025, available at <https://www.cNBC.com/2025/08/18/world-humanoid-robot-games-china-tesla-unitree.html>.

The elevation of China’s robotics community onto its national stage is not accidental. Instead, it is a direct consequence of comprehensive government support of China’s robotics industry and AI-driven innovations. For example, we note the PRC’s “Fourteenth Five-Year Plan for the Robotics Industry” (2021-2025), Central People's Government, December 21, 2021, available at [https://www.gov.cn/zhengce/zhengceku/2021-12/28/content\\_5664988.htm](https://www.gov.cn/zhengce/zhengceku/2021-12/28/content_5664988.htm) as well as its “Implementation Plan for the ‘Robotics Plus’ Application Special Operation,” PRC Central People's Government, January 18, 2023, available at

[https://www.gov.cn/zhengce/zhengceku/2023-01/19/content\\_5738112.htm](https://www.gov.cn/zhengce/zhengceku/2023-01/19/content_5738112.htm). These documents outline the many mechanisms and policies that have supported the Chinese robotics industry, ranging from government funded R&D, to tax deductions, to government acting as first adopters to SOE robot procurement prioritization. *See also* China M.I.I.T. "Guiding Opinions on the Innovative Development of Humanoid Robots," Center for Science and Technology Innovation (Beijing), November 3, 2023, available at [https://www.ncsti.gov.cn/zcfg/zcwj/202311/t20231103\\_140346.html](https://www.ncsti.gov.cn/zcfg/zcwj/202311/t20231103_140346.html).

Commentators and experts have evaluated the impact of these policies on the industry. *See, e.g.*, "America Is Missing The New Labor Economy – Robotics," *SemiAnalysis*, March 11, 2025, available at <https://semianalysis.com/2025/03/11/america-is-missing-the-new-labor-economy-robotics-part-1/> (indicating that there is "an existential threat to the US as it is outcompeted in all capacities"); "The Humanoid 100: Mapping the Humanoid Robot Value Chain," Morgan Stanley, available at [https://advisor.morganstanley.com/john.howard/documents/field/jjo/john-howard/The\\_Humanoid\\_100\\_-\\_Mapping\\_the\\_Humanoid\\_Robot\\_Value\\_Chain.pdf](https://advisor.morganstanley.com/john.howard/documents/field/jjo/john-howard/The_Humanoid_100_-_Mapping_the_Humanoid_Robot_Value_Chain.pdf) ("Our research suggests China continues to show the most impressive progress in humanoid robotics where startups are benefitting from established supply chains, local adoption opportunities, and strong degrees of national government support."); "How Innovative Is China in the Robotics Industry?," Information Technology & Innovation Foundation, available at <https://itif.org/publications/2024/03/11/how-innovative-is-china-in-the-robotics-industry/> ("China had 12 times the rate of robot use in manufacturing than did the United States."); Testimony of Sunny Cheung, Jamestown Foundation, before the U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission, February 6, 2025, available at [https://www.uscc.gov/sites/default/files/2025-02/Sunny\\_Cheung\\_Testimony.pdf](https://www.uscc.gov/sites/default/files/2025-02/Sunny_Cheung_Testimony.pdf) ("The results of these sustained efforts are evident in the rapid rise of leading Chinese robotics companies such as UBTech, Fourier Intelligence, Unitree Robotics, and major tech giants like Xiaomi and XPeng, which have expanded into humanoid robotics development. These companies are increasingly competitive in global markets, not just as adopters of automation but as innovators producing cutting-edge robotic systems with intelligent AI integration."); *Embodied Intelligence: The PRC's Whole-of-Nation Push into Robotics*, Sunny Cheung, Jamestown Foundation, August 9, 2025, available at <https://jamestown.org/program/embodied-intelligence-the-prcs-whole-of-nation-push-into-robotics/> ("The rise of the PRC's robotics industry represents a tightly coordinated, whole-of-nation campaign driven by national strategy, regional policy alignment, and deep industrial integration.").

