Hardware Trends

SUSV



An ever expanding hardware ecosystem

The world of hardware continues to grow beyond the consumer electronics of just a few years ago. The rise of automation, connectivity and sensors has opened the door for startups from all over the world to solve new problems and rethink how our physical world works. This has led to a shift in the market due to many traditional "software" companies making bigger investments into hardware, new entrants rising quickly, and open doors for new startups to emerge with compelling new hardware.

A snapshot of the future

This report highlights some of the trends we see every day as investors in the world of hardware. The ecosystem is evolving quickly and, as early-stage investors, we see the signs of what lies ahead. In short, we're as excited as ever to continue investing into hardware startups, knowing they'll have a massive impact on our everyday lives.



Thank you to our authors and key contributors

Anant Pathak
Cyril Ebersweiler
Duncan Turner
Dylan Crow
Garrett Winther
Jo-An Ho
Ji Ke
Kate Whitcomb

Creative Design By Vitaly Vyazovsky Lisa Shcheglova



Venture Capital Program for Hardware

HAX runs a hands-on program to support our investment's technical and business development. Our offices are strategically located in Shenzhen and San Francisco, the most important ecosystems for hardware entrepreneurs.

To date, HAX has invested in over 200 companies. These include businesses in consumer tech, health care, enterprise IoT, industrial robotics, and advanced manufacturing technology.

SUSIII III

HAX is part of SOSV, a global early stage fund with USD \$650M AUM. SOSV invests through a set of flagship programs, which HAX is proud to have as sibling organizations.











Acknowledgements

The authors thank the hundreds of startup founders we work with, our analyst and creative teams for continuing to take this report to new levels, and the many people who are part of the growing hardware ecosystem.

Disclosures

The data quoted in this report belongs to those who conducted the research.

Many of the examples used are SOSV/HAX investments at various stages of development.

There are many exceptional startups shown that are not part of SOSV / HAX portfolio and included as great examples of hardware enabled businesses.



Table of Contents

Hardware Investment

Funding M&A **IPOs China Funding**

Consumer

Flexible Pricing Micro Retail Mobility **China EV**

Health

New Entrants Regulatory Pathways Sensing & ML Pre & Post Care Microfluidics



B₂B

Agriculture Construction Manufacturing



Hardware Financings Numbers rising with better global tracking 8000 392 More hardware companies are getting funded. Venture capital investments in companies that are 'hardware enabled' have continued to rise through 2H 2018 and 1H 2019. This is, in part, due to more data coming from China, which has traditionally been difficult to track. 6000 Number of funding rounds 219 4000 Number of funding rounds (China) Funding raised (USD) 150 2000

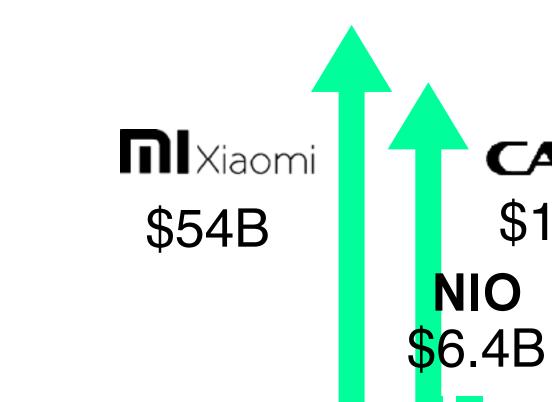
Note: This includes deals between \$1M-500M. If pre-seed deals were included, the total number of financings would be much larger.

Source: original inspiration from BOLT State of Hardware Financing + amended data via Crunchbase



Hardware **IPOs** are increasing

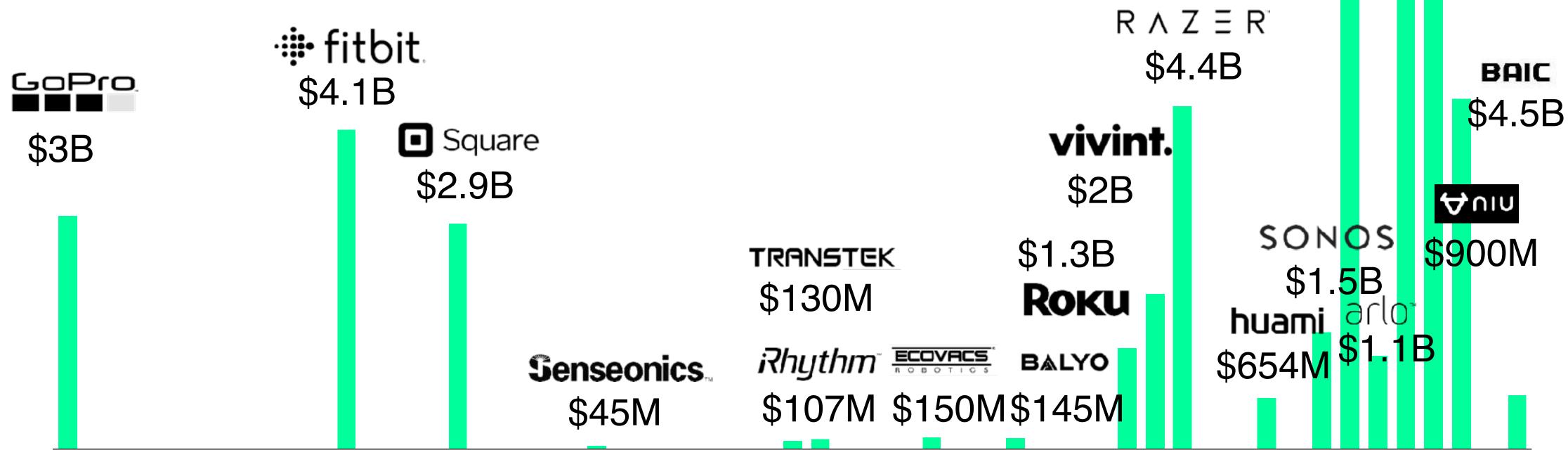
While many factors (such as CVCs and the blurring of lines between software and hardware) can increase hardware investment, it is hard to ignore the momentum hardware enabled companies are gaining in the public markets.



CATL

\$12B

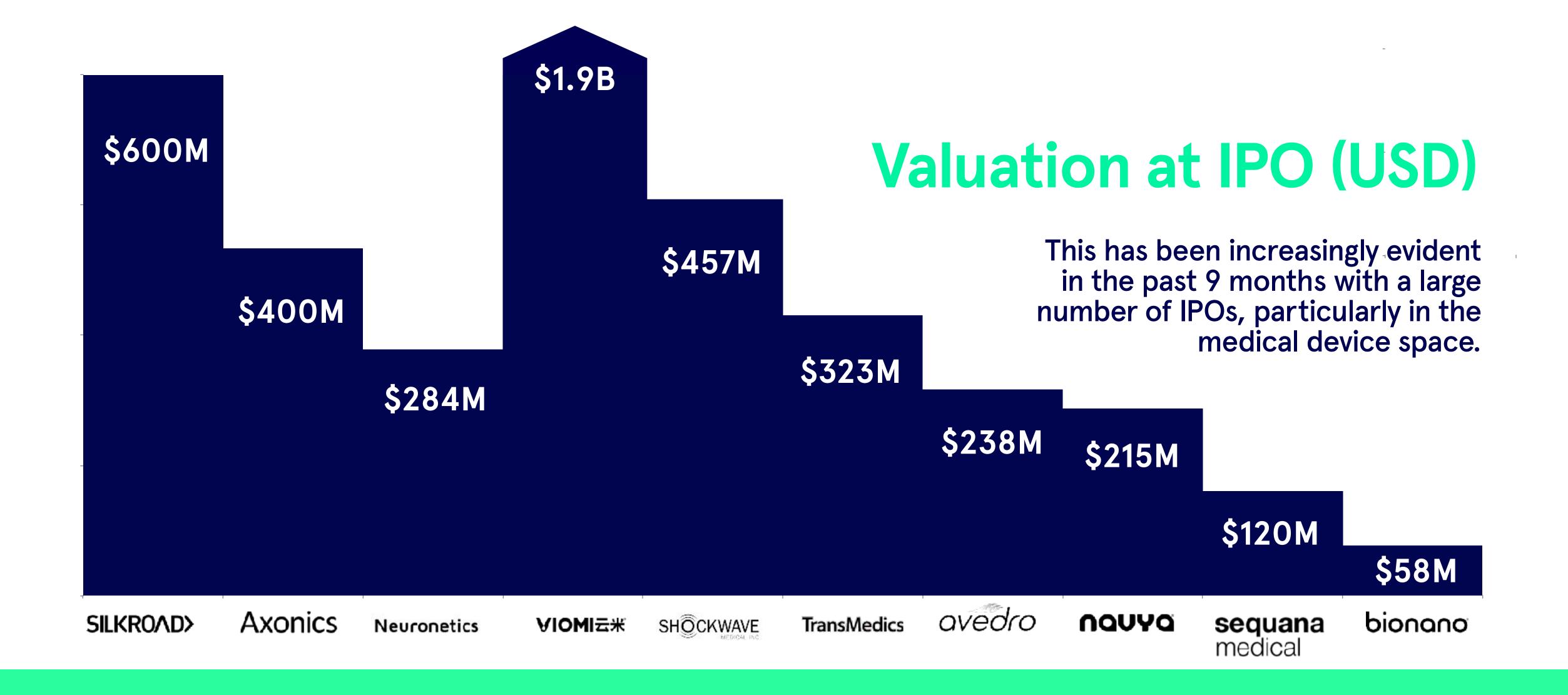
NIO



May 2014 Dec 2014 Apr 2015 Aug 2015 Dec 2015 Apr 2016 Aug 2016 Dec 2016 Apr 2017 Jul 2017 Nov 2017 Mar 2018 Aug 2018

*Announced/upcoming IPOs





Hardware IPOs from Q4 2018 + H1 2019



Hardware unicorns increasing

IPO/M&A

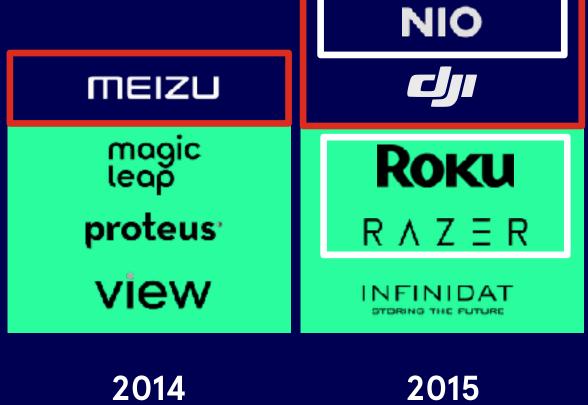
China

The volume of hardware unicorns has been increasing since 2012, with over 50% coming from China in 2018.

A unicorn is defined as a privately held company with a valuation of >\$1B.

2013









XPENG



2018



Consumer tech is driving unicorns

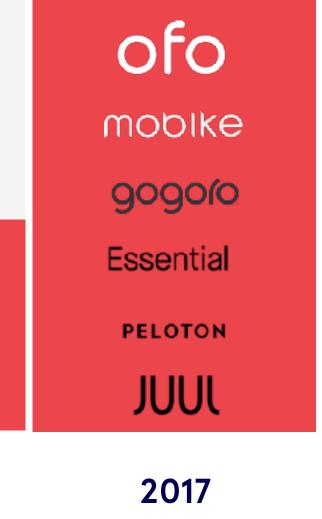
Consumer

Despite being a difficult area for early stage investment, consumer tech has been the most reliable source of unicorn births.

2013







ninebot™

UBTECH

ROYOLE

2016

smartmi





Medical devices less so

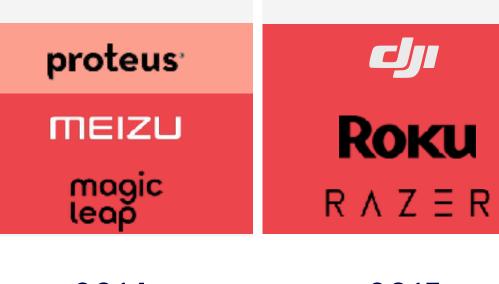
Consumer

Health

Health care is a surprisingly low driver of unicorns. However, there are multiple cases of pre-revenue or early IPOs, which means the company goes public before reaching unicorn status (>\$BN valuation).



2012







UNITED 联影 IMAGING

AURIS

smartmi





2013

2014

2015

2016

2017

2018

B2B tech driving more value

Consumer

Health

B2B

B2B based investments have consistently driven value as larger industries look to digital transformation through new technology.

Square SONOS GoPro

2012

2013

view proteus^a MEIZU magic leap

2014

INFINIDAT ارلی Roku $R \wedge Z \equiv R$

2015

ninebot **UBTECH** ROYOLE

2016

Yinlong^

Essential **PELOTON** JUUL

Lime ORCAM

Geek+

Cambricon

BITMAIN

Desktop Metal

formlabs

Butterfly[™]

PAX

2018

Carbon

UNITED 联影 IMAGING

Horizon

Robotics

sigfox

RUBICON

ROCKET

LAB

AURIS

smartmi

ofo

mobike

gogolo

2017

zipline SILA



Chinese EV explosion unsustainable

Consumer

Health

B₂B

Automotive

It is the automotive sector (mostly driven by incredible growth in China) that has seen the largest number of unicorns in the past year and a half.

