

'World Robot Summit' coming to Japan in 2020

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As top human athletes battle for medals, their cutting-edge droid counterparts will also be locked in fierce competition at the "World

Robot Summit".

Japan's trade ministry is hosting the event which will feature "competitions and exhibits" involving a variety of machines including humanoid and [industrial robots](#), a [government official](#) said Wednesday.

The exact date and location of the event has yet to be determined, with the ministry now inviting bids from cities across Japan, which is famed for its [robot technology](#).

In recent years, the country has sent a talking robot into space as a conversation partner for Japanese astronaut Koichi Wakata, as part of a project to see how the machine could act as a companion for isolated people.

Japan has also used robots to fill jobs as kitchen workers and farmers in a bid to address labour shortages that are projected to get worse as the country rapidly ages.

The government said it hopes to draw high-tech robots from around the globe for the 2020 summit.

Tokyo will host the 2020 Summer Olympics starting in late July that year, followed by the Paralympics.

Asia's biggest tech fair—the Cutting-Edge IT & Electronics Comprehensive Exhibition (CEATEC)—kicked off near Tokyo this week with a dizzying array of robots on display.

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