National strategies in Chinese industry policy are often executed via government subsidies at the local or provincial level. *See Far From Normal: An Augmented Assessment of China's State Support*, Rhodium Group, March 17, 2025, available at <https://rhg.com/research/far-from-normal-an-augmented-assessment-of-chinas-state-support/> ("China spends more through direct grants and tax benefits than any other major economy, both in absolute amounts and as a share of GDP"). "China's industrial policy spending is enormous,

totaling at least 1.73 percent of GDP in 2019. This is equivalent to more than \$248 billion at nominal exchange rates and \$407 billion at purchasing power parity exchange rates.” See “Red Ink: Estimating Chinese Industrial Policy Spending in Comparative Perspective,” Center for Strategic & International Studies, available at <https://www.csis.org/analysis/red-ink-estimating-chinese-industrial-policy-spending-comparative-perspective> According to Jamestown Foundation’s research, State-sponsored overproduction is another policy-driven approach that will have an impact on the robotics sector. See, e.g., *Beyond overcapacity: Chinese-style modernization and the clash of economic models*, Mercator Institute for China Studies, April 1, 2025, available at <https://merics.org/en/report/beyond-overcapacity-chinese-style-modernization-and-clash-economic-models> (indicating that “advanced industrial machinery and components” is one of the sectors most likely to see overcapacities emerge due to Chinese government policy). China has used state-backed financing to boost its intelligent robotics industry, offering tens of millions of dollars in subsidies, loans and other financial support. “[P]rovinces and cities [in China] are engaged in a de facto ‘subsidy race,’ each vying to foster the next national robotics champion within their jurisdiction.” *Id.*

One example of Chinese government support that we have been able to trace is the “little giant” designation. Enterprises that secure a national designation from China’s Ministry of Industry and Information Technology (MIIT) as specialized, refined, distinctive, and innovative “little giant” firms are eligible for provincial funding, reduced corporate income tax rates, accelerated depreciation of R&D equipment, and matching grants for innovation projects. Our research of sources in China indicates that various leading Chinese robotics companies have received the so-called “little giant” designation, including Unitree but also DEEP, Fourier, Leju, Qiteng, and Tianlian. This designation signals their ability to access a wide range of government funding and support. Indeed, a recent Guangdong province policy document, “Notice on Organizing the Project Entry of Specialized, Refined, Distinctive, and Innovative ‘Little Giant’ Enterprises in the Field of Artificial Intelligence and Robotics” (September 2, 2025), outlines subsidies for designated “little giant” enterprises specifically in the field of AI and robotics. It is evident that China’s robotics producers have been the beneficiaries of state subsidies and support.

China is proceeding expeditiously with its government-sponsored industrial strategy. As just one example, in November 2025, the Chinese government formed an advisory committee on humanoid robotics, overseen by the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology, and appointed the CEOs of Unitree and AgiBot as co-chairs.<sup>11</sup> By March 2026, barely three months later, working together with 120 research institutions, the committee had already developed and released a six-pillar national standard for humanoid robotics, described as the “first

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<sup>11</sup> “Unitree, AgiBot founders, China’s robotics stars, join panel to shape industry standards,” South China Morning Post, November 25, 2025, available at <https://www.scmp.com/tech/policy/article/3333964/unitree-agibot-founders-chinas-robotics-stars-join-panel-shape-industry-standards> .

comprehensive, top-level design covering the entire industrial chain and full lifecycle of humanoid robotics and embodied intelligence.”<sup>12</sup>

China’s strategy for advanced robotic technologies mimics the same approaches that it has used in other technology sectors: marketing products at prices which can only be possible by government support, intentionally over-produced and/or sold below cost. If left unchecked, over time, the impact of China’s state support will echo in robotics the results seen in unmanned aircraft systems (drones): producers in the United States will struggle to compete, lose sales due to price differentials, and eventually many of them may be forced to drop out of the market.

Due to the nascent nature of the advanced robotic technologies industry, these impacts have yet to be felt in the U.S. industrial sector, but they have become evident in research universities and academic institutions, who are typically the early adopters of such technologies. Boston Dynamics’ Spot robot dominated this research market from 2020-2022. However, in only the past 12-18 months, advanced robotic technology uses in that market have become dominated by the less-expensive and less-featured Chinese brands, particularly Unitree. This rapid shift in the academic/research market foreshadows the potential future dominance of foreign producers of advanced robotic technologies across other sectors worldwide, such as manufacturing, energy, logistics, security patrol, law enforcement, and even defense. Indeed, we are already seeing a notable increase in adoption of Chinese quadruped robot “dogs” by domestic law enforcement agencies, similar to the early years of Chinese drone adoption by law enforcement agencies.<sup>13</sup> Additionally, network effects here mean that as a platform becomes dominant in the new market, new capabilities and applications will favor that platform, leading to a substantial first mover advantage.

The role of robotics across key industrial sectors, and the extent of the Chinese government’s support for robotics, are starkly revealed by the Chinese government’s new five-year plan, released earlier this month in Beijing. Robotics “now commands its own dedicated inset box among the plan’s top ten ‘new industry tracks.’” *China’s New Five-Year Plan Prioritizes Robotics. The World Should Pay Attention*, The Diplomat, March 14, 2026.