Square וחו SONOS GoPro

2013

view proteus^{*}

> MEIZU magic leap

INFINIDAT اراع Roku $R \wedge Z \equiv R$

NIO

ZOOX Yinlong ~ ninebot **UBTECH** ROYOLE

ROCKET LAB Carbon IMAGING **AURIS** smartmi ofo mobike gogolo Essential **PELOTON** JUUL

-chargepoin+:

XPENG

Horizon

Robotics

sigfox

RUBICON

BYTON PIUPYS YOUXIA LEAPMOTOR Lime

ORBBEC SKIO Geek+ Cambricon BITMAIN **Desktop Metal** ENOVATE **form**labs Hurora Butterfly[™] tu simple PAX zipline SILA ORCAM 2018 2019

2012

2014

2015

2016

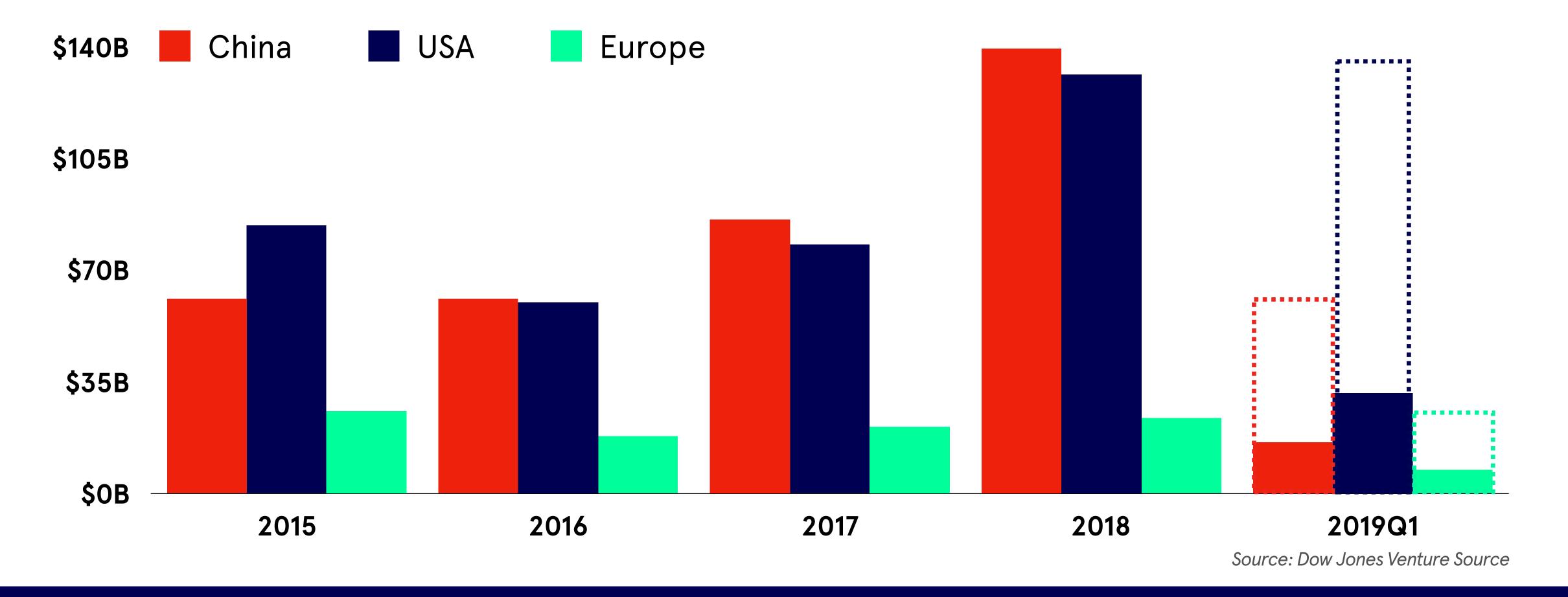
CATL

WELTMEISTER

SINGULATO

BAIC MOTOR





Chinese VC set to hit a record low in 2019

Investment in Chinese GPs has scaled back dramatically in the past year (pre-dating the trade war). Local Chinese governments have traditionally been supportive of early stage VC along with large Chinese

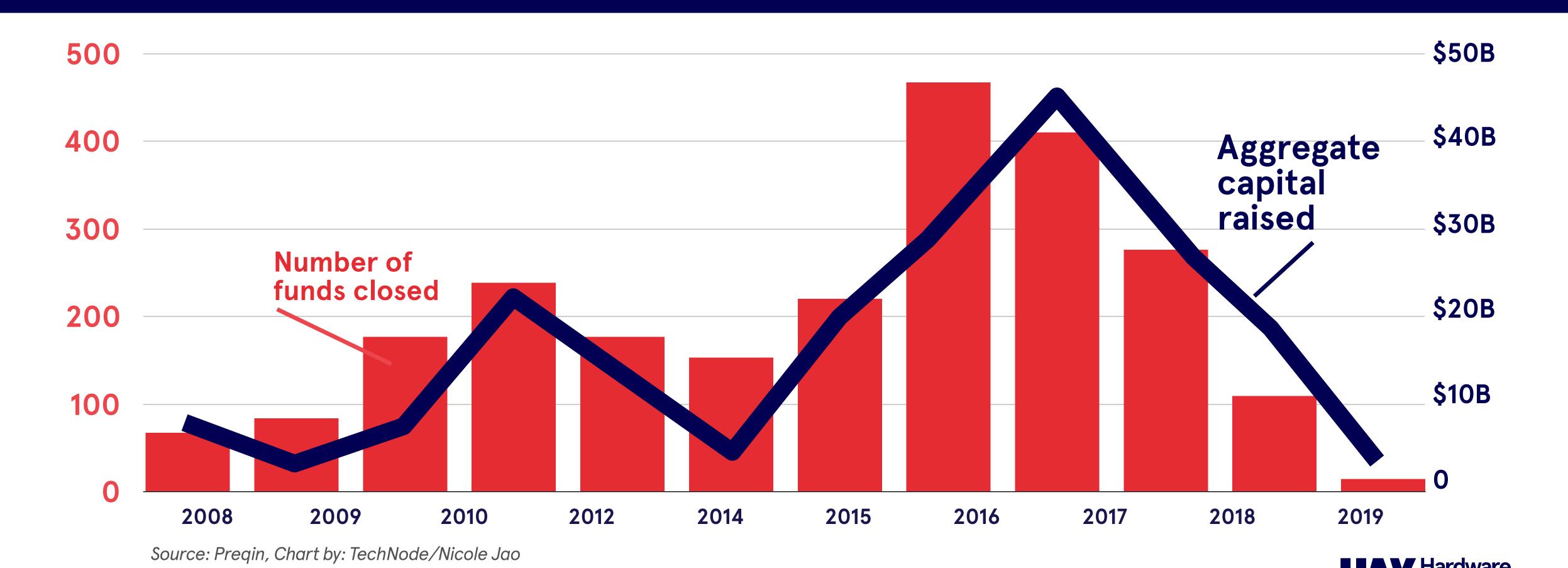
corporates (both in the US and China). We predict this will bounce back in 2020 as China looks to invest in homegrown tech talent.



Chinese GPs struggling to raise funds

New fund managers and early stage VC have suffered the most as later stage funds continue to raise capital.

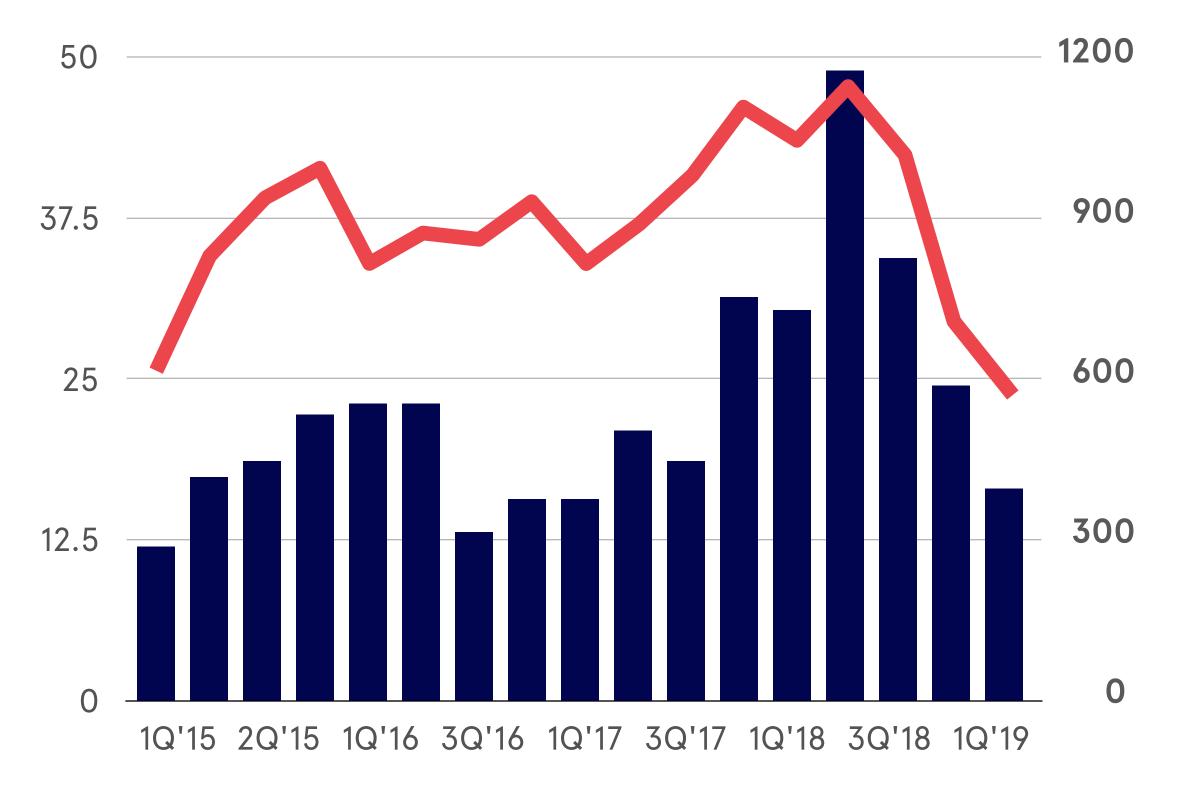
High LP drop out rate (mostly government)



The shortage of LP commitments to GPs in China is directly affecting financings

This drop in funding has started to impact the total number of equity financings for Chinese companies.

Equity financings for China-based, VC-backed companies (2015-2019)



