

/ ENHANCED HUMANS

# Peter Diamandis Thinks We're Evolving Toward "Meta-Intelligence"

Peter Diamandis argues we're evolving toward "Meta-Intelligence" over the next 30 years.

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Image by Holisticlifemastery

## **FROM NATURAL SELECTION TO INTELLIGENT DIRECTION**

In the next 30 years, humanity is in for a transformation the likes of which we've never seen before—and [XPRIZE Foundation](#) founder and chairman Peter Diamandis believes that this will give birth to a new species. Diamandis admits that this might sound too far out there for most people. He is convinced, however, that we are evolving towards what he calls "meta-intelligence," and today's exponential rate of growth is one clear indication.

[In an essay for Singularity Hub](#), Diamandis outlines the transformative stages in the multi-billion year pageant of evolution, and takes note of what the recent

# Futurism



metabolic and replicative mechanisms of "life;" at 2.5 bya, eukaryotes emerge as composite organisms incorporating biological "technology" (other living things) within themselves; at 1.5 bya, multicellular metazoans appear, taking the form of eukaryotes that are yoked together in cooperative colonies; and at 400 million years ago, vertebrate fish species emerge onto land to begin life's adventure beyond the seas.

"Today, at a massively accelerated rate—some 100 million times faster than the steps I outlined above—life is undergoing a similar evolution," Diamandis writes. He thinks we've moved from a simple Darwinian evolution via natural selection into evolution by intelligent direction.

Credits: Richard Bizley/SPL

"I believe we're rapidly heading towards a human-scale transformation, the next evolutionary step into what I call a "Meta-Intelligence," a future in which we are all highly connected—brain to brain via the cloud—sharing thoughts, knowledge and actions," he writes.

## **CHANGE IS COMING**

Diamandis outlines the next stages of humanity's evolution in four steps, each a parallel to his four evolutionary stages of life on Earth. There are four driving forces behind this evolution: our interconnected or wired world, the emergence of brain-computer interface (BCI), the emergence of artificial intelligence (AI), and man reaching for the final frontier of space.

In the next 30 years, humanity will move from the first stage—where we are today—to the fourth stage. From simple humans dependent on one another, humanity will incorporate technology into our bodies to allow for more efficient use of information and energy. This is already happening today.

The third stage is a crucial point.

*Enabled with BCI and AI, humans will become massively connected with each other and billions of AIs (computers) via the cloud, analogous to the first multicellular lifeforms 1.5 billion years ago. Such a massive interconnection will lead to the emergence of a new global consciousness, and a new organism I call the Meta-Intelligence.*

This brings to mind another futuristic event that many are eagerly anticipating: [the technological singularity](#). "Within a quarter century, nonbiological intelligence will match the range and subtlety of human intelligence," [said notable futurist Ray Kurzweil](#), explaining the singularity.

Credits: *Lovelace Turing*

"It will then soar past it because of the continuing acceleration of information-based technologies, as well as the ability of machines to instantly share their knowledge." Kurzweil predicts that this will happen by 2045—within Diamandis' evolutionary timeline. "The nonbiological intelligence created in that year will be one billion times more powerful than all human intelligence today."

The fourth and final stage marks humanity's evolution to becoming a [multiplanetary species](#). "Our journey to the moon, Mars, asteroids and beyond represents the modern-day analogy of the journey made by lungfish climbing out of the oceans some 400 million years ago," Diamandis explains.

Buckle up: we have an exciting future ahead of us.

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