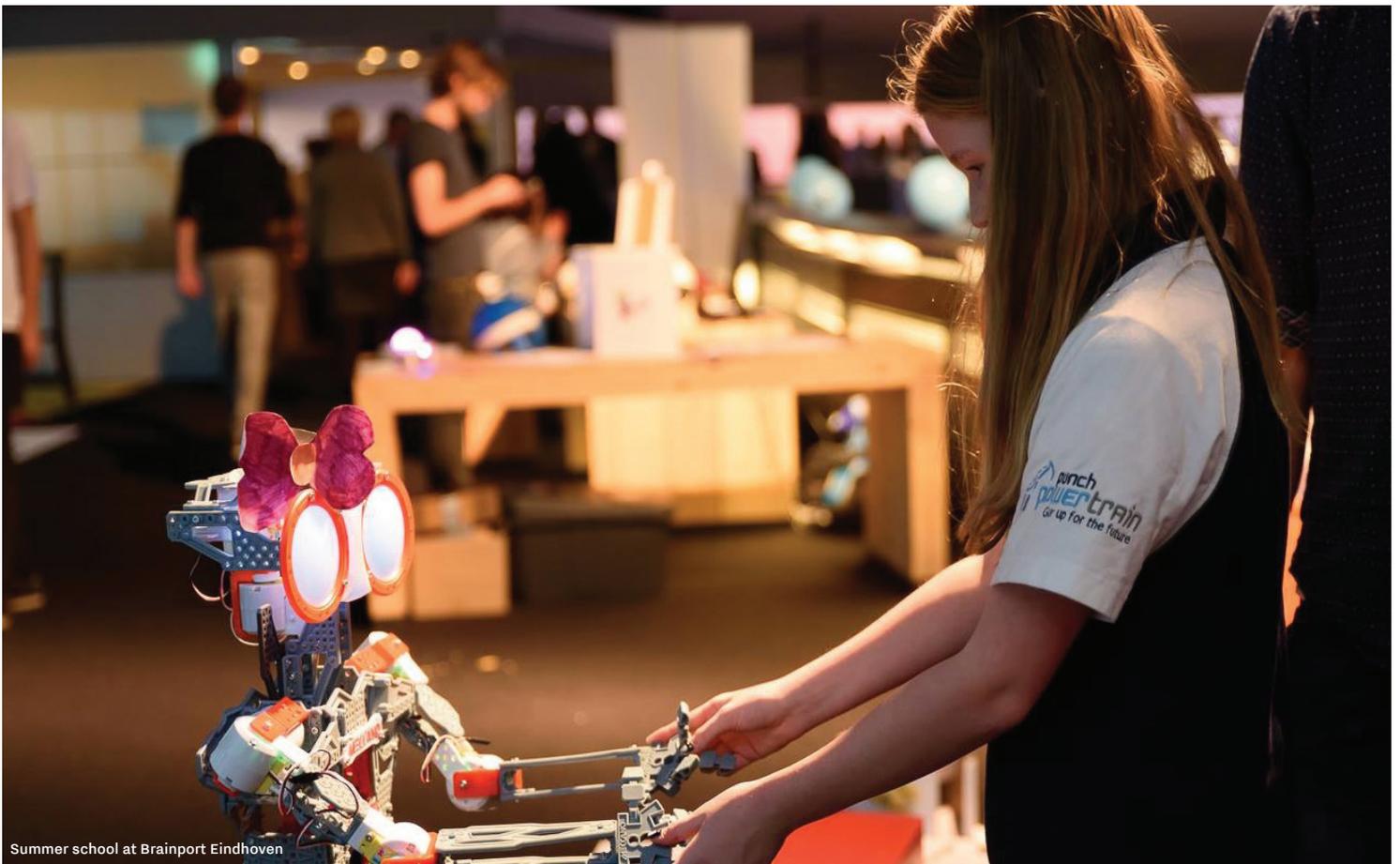# Let's empower our digital future

Digitalisation has transformed the way we live and do business. It offers us new possibilities to address societal and economic themes, from social inclusion and labour participation to security and environmental protection. The Netherlands believes digital transformation must be built on trust and focus on serving societies worldwide.

Summer school at Brainport Eindhoven

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ICT enables farmers to use data for improving their farming methods.

The Netherlands aims to further unlock the social and economic potential of digital technology, such as in lowering healthcare costs, improving mobility, and accelerating sustainable food production. We aim to be a pioneer and testing ground for responsible digital innovation.

Serving societal needs
As technology continues to connect and transform the world, leaders in innovation economy are harnessing the power of technology to address global challenges. Aligned with the UN Sustainable Development Goals, the Netherlands has defined an action plan for People, Planet and Prosperity towards 2030.

The Dutch ICT sector collaborates across sectors and borders to develop key enabling technologies to help tackle societal challenges worldwide. An example is Dutch-German field labs where organisations to work together and adapt know-how in practice quickly and flexibly.

The Netherlands is a proven testing ground for new solutions and perceived as the digital gateway to Europe. We're building strong European alliances and making major digital investments through the Horizon 2020 programme. Preparing for digital transition, we're actively involved in the discussion around reponsible data handling, digital human rights and privacy.

Big Data
Many Dutch companies are early adopters of Big Data. National co-operation takes place through programmes such as Commit2data and Big Data Hubs, focused on solving societal issues. There are 80 innovative big data companies in the country. In 2017, nearly 20% of Dutch companies already worked with big data analytics. It also proves to be useful for NGOs. For Project 510, the Dutch Red Cross provides data-driven services for other national societies.

Blockchain
From improving services and production processes to reducing sensitivity to fraud and cyber risks: blockchain has great potential. In the Netherlands, public interest in blockchain is high. We continue to build trust, emphasising its value for people's well-being, prosperity and security. Promising experiments are taking place across sectors, from agri & food and smart industry to maritime and energy.

Around half of the Dutch retailers already work with blockchain or consider to implement it soon. The Port of Rotterdam, for example, uses blockchain to track and monitor sea containers.

Artificial Intelligence
AI isn't just a means to an end. It must enhance general welfare and prosperity. The Netherlands is rising strong in AI readiness nad leaped from 14th to 9th place in the 2020 Oxford Insights Index. We are home to the first AI-only Rockstart Accelerator and proud to host the headquarters of the largest international AI network, the CLAIRE Research Network. 40% of Dutch companies has implemented AI and for 2% AI is vital to their business. In 2018, Dutch companies invested over USD40 million on AI. On the 'Farm of the Future' field lab, circular agriculture innovation are developed using robots and AI. We are also a frontrunner in E-health solutions with the highest adoption rate in hospitals and clinics worldwide.

Cybersecurity
The Netherlands is renowned for its advanced technology for smart grids, infrastructure security, attack simulation software, and defence and security system design. We aim to use the latest digital technologies to fight crime. For example, Terre des Hommes' chat robot, Sweetie, has caught thousands of online perpetrators looking to sexually abuse children. The Netherlands is also home to the largest security cluster in Europe (The Hague Security Delta), the Global Forum for Cyber Expertise and the NATO Communications and Information Agency.

Future Networks beyond 5G
The Netherlands aims to be at the forefront of the 5G revolution. 5G is still in its infancy, but further investments are necessary to obtain and maintain a strong position in knowledge standardisation and in the patent position towards the rollout. Currently, 4G Network coverage in the Netherlands is 99,3%, which makes our country one of the best covered in the world.

All in all, we believe our digital economy, government and society must be built on trust. By safeguarding privacy, monitoring digital security, and carefully applying new technologt based on clear data sharing agreements.

Let's innovate together!
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