Source: DowJones







HAConsumer

HAEnterprise

We invest in

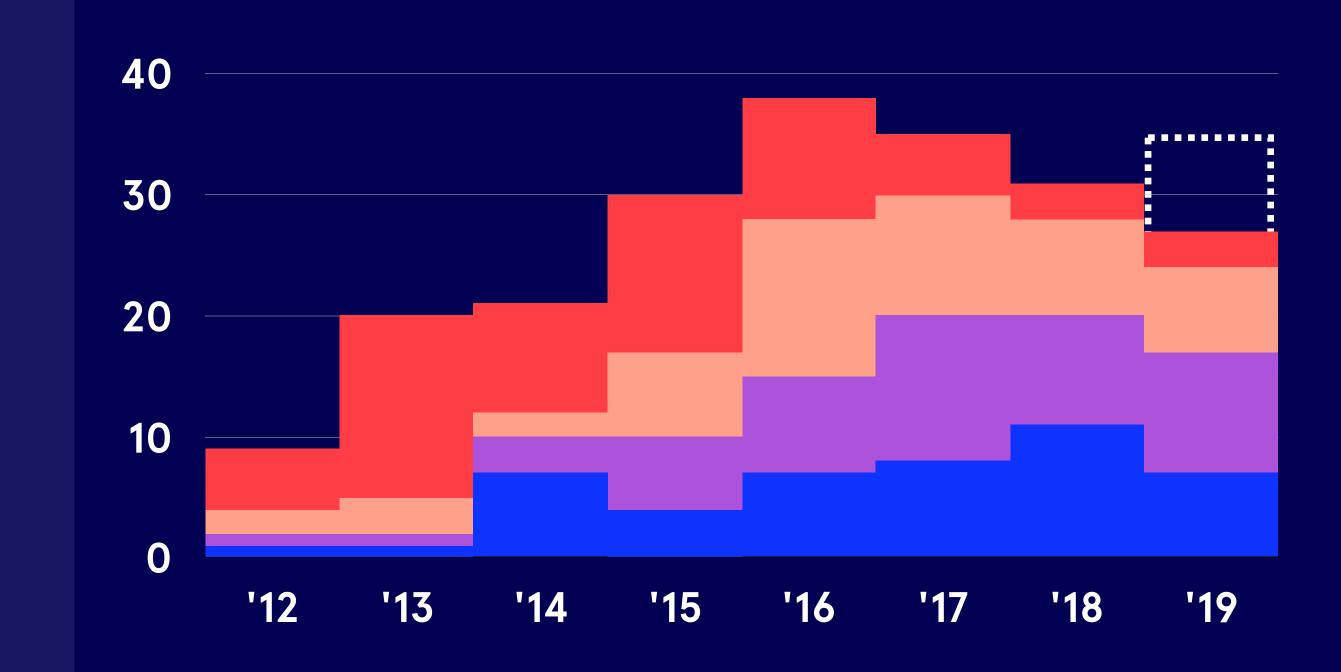
4 key areas HAXHealth

HAustria

HAYHardware Trends 2019

HAX has invested in over 200 startups

We split them into 4 tracks



HAXConsumer



HAXHealth



HAXEnterprise



HAXIndustrial



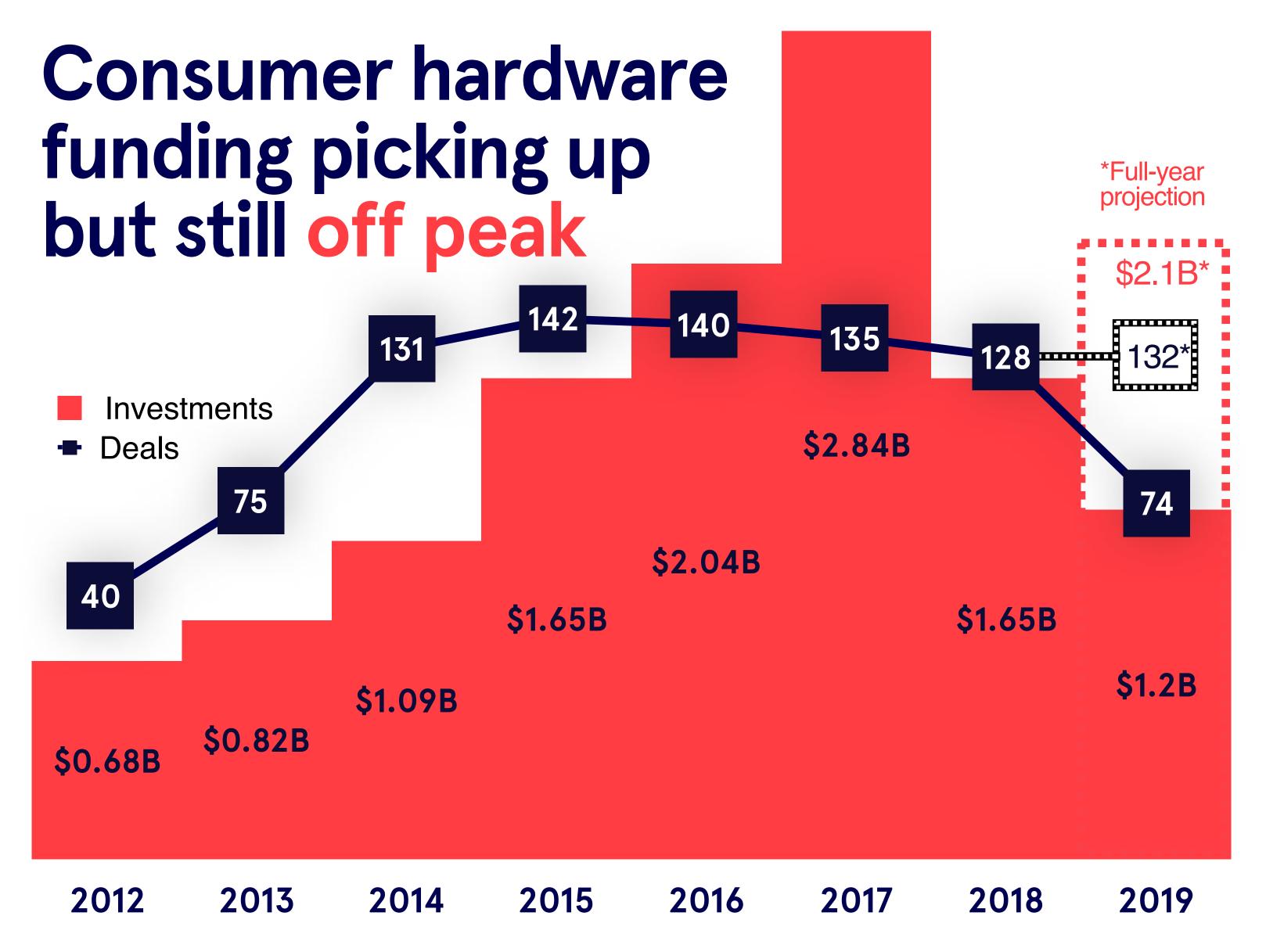


Early and growth stage hardware funding has seen a resurgence. Since 2014 the number of consumer hardware fundings has remained fairly stable, but the average amount of money has trended up.

Consumer companies tend to die quickly or scale rapidly. As new business models emerge we expect more investor focus on the consumer space, which has previously (and rightly) been viewed with caution.

HAX Hardware Trends 2019

Rounds above \$500M are not included in this data. The largest 2019 funding round included is a \$420M financing for Pax Labs



Source: data via Crunchbase

Technology is adapting to, and driving changes in consumer purchasing behaviour

Convenience, experience and affordability have always been desirable to consumers.

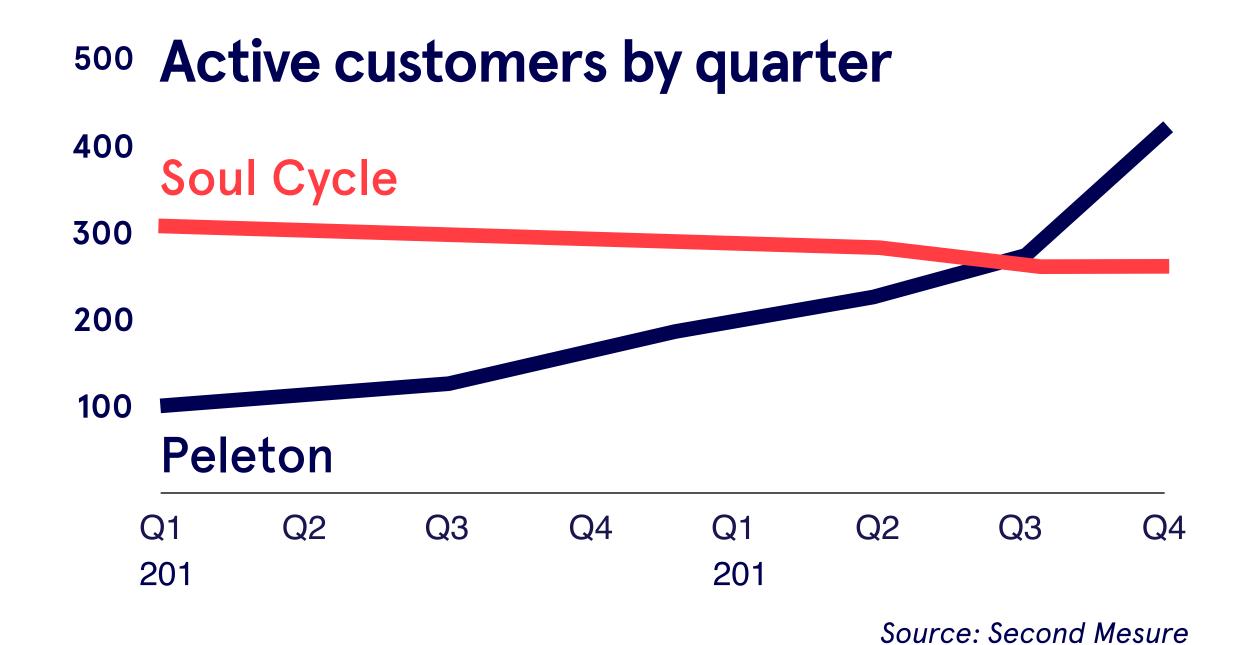
Automation, sensors and connectivity have enabled entirely new products and business models. These areas will continue to grow and affect our day-to-day lives.

HAX Hardware Trends 2019



Tech is enabling new home experiences

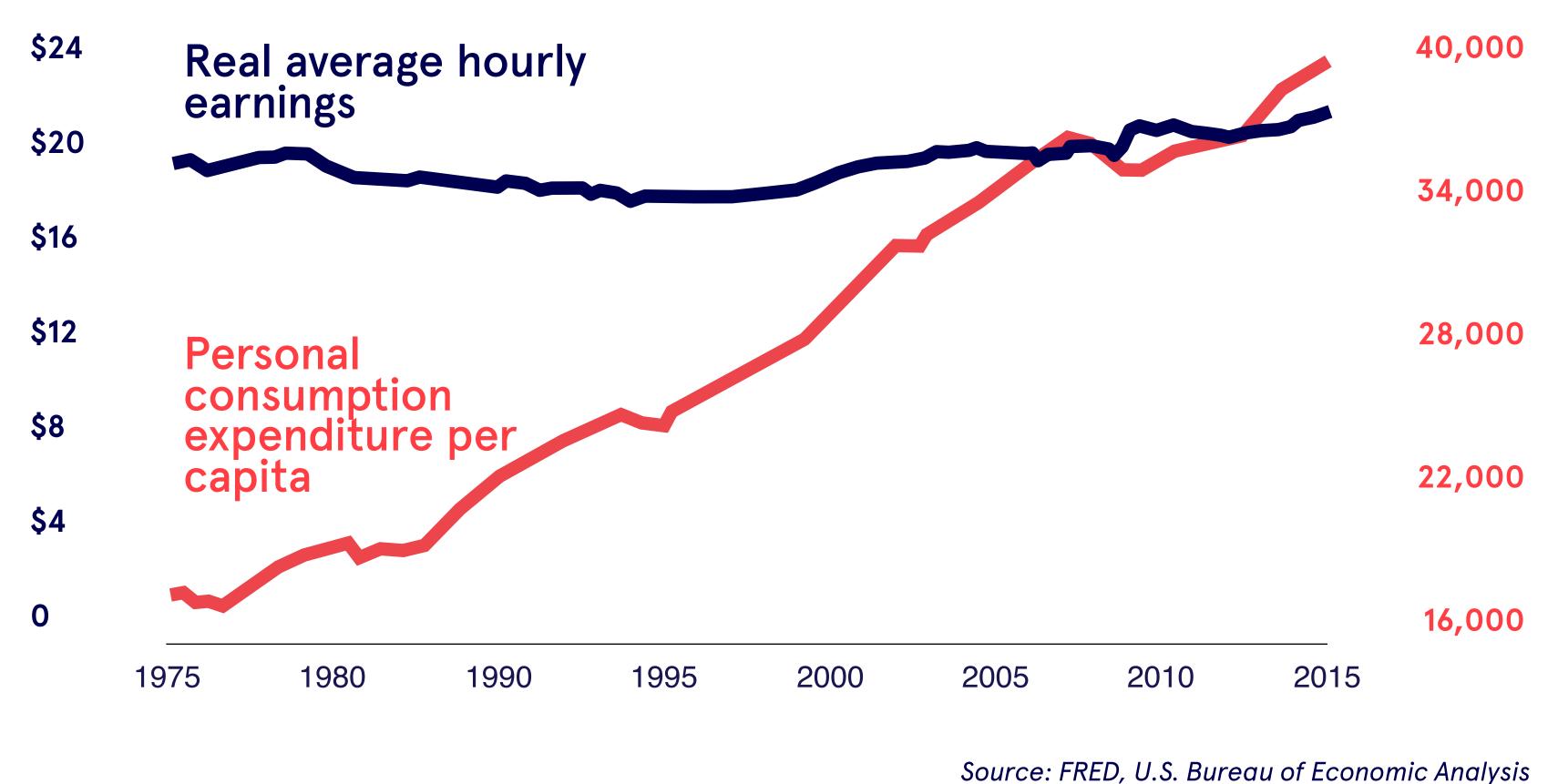
Just as the video game console disrupted video arcades and the VHS disrupted the cinema, when it comes to the home, hardware enabled convenience wins over centralized locations.



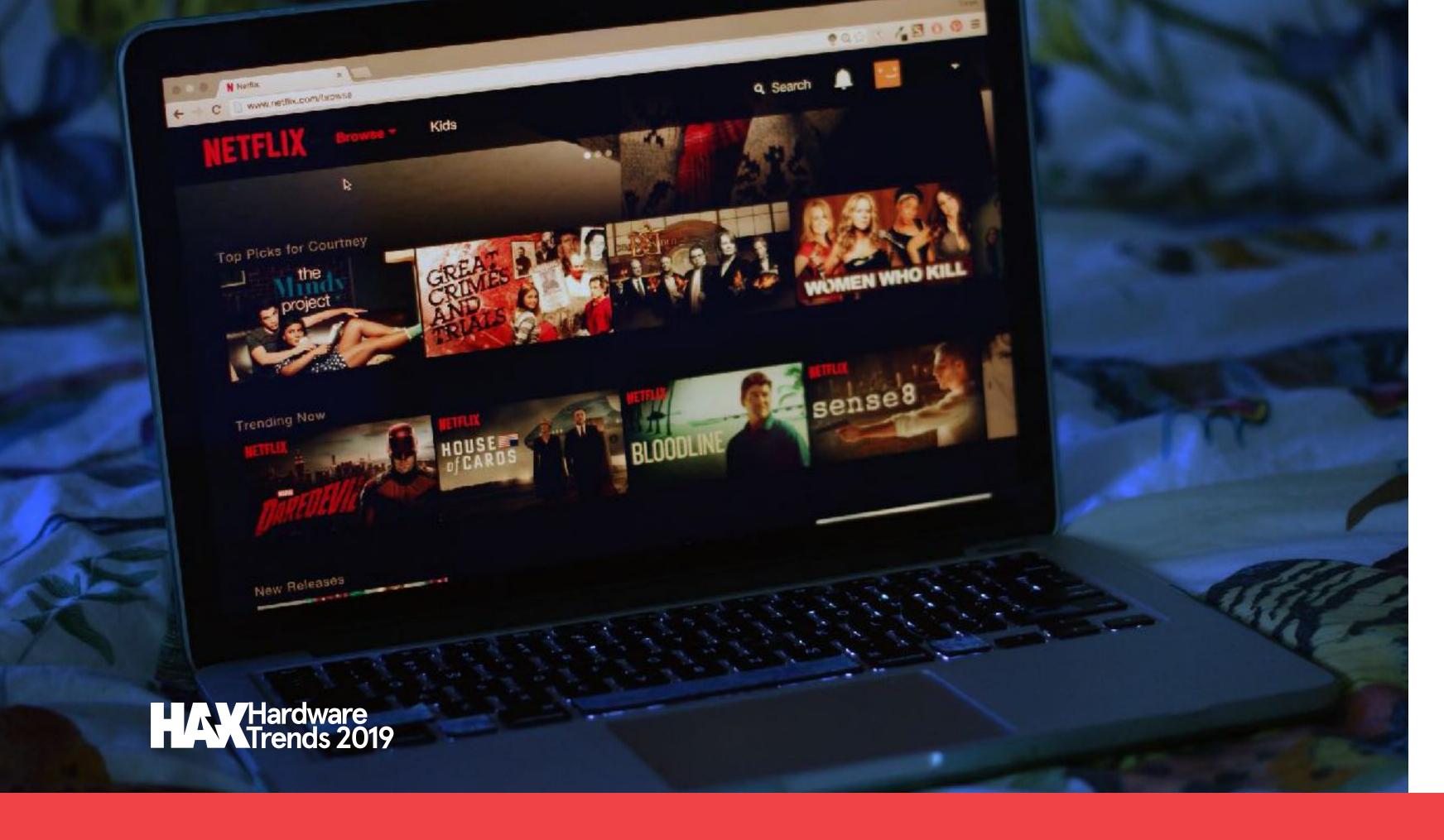


Spending is up, yet we are rejecting high priced items

If we normalize personal consumption expenditure and wages we see consumer expenditure has risen dramatically







Increasing LTV (lifetime value) is the most important factor for consumer facing companies. Many, like Netflix and Spotify, give access to undervalued content in order to draw users to their platform then monetize them throughout their lifetime.

