



Elon Musk Says Tesla Robots Could Achieve AGI

"Decentralized control of the robots will be critical."



Image by Tesla/Futurism

Listen up, folks: Elon Musk is going to build the world's first sentient robots — but don't worry, he has a workaround to avoid a "Terminator"-esque catastrophe.

It may sound like a bit of a stretch, but that doesn't mean the Tesla and SpaceX CEO doesn't believe it will happen. In a recent tweet, he claimed out of nowhere that his car company's recently-teased [humanoid robot](#), Optimus, "might play a role" in bringing about artificial general intelligence (AGI) — a term meaning AI that meets or even surpasses the intelligence of a human being.

“Tesla AI might play a role in AGI,” [Musk tweeted](#), “given that it trains against the outside world, especially with the advent of Optimus.”

For those not steeped in Elonspeak, here’s a translation. Tesla’s AI research and development department, tasked with making the company’s self-driving cars smarter, may soon have a hand in making sentient AI a reality.

That’s because, as Musk put it, the car’s AI will incorporate information and data from its surroundings in real-time, and become even smarter once the Optimus robots are launched.

When Tesla’s Optimus will make its grand entrance — if ever — remains to be seen. So far, we’ve only seen a [performer in a spandex suit dancing](#) on stage at the company’s AI Day last year.

While the realization of AGI — much less the reality of one — is still likely years off, recent advancements in [autonomous robots](#) and [machine learning](#) have [experts atwitter](#).

Last year, for instance, former Google executive [Mo Gawat warned](#) that [bloodthirsty robots like Skynet](#) from “[The Terminator](#)” series are inevitable — a sentiment in line with Musk’s own belief that sentient robots “[are coming anyway](#).”

When a fanboy asked about the potential for “AGI gone awry” on Twitter, [Musk responded](#) that Tesla will do its “best” to keep it in check, and that “decentralized control of the robots will be critical.”

Though the assurance is welcome, the world’s richest man — as usual — remained quiet on the details.

It’s no surprise that AGI rallying cries are coming from the man whose purported mission it is to [make humans a multiplanetary species](#). All the more reason to take concerns over an impending singularity event seriously.

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