[R]obotics is not treated as a standalone sector but as an enabler woven across chapters on manufacturing, digital transformation, elderly care, national security, and even cultural development. This is less an industrial policy *for* robots than an industrial policy *through* robots.

*Id.* (emphasis in original).

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<sup>12</sup> “China’s first national standard system for humanoid robotics poised to spur industry development,” Xinhua, March 3, 2026, available at <https://english.news.cn/20260303/0e51ac8f66c542c5bacf2af3f80b3a40/c.html> .

<sup>13</sup> US police departments and public safety agencies that have recently adopted Chinese “robot dog” models include [Brawley Police Department](#) (California), [Charles County DES](#) (Maryland), [Topeka Police Department](#) (Kansas), [Pullman Police Department](#) (Washington), and [Port St. Lucie Police Department](#) (Florida).

This new plan makes clear that the full support of the Chinese government now stands behind its robotics sector, including “access to the 60 billion RMB (\$8.2 billion) National AI Industry Investment Fund, provincial matching funds, and the full apparatus of state-backed venture capital.” *Id.* These efforts are currently unmatched by any policy efforts in the United States to support its domestic robotics industry.

### **The Nature of the Cybersecurity Threat**

Robots that are not secure and that contain cyber vulnerabilities, especially those produced by adversarial actors, pose a variety of serious risks to the facilities and/or agencies that deploy them.

Advanced mobile robots present new and unique classes of cybersecurity risk beyond AI and computer systems. These robots are complex systems made of software and hardware. When produced by adversarial nations they carry larger probabilities of being compromised with backdoors and remote access allowing nation-state attackers (intelligence or military) to take control. If compromised robots become critical components of in turn security critical systems, attackers can sabotage those systems, interfere with a manufacturing line or halt a security patrol. As robot capabilities approach those of humans in terms of seeing, moving, and manipulation, a compromised robot gives attackers eyes and hands throughout sensitive facilities. Growing autonomy lets these robots take actions on their own.

Public security researchers have additionally demonstrated clear gaps in Chinese manufactured robot security. Even in the absence of specific attack intent, these vulnerabilities open users of these systems to potential third party attacks.

Securing systems that are used in high-value or sensitive operations should be a priority for both engineers and nations. Boston Dynamics has set out our approach to securing robots in a whitepaper describing how we maximize the security of our products, including the features and design considerations which enable these platforms to be trusted parts of customer IT integrations. See <https://bostondynamics.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/spot-and-site-hub-security-white-paper.pdf>

### **Unitree: One of Many Companies Raising Concerns**

This hearing’s title calls out Chinese robotics company Unitree specifically. To be sure, Unitree has been the most visible company marketing and selling its legged robots in the United States, and also appears to have been chosen by the government of China as a national champion. News media have reported cybersecurity vulnerabilities in the company’s products, including data exfiltration exploits and remote-control backdoor access.<sup>14</sup> Additional security research

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<sup>14</sup> See “Exploit Allows for Takeover of Fleets of Unitree Robots,” IEEE Spectrum, Sept 25, 2025, available at <https://spectrum.ieee.org/unitree-robot-exploit> and “Unitree humanoid robots send data to China every 5 minutes,

relating to Unitree robots that did not receive wide press coverage include a reported exploit that enables a network-based takeover of the robot and the discovery of a reported Unitree AI/LLM cloud service that could cause arbitrary commands to be executed on the robot.<sup>15</sup> The company also seems to be widely engaged in white labeling products that appear in the United States under different brand names.<sup>16</sup> A few weeks ago, following earlier reports of connections between Unitree and the PLA,<sup>17</sup> Unitree was placed on the Department of War's Section 1260H list of Chinese Military Companies, before that list was withdrawn (apparently, temporarily and not for reasons related to Unitree).<sup>18</sup> Most recently, forty-nine Unitree humanoids performed at a high profile Spring Festival spectacular, dancing rhythmically, vaulting, breakdancing, and mock sword fighting, showing a high degree of confidence in placing fast-moving robots next to child performers before a live audience. Unitree is also moving forward with an initial public offering this year. Given its market penetration, reported security vulnerabilities, and apparent ties to the Chinese government and military, it is not surprising that Unitree has earned the focus and attention of the US government, security analysts and policymakers. Scrutiny by this subcommittee is certainly warranted.