We consume a vast amount of content on these platforms for nearly no money.



hulu





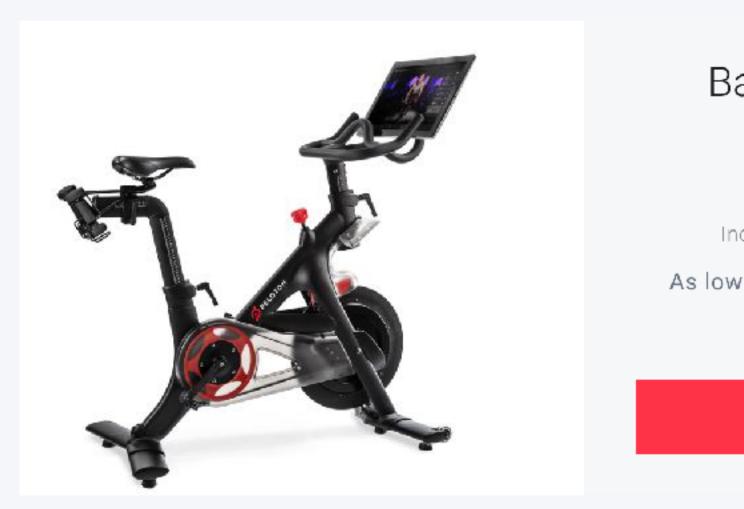
Consume more online, buy less offline

Hardware enabled companies often balance large upfront costs with credit based monthly payments

While 0% APR and great return policies work well to drive business, we know that debt is scary, especially to millennials who came of age during the 2008 financial crisis.







Basics Package

\$2,245

Includes delivery and setup

As low as \$58/month at 0% APR. Prequalify Now.

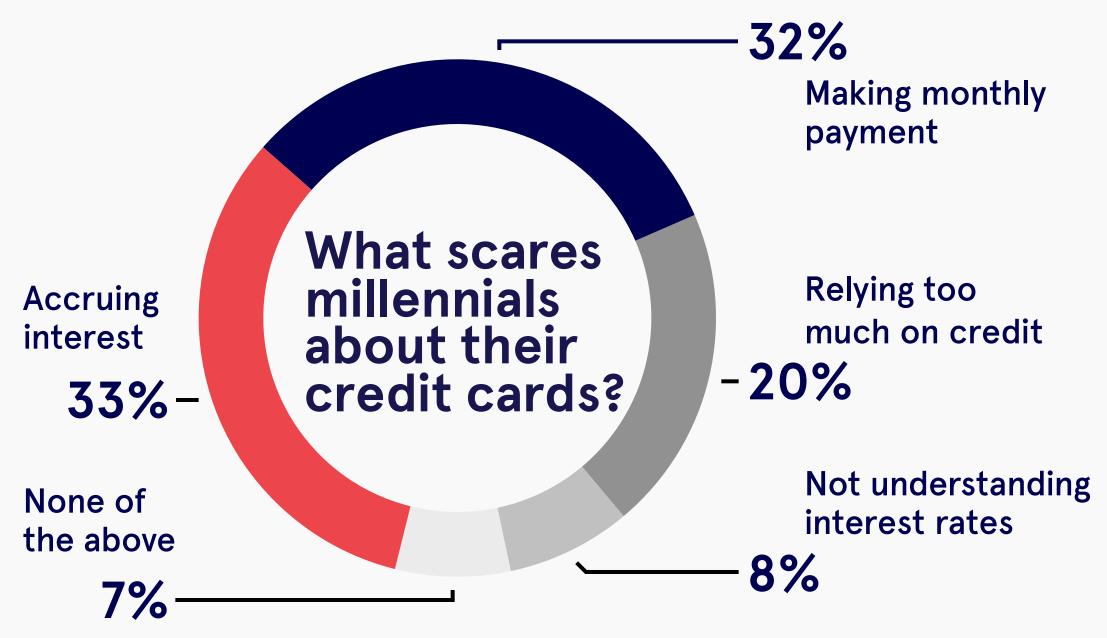
ADD TO CART

With no money down and 0% APR financing, buying the Peloton Bike is now easier than ever.*

\$58/mo 0%

NO MONEY DOWN FOR 39 MONTHS APR FINANCING

PELOTON MEMBERSHIP SEPARATE



Source: CNBC: Credit Card Debt Scares Millienials

This is an increasingly important trend for consumer companies to watch.

They are (or will be) selling to a generation who are saving less to finance big purchases, and are also rejecting debt.



Debt is scarier than death for millennials

What scares you the most?

33.2% Credit card debt

20.4% Dying

16.8% The threat of war

11% Not being able to retire

6.4% Climate change

12.2% None of the above

Source: CNBC: Credit Card Debt Scares Millienials

Flexible, non-commitment pricing plans are the future

One of HAX's consumer companies, Nura, has launched a revolutionary pricing model which has seen their number of customers increase dramatically.

Pay as you play

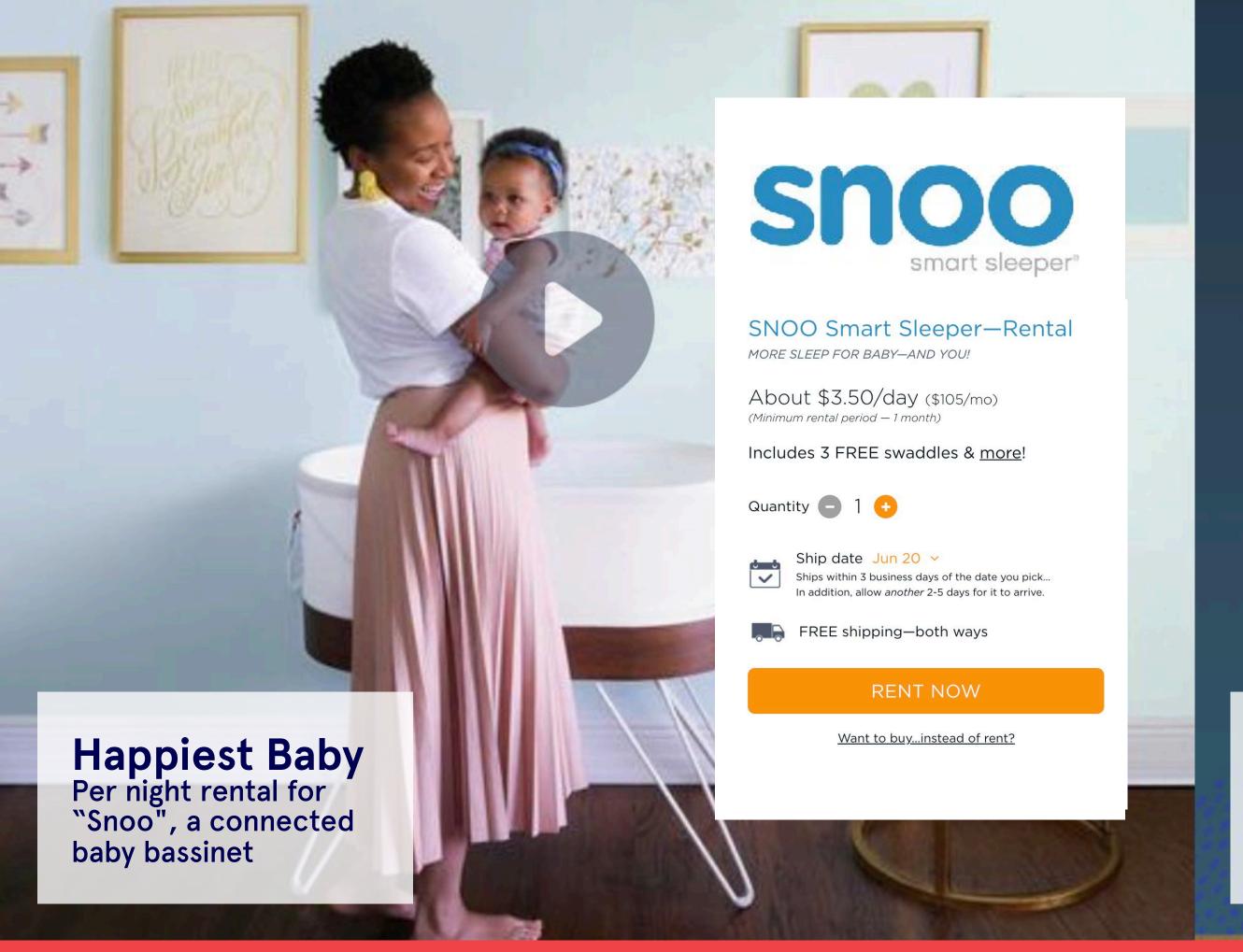
Welcome to NuraNow

NuraNow is our new subscription service that lets you get your hands on the Nuraphone + other amazing benefits from just \$9 per month.

What's even better? There are no lock-in contracts, so you're free to cancel anytime.

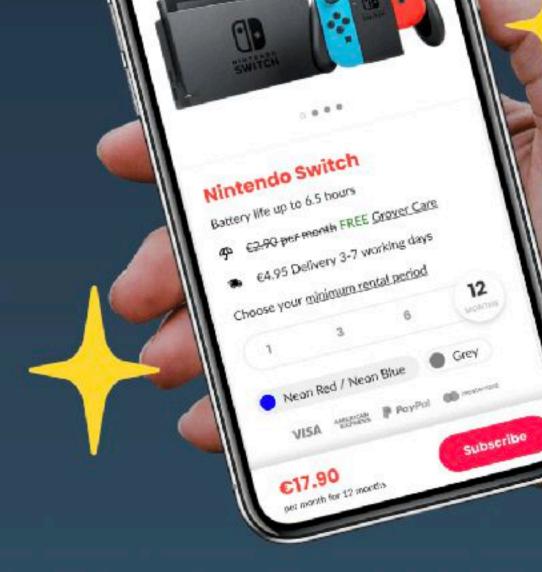
Choose your plan →





Rent tech

Choose your minimum rental period. You can always switch to a longer one to save on your monthly payment.







Use it worry-free

If you break your device, we cover 90% of the repair costs.

New subscription models are enabling new consumer companies to emerge



Automation is also changing D2C

There are more and more examples of robotic automation enhancing customer experiences: a vending machine that interacts like a human, or a restaurant where automation creates a truly customized product.

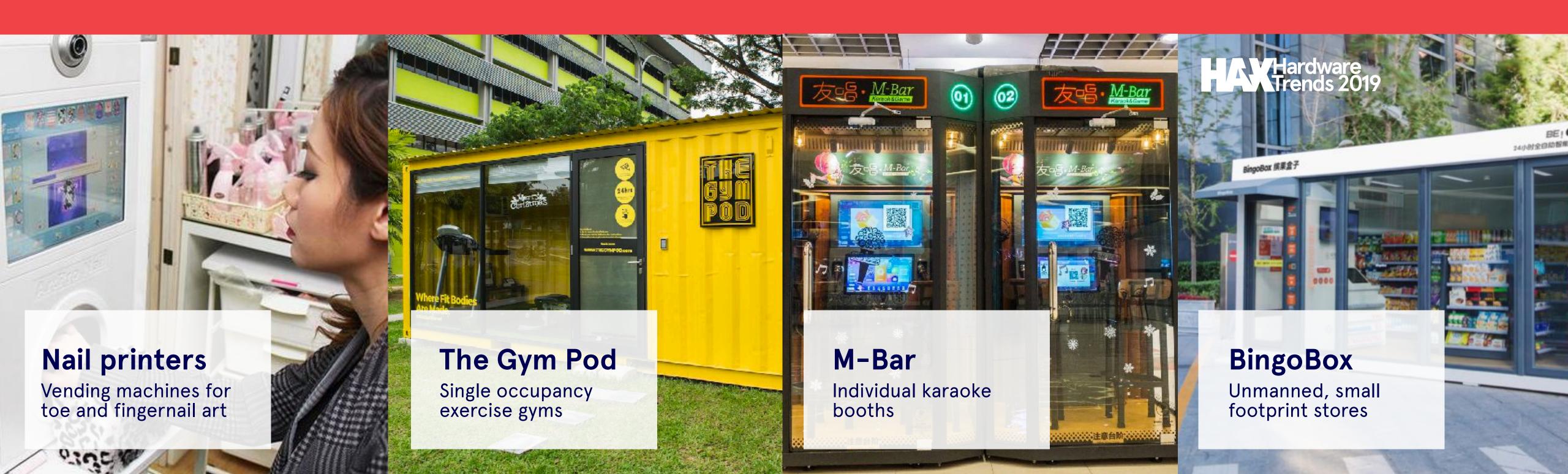




Large retail overheads don't always make sense China is leading the way with miniaturized retail

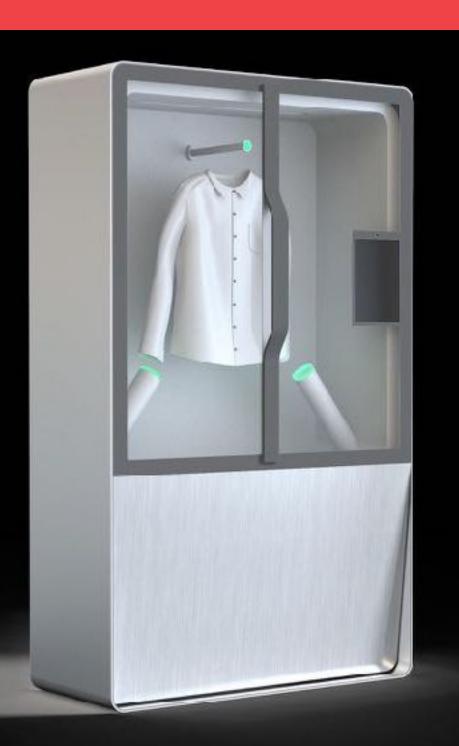
Automation allows new micro-retail possibilities that just weren't possible before.

