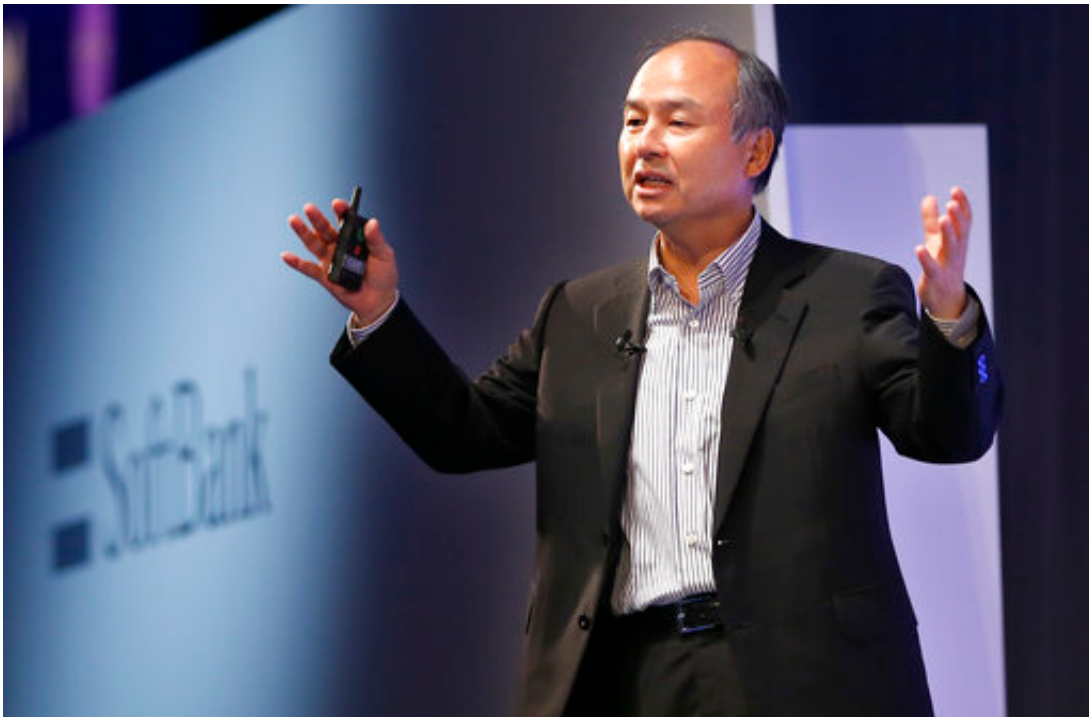


SoftBank CEO sees massive data, AI as key to future advances

July 20 2017, by Yuri Kageyama



SoftBank Group Corp. Chief Executive Officer Masayoshi Son speaks during a SoftBank World presentation at a hotel in Tokyo, Thursday, July 20, 2017. Son, Japan's richest person, told Softbank customers and partners gathered that he believes massive data will help treat cancer, deliver accident-free driving and grow safer food. (AP Photo/Shizuo Kambayashi)

Masayoshi Son, chief executive of SoftBank Group Corp., says artificial intelligence combined with data gathered by billions of sensors will bring on an "information revolution," that will benefit people more than the

19th Century Industrial Revolution.

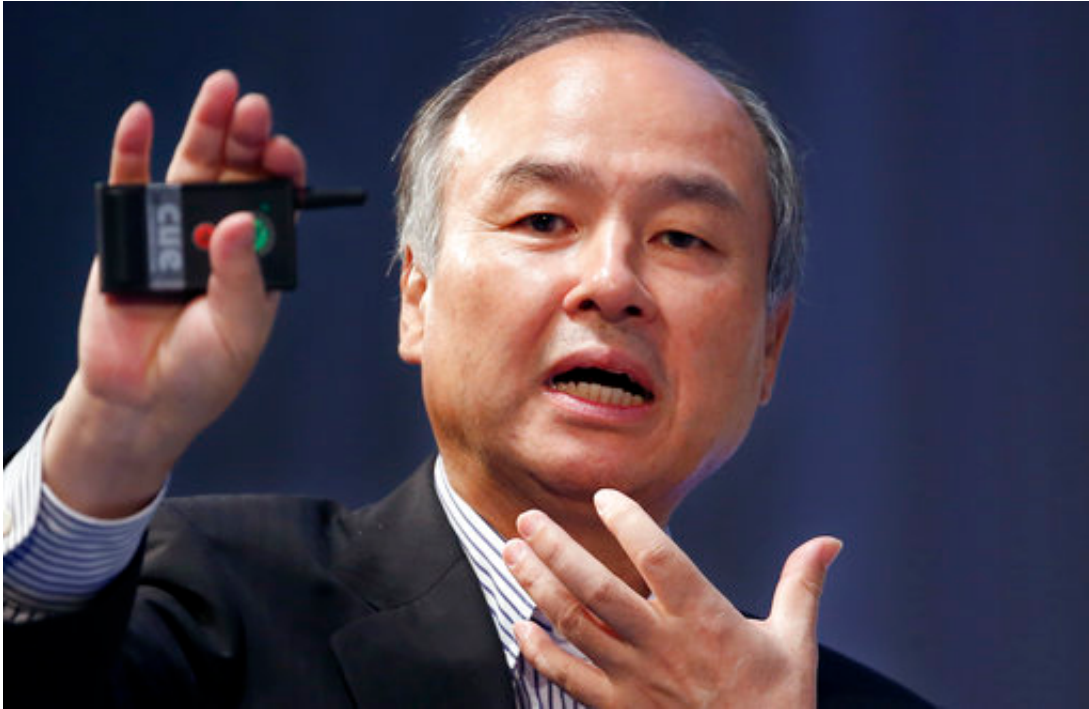
Son, Japan's richest person, told Softbank customers and partners gathered at a Tokyo hotel on Thursday that he believes massive data will help treat cancer, deliver accident-free driving and grow safer food.