However, there are literally dozens of other Chinese companies making rapid progress with government support, particularly in the humanoid space. At the 2026 Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas, where we debuted the new version of our Atlas humanoid robot, Chinese companies displaying humanoid robots appeared to outnumber US companies by a factor of five to one. On social media, industry observers are tracking dozens of Chinese humanoid companies, compared to just a handful in the United States:

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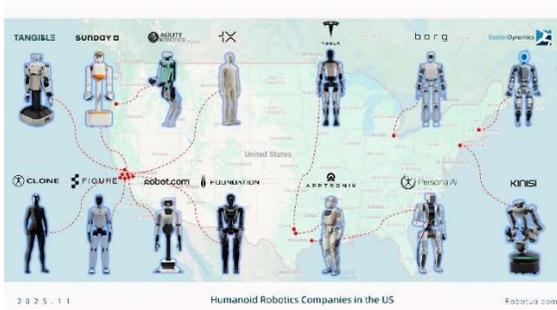
raising security fears,” Interesting Engineering, October 1, 2025, available at <https://interestingengineering.com/innovation/security-flaw-unitree-humanoids-china> .

<sup>15</sup> For the original research reporting these issues, see: “The Jailbroken Unitree Robot Dog,” available at [https://www.darknavy.org/darknavy\\_insight/the\\_jailbroken\\_unitree\\_robot\\_dog/](https://www.darknavy.org/darknavy_insight/the_jailbroken_unitree_robot_dog/); “39C3 - Skynet Starter Kit: From Embodied AI Jailbreak to Remote Takeover of Humanoid Robots,” available at [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qjA\\_5-Bybs](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qjA_5-Bybs) ; “Skynet Starter Kit – Researchers control humanoid robots via radio & AI,” available at <https://www.heise.de/en/background/39C3-Skynet-Starter-Kit-Researchers-control-humanoid-robots-via-radio-AI-11125615.html> .

<sup>16</sup> One example is a flamethrower-equipped quadruped robot sold by a company called Throwflame, which is obviously a white-labelled Unitree robot. <https://throwflame.com/products/thermonator-robodog/> . Another company, Robot.com, is using rebranded Unitree robots for urban delivery. <https://www.robot.com/> .

<sup>17</sup> “‘The Robot Dog’s Time to Kill’: At China’s Star Robotics Firm, the Military Ties Keep Mounting,” Kharon The Brief, July 17, 2025, available at <https://www.kharon.com/brief/unitree-robotics-china-pla> .

<sup>18</sup> “U.S. Briefly Adds Alibaba, BYD and Other High-Profile Firms to List of Chinese Military Companies,” Kharon Research, February 13, 2026, available at <https://www.kharon.com/brief/us-china-news-alibaba-byd-defense-department-1260h> .



Beijing										
Shanghai										
Shenzhen										
Hangzhou (Zhejiang)										
Others										
	Suzhou	Suzhou	Suzhou	Nanjing	Guangzhou	Guangzhou	Foshan	Hefei	Qingdao	Jinan

(Source: [https://x.com/Robo\\_Tuo/status/1991882471156457894](https://x.com/Robo_Tuo/status/1991882471156457894))

This wide set of actors means that, although federal policy can and should target specific companies that are of concern to national security, a broader all-of-government strategic approach is needed to support the US robotics industry and to provide greater assurance of economic security.

### Recommendations

We respectfully make the following recommendations to this subcommittee, to Congress, and to the broader United States government:

1. **Direct the Department of Homeland Security, Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) to expeditiously undertake a national security evaluation of the use of foreign adversarial robots in American industry and governmental operations.**

Although private researchers have raised alarm by uncovering backdoors and vulnerabilities in specific Chinese robotics products on the market, these are one-off studies and we are not aware of any comprehensive government-led study of this issue. Such a study would provide clear guidance to private industry, government contractors, public safety agencies, and other stakeholders regarding the security of advanced robotics products acquired from foreign companies. The examination would be informative to both important end-users and policymakers and is, we believe, overdue.

## **2. Pass the *National Robotics Commission Act*, as a Step Towards a National Robotics Strategy**

Recently, a bipartisan bill was introduced in the House that would establish a National Robotics Commission, H.R. 7334. Modeled on the AI and Biotech Commissions that were so useful to those industries and to government stakeholders, a Robotics Commission would bring experts, industry, and government together to recommend the policies that would support the growth and success of the industry.

Our company began calling for the development of a national robotics strategy in 2023. While Chinese advisory committees have already made quick progress on collaborative standards and strategies, and another five-year plan emerges from the Chinese government that elevates robotics even more than the prior plans, and while about a dozen other countries have their own robotics strategies, the United States government has yet to move forward with establishing a deliberative body or tasking an agency to begin developing its own national strategy. Time is running short and we urge Congress to move forward as soon as possible with this legislation and related policy efforts to kick-start the development of a national robotics strategy.

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Boston Dynamics is grateful for the opportunity to share our perspectives with you on this important topic. I look forward to your questions.