D2C companies can now offer services as well as bespoke products. This is especially prevalent in China where tiny gyms, karaoke rooms and automated nail salons are on the increase.



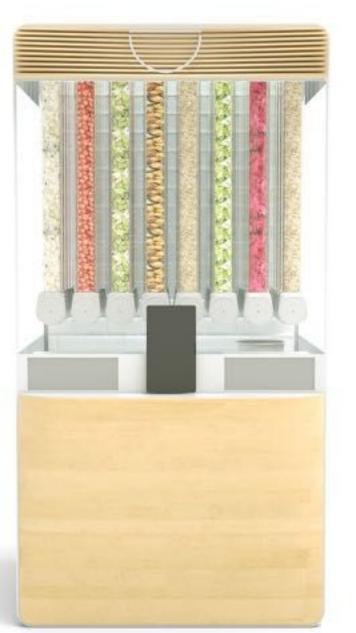
HAX investments in the past 6 months





Presso

Dry cleaning at a fraction of the footprint, time and cost of traditional methods.

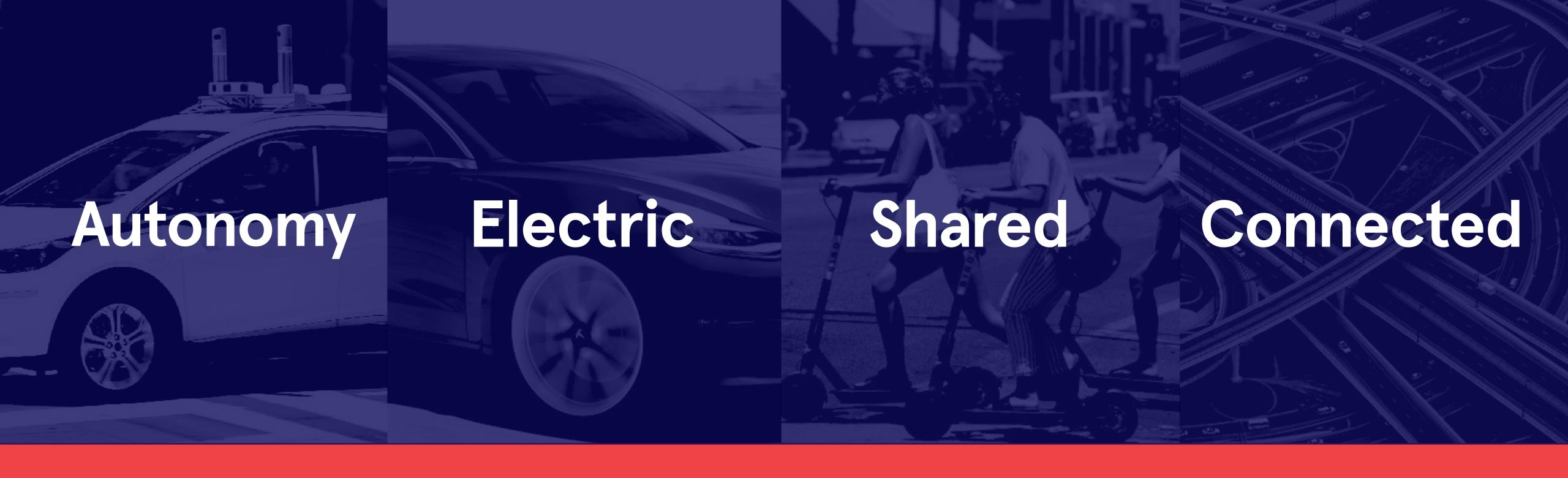


Bowl

Small footprint cooking and assembly systems for one bowl meals.

The biggest change in consumer behavior has been in mobility





Mobility is rapidly evolving, and fragmenting

HAX Hardware Trends 2019

Industrial incumbents, new players, and governments are all scrambling towards new technology, infrastructure and business models with no clear winners in sight.

E-hailing		\$56.2B
Semiconductors		\$38.1B
AV sensors and ADAS components	\$29.9B	
Connectivity/ infotainment	\$20.8B	
Electric vehicles and charging	\$19B	Investment
Batteries	\$14.3B	activities in mobility
AV software and mapping	\$13.5B	since 2010
Telematics and intelligent traffic	\$12.4B	
Back end/ cybersecurity	\$9B	
HDMI and voice recognition	\$7.4B	e: McKinsey Analysis, CapitallQ, Pitchbook



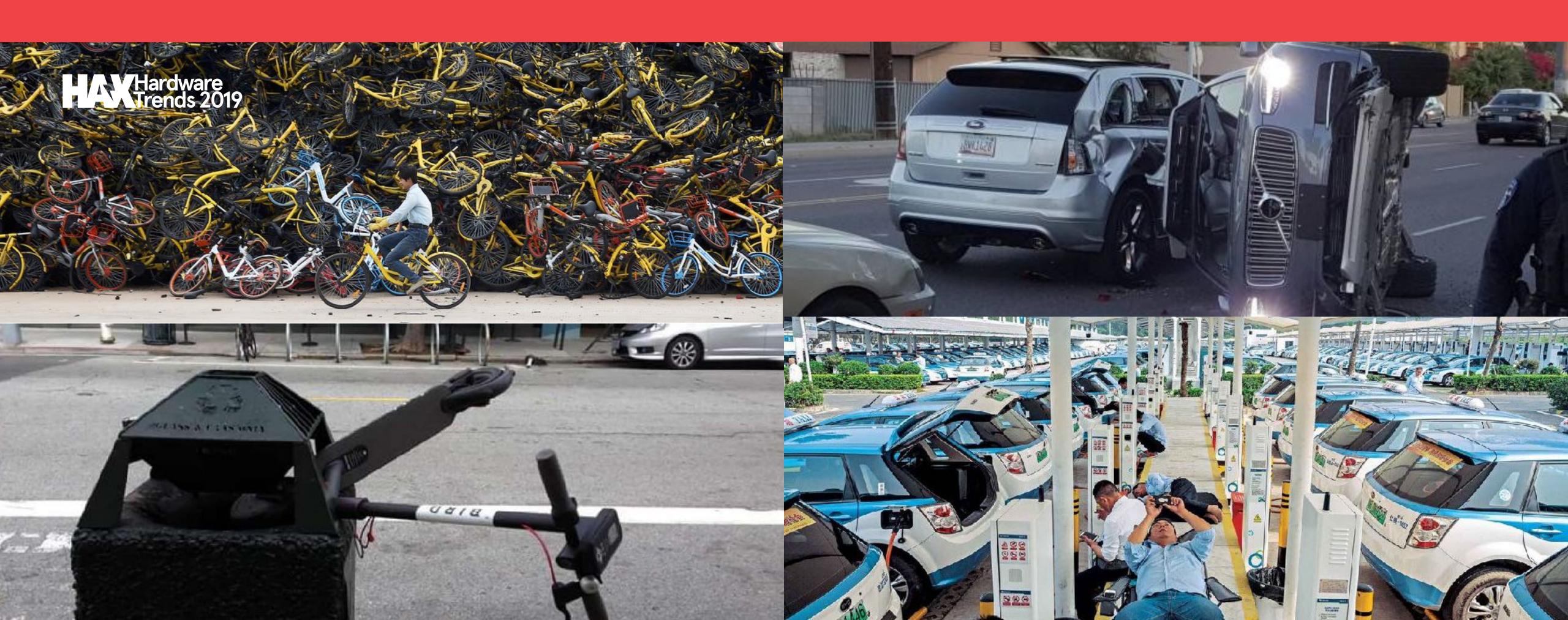
\$120 billion invested in mobility startups in the last 24 months

The evolution and uncertainty of mobility has led to major venture investment into mobility and related technologies.

Growing pains of trying to move faster than policy and infrastructure

The task of integrating mobility solutions has run into challenges with public perception, complex technology integration, and lack of infrastructure.

While the core technologies continue to develop, there are issues with how they translate to the real world.



Sustainable mobility companies are built as integrated ecosystems

The emergent winners are taking a more holistic approach to their offering with go-to-market strategies that scale and integrate effectively.





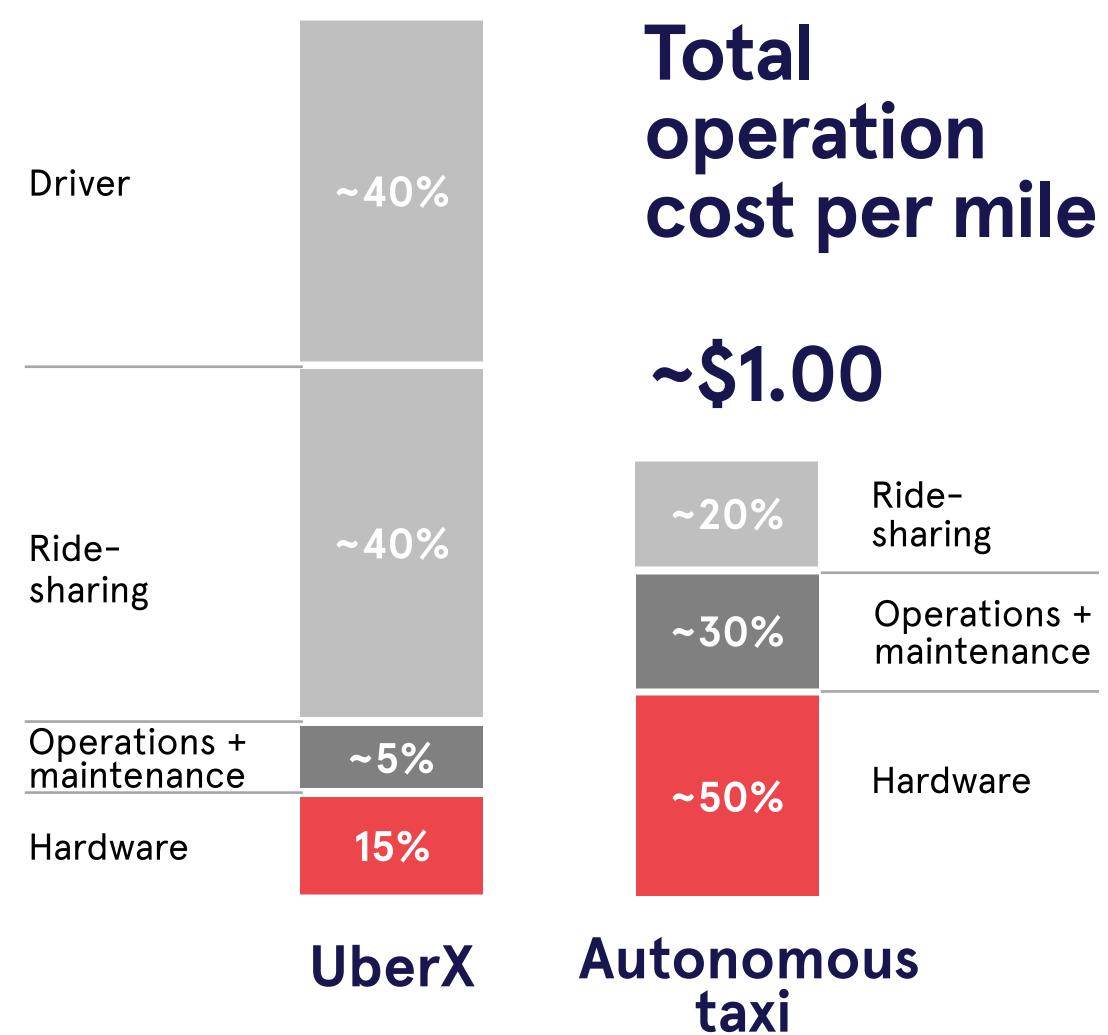
Hardware as the key driver to utilization and longevity

Companies are developing or redesigning hardware to optimize it for specific uses (especially when off-the-shelf hardware doesn't do the job)









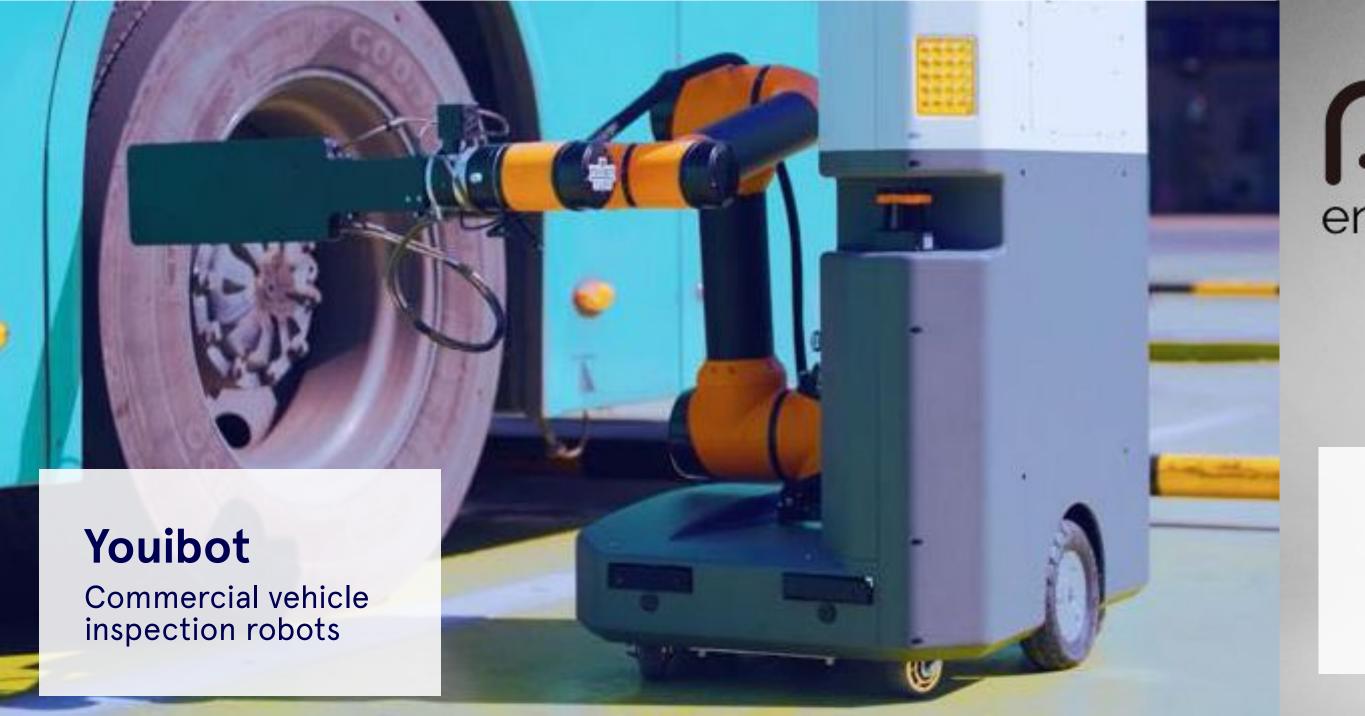
Hardware will define the profitability of the next generation of mobility:

Utilization Longevity Operating Cost

Mobility systems will continue to move towards more shared, commercially operated systems. These will be more reliant on the hardware's ability to maximize its output and be fit for the job.

