

Robots will get more emotional, synthetic biology will take a leap forward and cryptocurrencies will keep you guessing about their unstable future. Here's what to expect in 2018 in the world of science and technology. While 2017 may have been an emotional year for many humans, 2018 promises to be more emotional for robots, but don't expect them to become sentient anytime soon. As they enter our homes, schools and workplaces, the next generation of robots will definitely need to learn how to fit into everyday human life. To this end, roboticists are developing a brand new class of humanoid robots that are more capable of human interaction. Take the handsome robot Sophia for instance, a humanoid that can hold conversations and speak public forums. Socially assistive robots providing therapy to children with autism and elderly will also gain prominence. Just this week at CES, a slew of robots like Sony's robot dog AIBO and blue frogs conversational robot buddy were unveiled.

With the bitcoins meteor cries in 2017, all eyes are set on cryptocurrencies. Trade experts are split on whether or not the currency boom will last. Some are comparing the crypto craze to the dot-com bubbles in the 90s, others are counting on them to become more mainstream. Among its supporters are celebrities like rapper Ghostface Killah who announces cryptocurrency company preen capital and Kodak, which just launched Kodak coin a cryptocurrency for photographers.

The space race is expected to intensify as countries like India, Japan and China have some big space launches coming up. Both India and China are headed to the moon with China planning to land a rover on the dark side of the moon later this year and India launching its second lunar mission in March meanwhile Japan's Hayabusa 2 spacecraft is scheduled to land on the asteroid ryugu in June. Private space companies in the US are pursuing their own space race as SpaceX and Blue Origin try to perfect reusable rockets.

Augmented reality is definitely becoming more mainstream. The much-hyped company magically finally unveiled its augmented reality glasses last month and plans to ship consumer versions in 2018. Facebook and Google and Microsoft aren't far behind as a virtual becomes more real engineers are trying to push the boundaries of science and day to day application with each new prototype. Apple and Google are currently working with developers to integrate augmented reality with their smartphone offerings. Pretty soon we could all be wearing Terminator style in our glasses.

Significant breakthroughs in the field of genetics and molecular biology are on the horizon. Geneticist and chemist Dr. George Church says that 2018 will bring multiple projects to make synthetic cells safe from all viruses. He says we'll see new data on embryos growing outside of a mouse body and new synthetic nerve cells for brain computer interfaces. The dawn of synthetic genomes will help reduce costs for diagnosis and treatments of several illnesses.