SoftBank, the first carrier to offer the Apple iPhone in Japan, has bought leading British semiconductor company ARM, and its acquisition of U.S. robotics pioneer Boston Dynamics, announced last month, is undergoing regulatory approval. Its investments have included Chinese e-commerce company Alibaba and Yahoo Japan.

Son set up a private fund last year for global investments in the technology sector, called Vision Fund, with the potential to grow to as much as \$100 billion. He has won praise from President Donald Trump for promising to invest \$50 billion in U.S. startups to create 50,000 jobs.

This week Softbank announced it will invest in Encored, a U.S. company specializing in IoT technology in the energy sector.

During a nearly three hour presentation, Son, introduced some of the ventures he is partnering, including OneWeb, whose founder and chairman Greg Wyler wants to offer affordable internet access for everyone using satellites instead of underground cables.



SoftBank Group Corp. Chief Executive Officer Masayoshi Son speaks during a SoftBank World presentation at a hotel in Tokyo, Thursday, July 20, 2017. Son, Japan's richest person, told Softbank customers and partners gathered that he believes massive data will help treat cancer, deliver accident-free driving and grow safer food. (AP Photo/Shizuo Kambayashi)

Son also brought on stage Spot, a four-legged robot that can climb steps and dance. Other robots will be able to carry heavy loads, said Marc Raibert, Boston Dynamics chief executive.

"Marc, we are going to change the world together," Son said on stage.

SoftBank already offers one of the most sophisticated companion robots on the market, the chatty, childlike Pepper. Son seemed a bit protective of his flagship robot, saying those who have criticized it as "not too smart" haven't seen what he has planned.



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Another of Son's partner ventures, Guardant Health, offers blood biopsies, which are safer and quicker than tissue biopsies, to detect cancers in their early stages.

Son noted the prevalence of ARM's chips in nearly all smartphones and wearables. Sensor technology can enhance a doctor's surgical skills or help train doctors in an emergency room with virtual reality, said ARM Chief Executive Simon Segars.

Data gathered from such omnipresent sensors will be far greater than

what can be gotten from mobile phones or computers, Son said, opening up all kinds of possibilities for delivering better human life.

"Those who rule chips will rule the entire world. Those who rule data will rule the entire world." Son said. "That's what people of the future will say."



ARM Holdings Chief Executive Simon Segars speaks with SoftBank Group Corp. Chief Executive Officer Masayoshi Son, left, during a SoftBank World presentation at a hotel in Tokyo, Thursday, July 20, 2017. Son, Japan's richest person, told Softbank customers and partners gathered that he believes massive data will help treat cancer, deliver accident-free driving and grow safer food. Son noted the prevalence of ARM's chips in nearly all smartphones and wearables. Sensor technology can enhance a doctor's surgical skills or help train doctors in an emergency room with virtual reality, said Segars. (AP Photo/Shizuo Kambayashi)



Boston Dynamics Chief Executive Marc Raibert, right, gestures beside his four-legged robot SpotMini as SoftBank Group Corp. Chief Executive Officer Masayoshi Son, left, watches him on stage during a SoftBank World presentation at a hotel in Tokyo, Thursday, July 20, 2017. Son, Japan's richest person, told Softbank customers and partners gathered that he believes massive data will help treat cancer, deliver accident-free driving and grow safer food. During the presentation, Son, introduced some of the ventures he is partnering. (AP Photo/Shizuo Kambayashi)

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