Source: McKinsey, BCG, Economist







Supported by a new generation of infrastructure

Infrastructure has proven to be just as important as the hardware itself, leading to new, high growth businesses that support the future of mobility.





Electrification has created new battlegrounds for personal vehicles

Electric vehicles have shifted expectations and opened the door to new industry players, changing the dynamics within the competitive automotive industry.



Battery electric vehicles have great DNA

Instant and linear torque

Natural driving dynamics with low center of gravity

Top rated in crash and safety tests

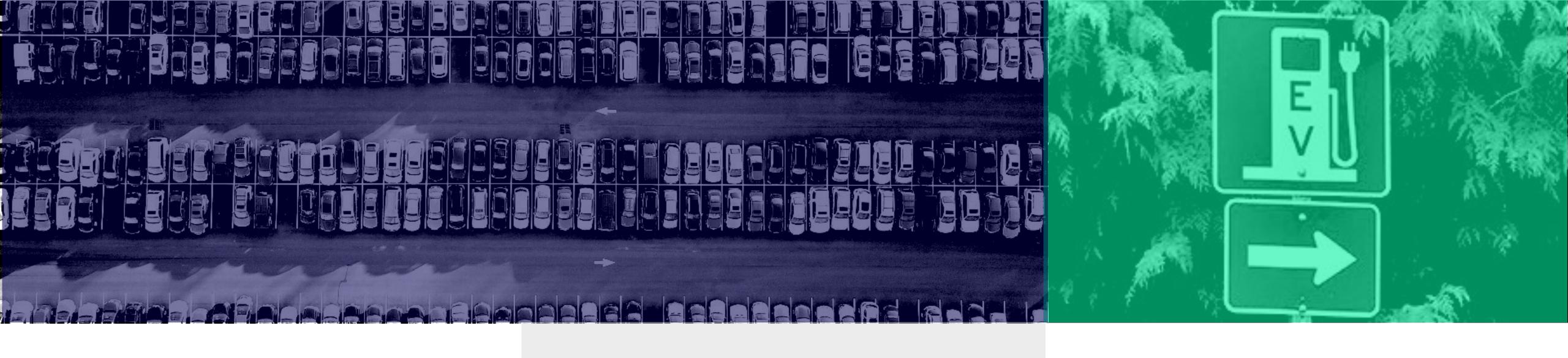
Tesla (and now other automakers) have taken advantage of the architectural benefits of electric vehicles that amplify the qualities buyers love most.

Always on connectivity

Lower operating costs

Less servicing and maintenance





V-0.5%
Global personal

vehicle market

-1%
China personal vehicle market

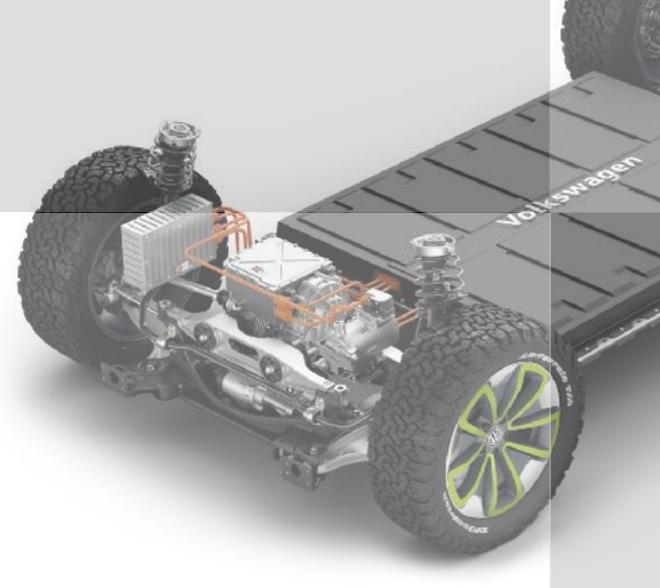
4-62%

China EV market

China EV is booming against a backdrop of global personal vehicle decline HAXTHERIDES 2019

Less complex power train

Lower manufacturing footprint



Battery price is dropping

National and local government incentives

Lower barriers to entering the market

Making an electric vehicle has proven more straightforward than internal combustion engine vehicles, making it easier for new players to enter the industry.





486 EV makers in China

Including 9 unicorns and \$18B in investment since 2011

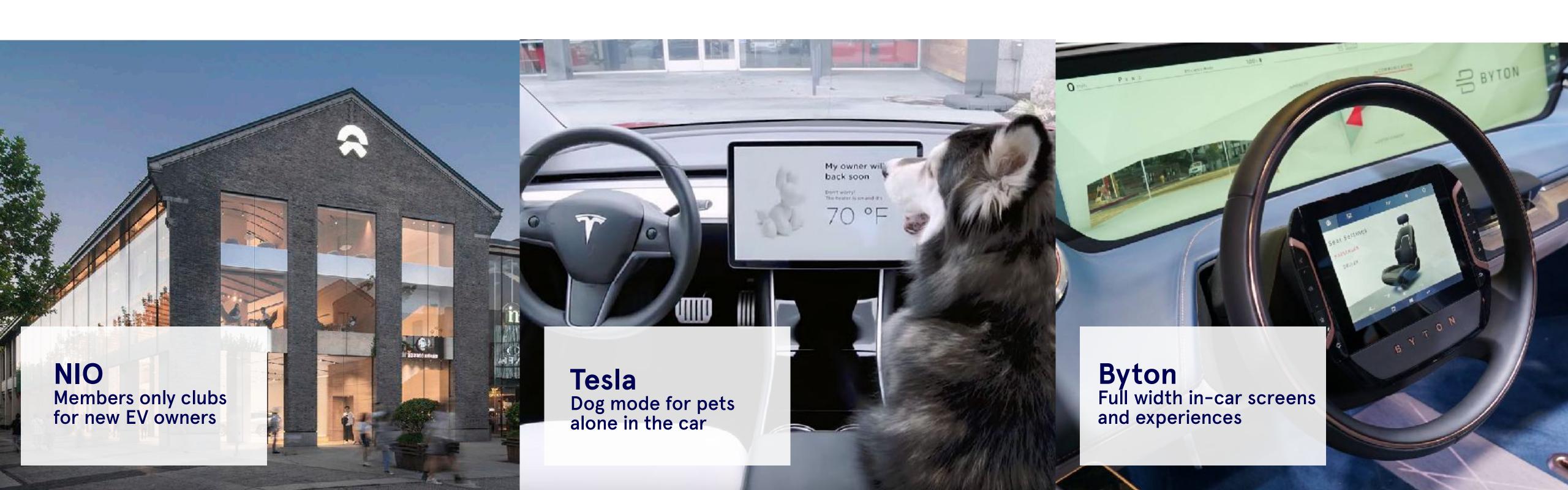
The China EV market has become increasingly competitive, racing to capture consumer demand over the last few years.

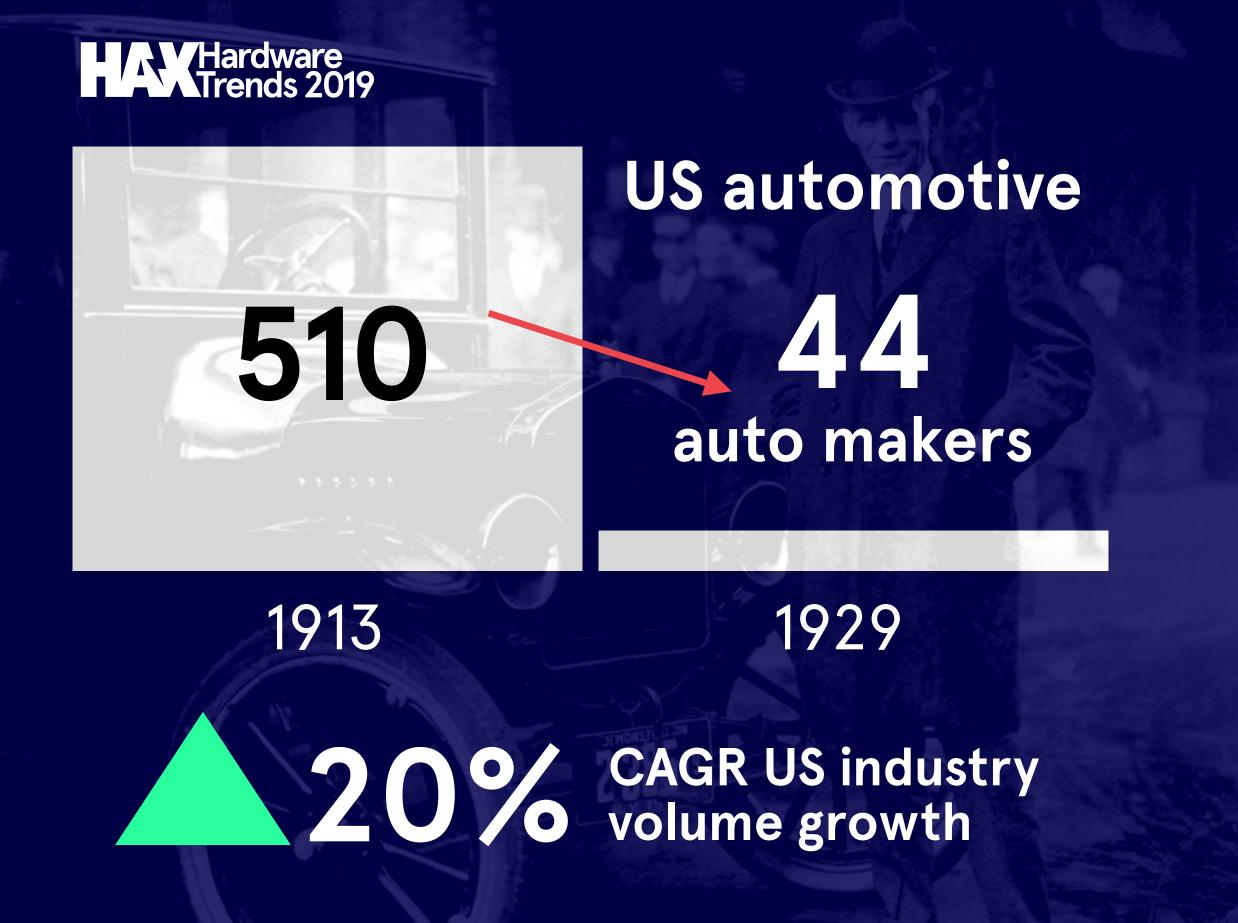


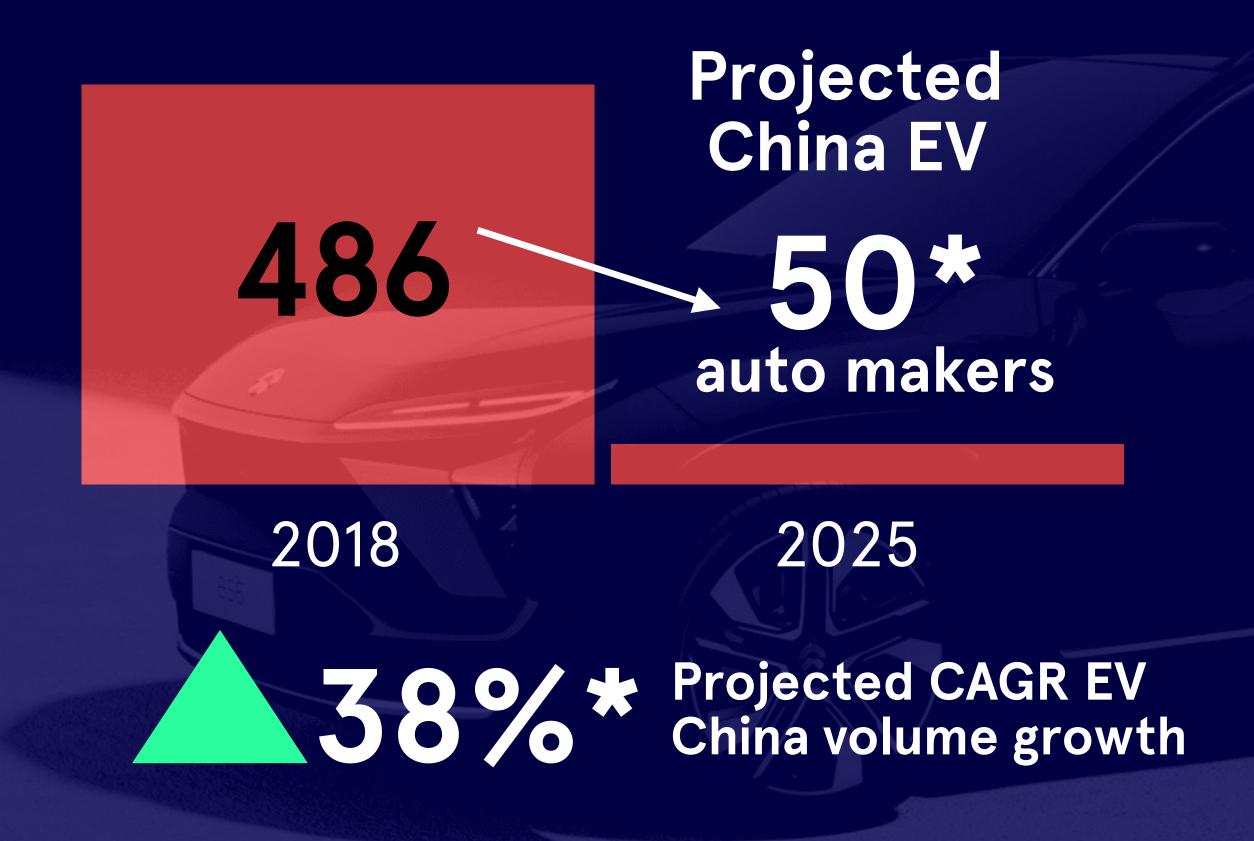
EV makers competing on experience and ecosystem

Manufacturers are creating more than just a vehicle in order to differentiate themselves. You don't just buy a car, you buy services, software and experiences.









A familiar bubble about to burst, but happening much faster and with lasting effects

The Chinese EV market is expected to grow but there are clear signs of massive consolidation in the coming years. These changes mirror the US automotive industries growth and consolidation of 100 years ago. The results will shape the global automotive landscape.

103 HASHealth



Health care is unbundling, creating opportunities for non-health companies to disrupt existing models



Big tech

Big tech companies are engaging differently with health care, health data and the FDA.

Consumer

Consumers have more access to at-home health information through at-home tests for everything from fertility to allergies.

Retail

1000s of new products.

Retail has taken advantage of new ways to provide medical services on-site and create one-stop shops.

Insurers

The insurance industry is adapting with new tech-focused insurance companies like Oscar Health emerging.

Apple Watch has become a symbol of a new age in digital health regulation

Apple launched the 4th version of the Apple Watch, which has De Novo FDA approved EKG monitoring, in 2018.

Other tech companies are also developing FDA-grade wearables, including Fitbit, Aetna, Verily, J&J, and Garmin.

HAYHardware Trends 2019





<u>v</u>erily



Pear



Consumer health testing kits available on retailers like Amazon for at home use.

A new generation of testing, monitoring and rehabilitation products allow for a more convenient patient journey while also relieving the burden on the healthcare provider infrastructure.

HAYHardware Trends 2019



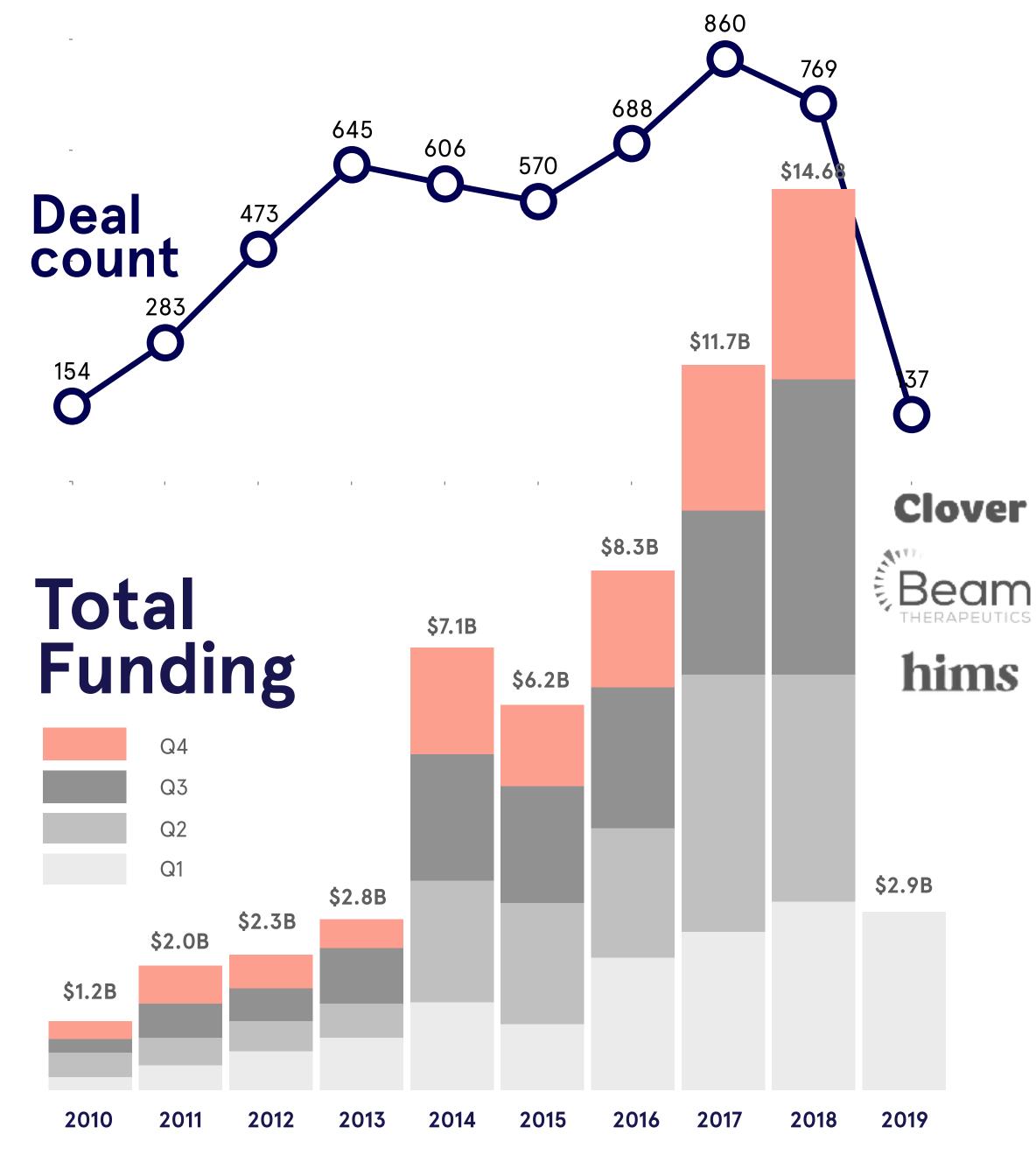
Bisu Dietary health testing

The first of many Al-driven software as a medical device (SaMD) offerings



IDx is the first ever autonomous AI system cleared by the FDA to provide a diagnostic decision for diabetic retinopathy and recommend further evaluation with a specialist.





Source: Startup Health



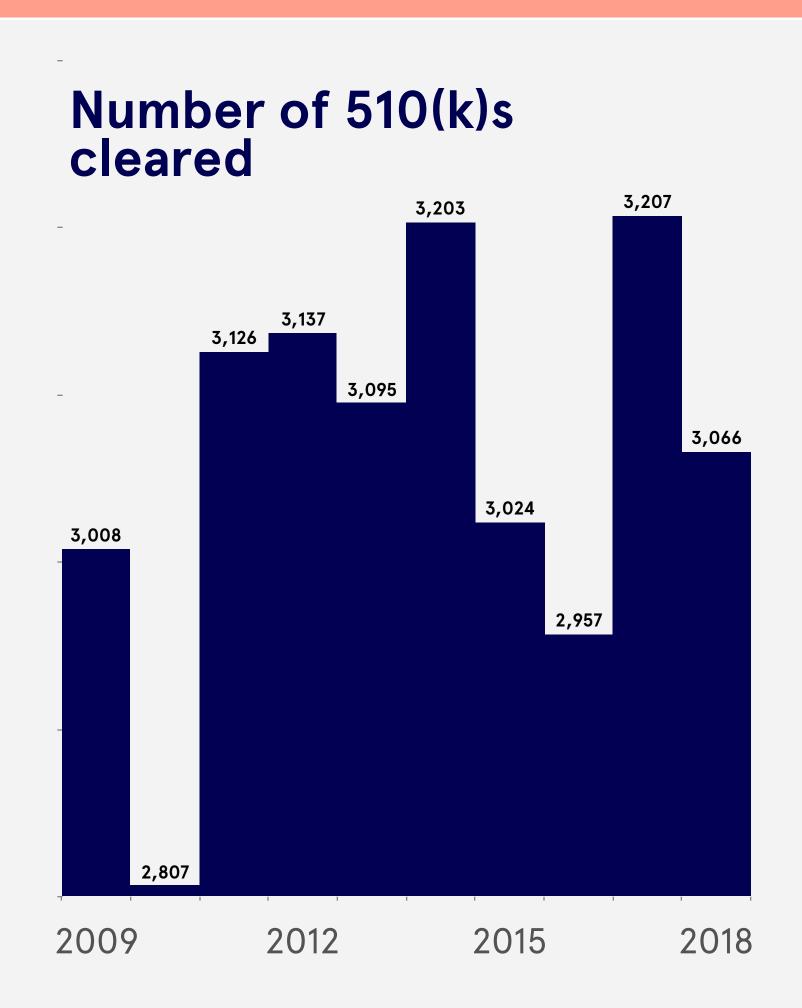
A record year for health tech funding

VC funding into health care hit \$14.6B in 2018. Device deals were \$4.1B in 2018, up 40% from \$2.9B in 2017, led by a surge in surgical robotics. (Silicon Valley Bank data).

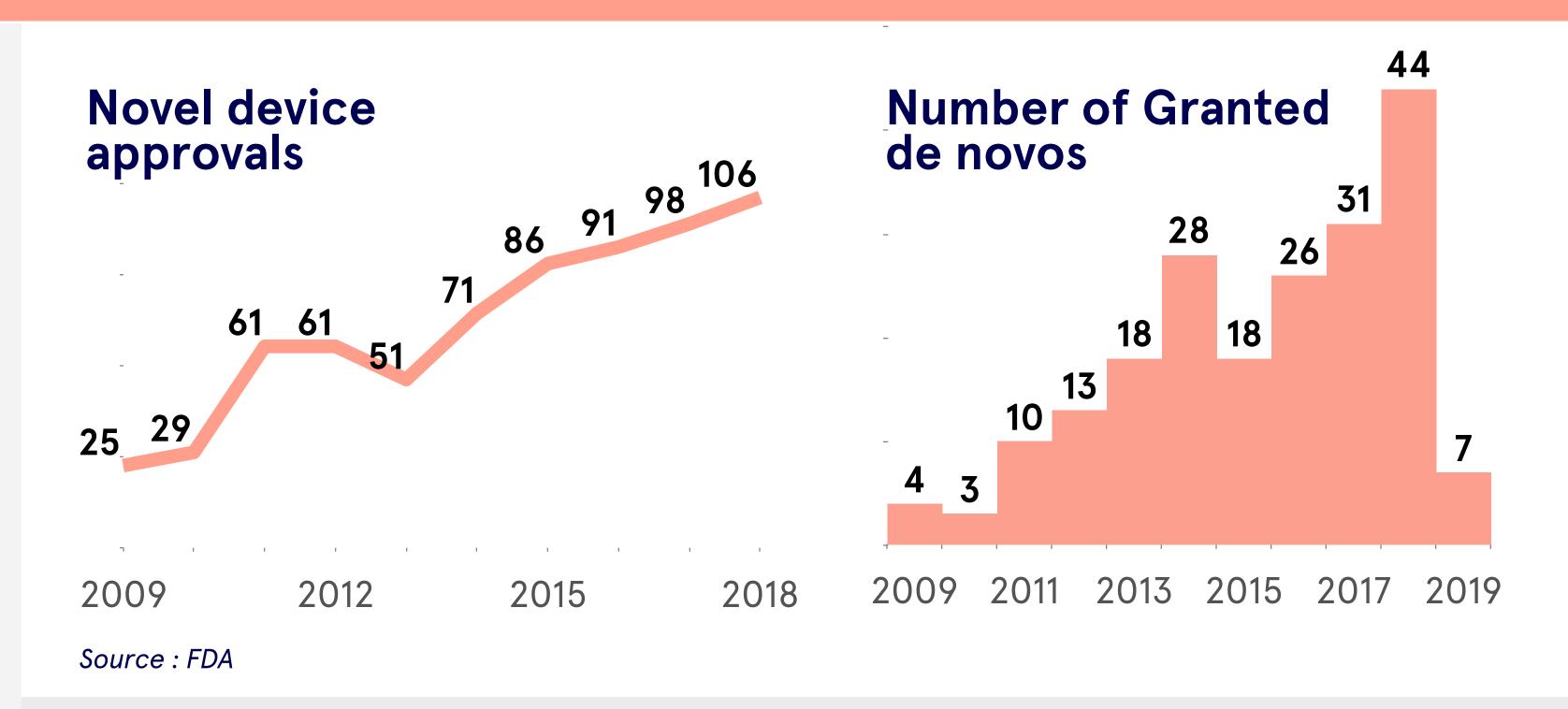
2018 also saw numerous biotech IPOs and the potential for a positive investment trend.

FDA 510(k) is becoming more supportive of innovation





Source : William V. Donovan



There has been an increase in class II and class III medical devices going through the de novo process due to the availability of new technologies. With data showing that de novo pathways tend to lead to more successful exits and higher deal values, being novel and complex is no longer a bad thing.



Successful companies are improving the following areas

If you look at what has been driving the success of startups in the medical technology and medical device spaces, the core tenets are consumer access, cost and improved outcomes. These factors are required for successful fundraising and go-to-market execution.



Machine learning powered hardware is making a huge impact on access to healthcare HAX Hardware 2019

Al/ML has opened up a world of potential capabilities for medical device companies.

These companies are capitalizing on machine learning technology to provide improved, immediate care in more accessible settings, not just in the clinic.



Feel
Continuous anxiety and depression monitoring and interventions



Axem
The first brain-sensing headset for neurorehabilitation



Japet
Robotic equipment offering advanced treatment of lower back pain



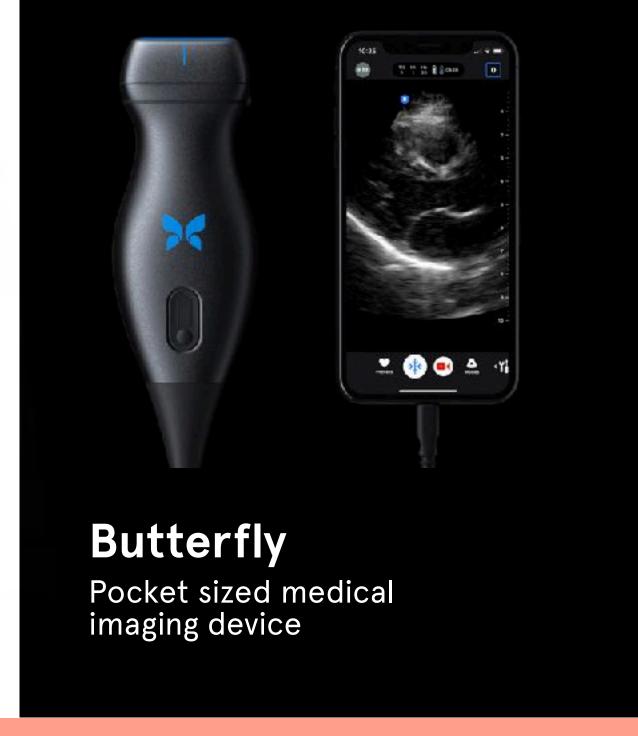
KINEXCS

Monitoring solutions to enhance at-home rehabilitation

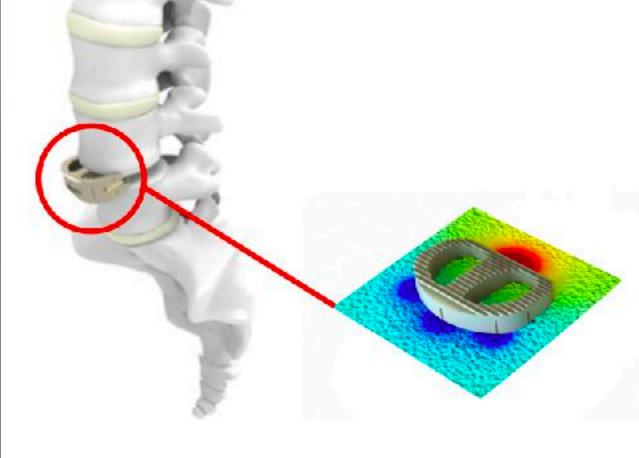


Strados

Monitor for respiratory health management







Intelligent Implants

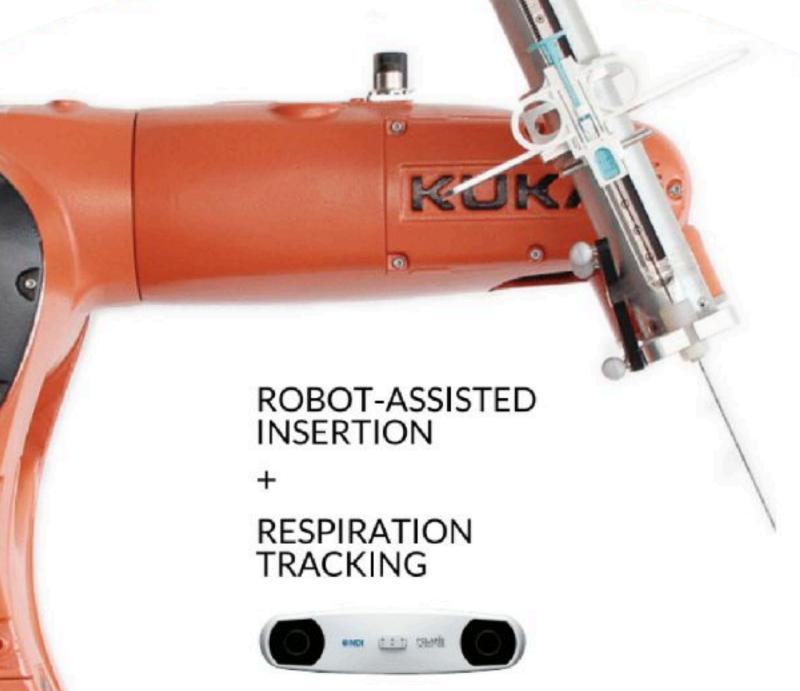
Wireless electronics that steer and monitor bone growth

New sensing technology can dramatically reduce costs for providers

Improved sensing technology is giving patients access to information that they may not currently have outside of a clinical setting.

The potential for improved outcomes is vast with improved wellness at one end of the spectrum, and avoiding a lifethreatening event through advanced forecasting at the other.





Pinpoint

Robotic aid and support for precise surgeries



And impact outcomes during and after hospital care

New technologies are creating less-invasive options for pre- and post-monitoring as well as diagnosing more critical conditions, including surgical re-sectioning (Nerv) and tumor detection (PinPoint).



Microfluidics continue to power new possibilities in health, optimizing cost, access and outcomes

HAX Hardware Trends 2019

MF have the ability to extract large amounts of valuable data from a small sample, improving access, outcomes and cost. In the future, point-of-need testing will streamline consumer access to diagnostic information, with implications for human health and beyond.









BBB

Devices for early stage diagnosis and monitoring



Technology drives growth by increasing productivity in two different ways

Making processes more efficient

Changing the process

HAXEnterprise

HAIndustrial

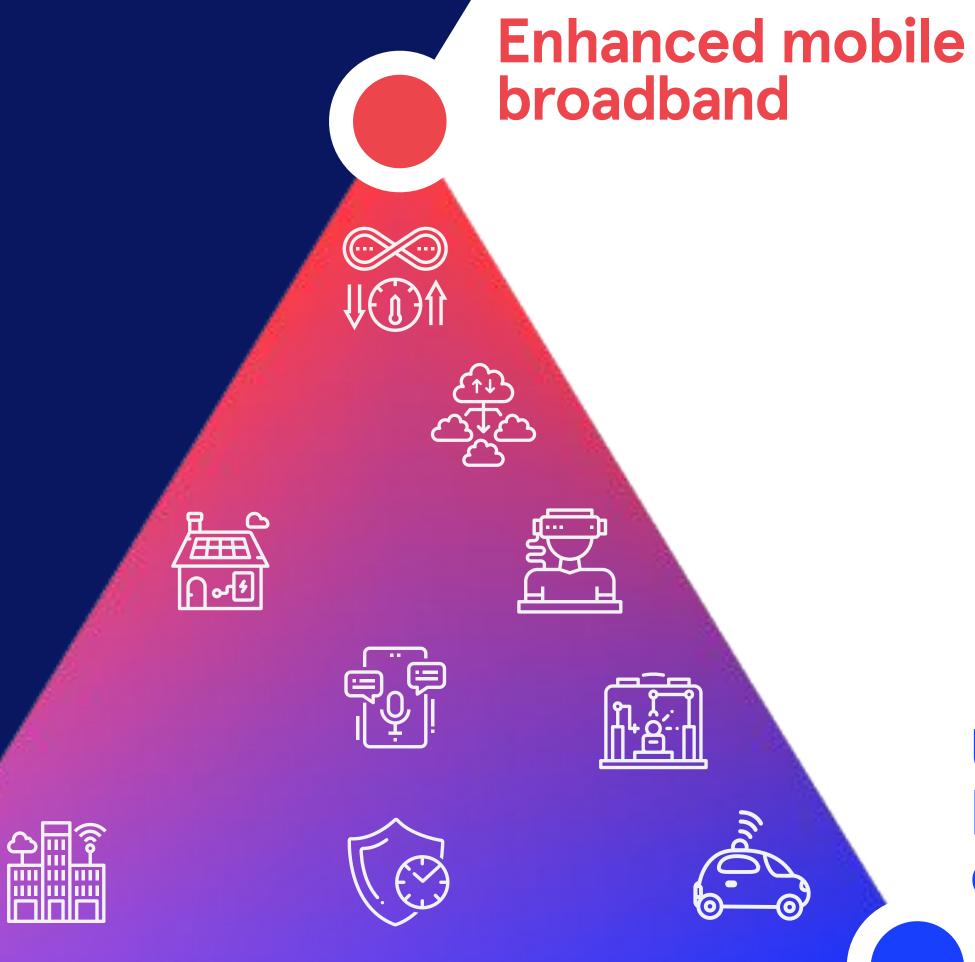
Sensor enabled software

Robotics and automation



5G is not one single use case, it is an amalgamation of three, enabled by different technologies

Hardware Trends 2019



Ultra-reliable and low latency communications

Massive machine-type communications

Source: International Mobile Telecommunication - IMT 2020

Much of the hype around 5G is consumer-focused

Gigabits / second





Work and play in the Cloud

















The true value lies in enterprise sensing and industrial automation



Low power communication consumption

Massive machine-type communications

Building penetration

Simplified sensor deployment









Cloud processing descent control Reliability









Gateway-free comms

Security

Sensor deployment barriers are disappearing

Smart meters
Pipeline management
Agriculture sensors
Smart cities
Building automation
Smart grid
Asset management
Asset tracking

HAX Hardware Trends 2019

Building penetration



Low cost communication

Low power consumption

Simplified sensor deployment



Massive machine-type communications

Gateway-free comms







Cloud processing



Cloud control

Reliability



Security

Ultra-reliable and low latency communications

Remote access and control enabled technology

Applied augmented reality
Remote operation
Service robotics
Gateway-free comms
Critical controls
Autonomous fleets

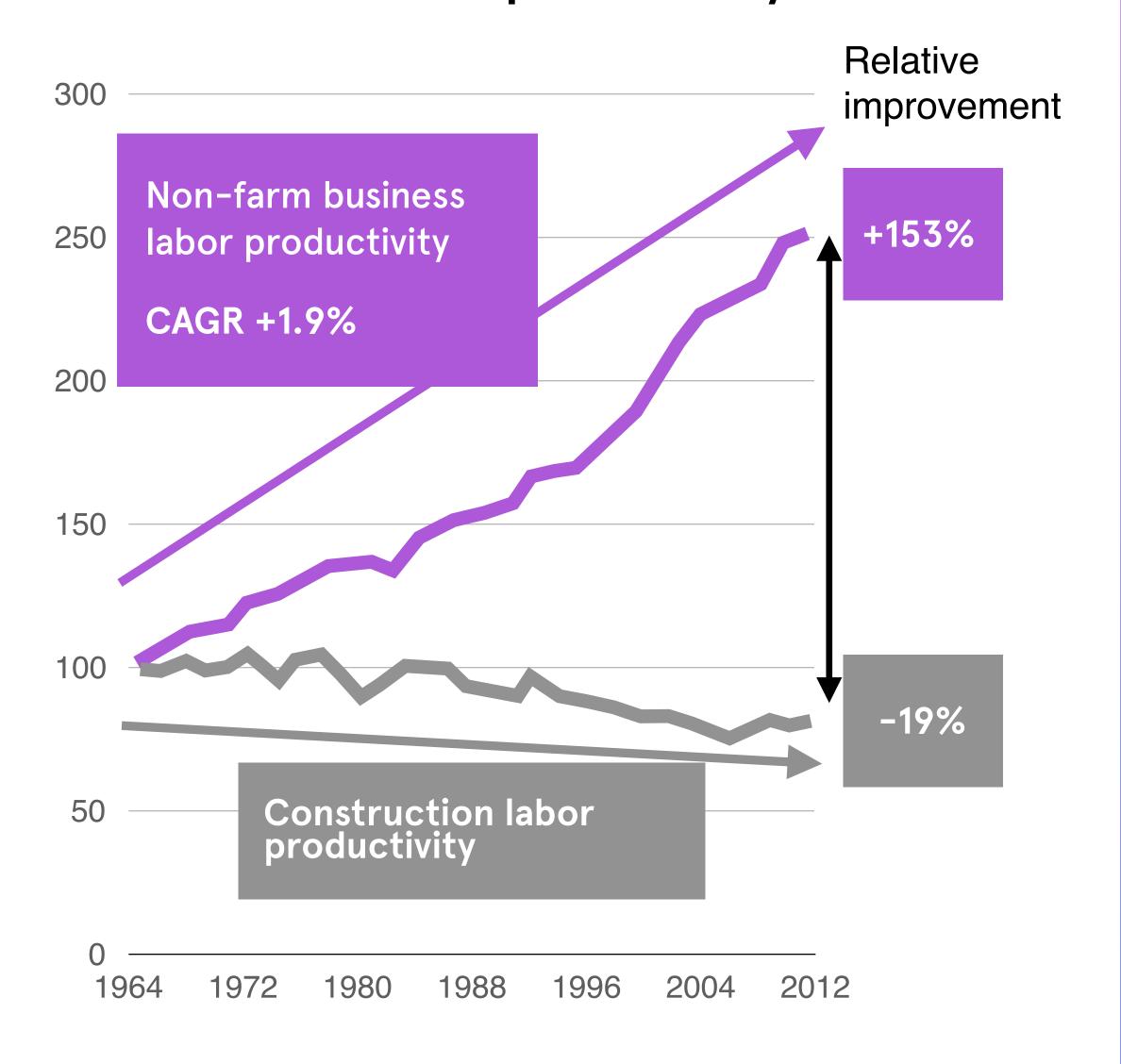


5G deployment challenges created new opportunities for technologies to scale





Index of US labor productivity



Construction labor productivity is not just lagging, it's declining

HAX Hardware Trends 2019

Yet the industry is set to double in size in the next 20 years.

Construction hard facts

Construction's productivity problem is amplified by the fact that we always need more of it. The industry needs to build more infrastructure for more people, but with less money and less labor.

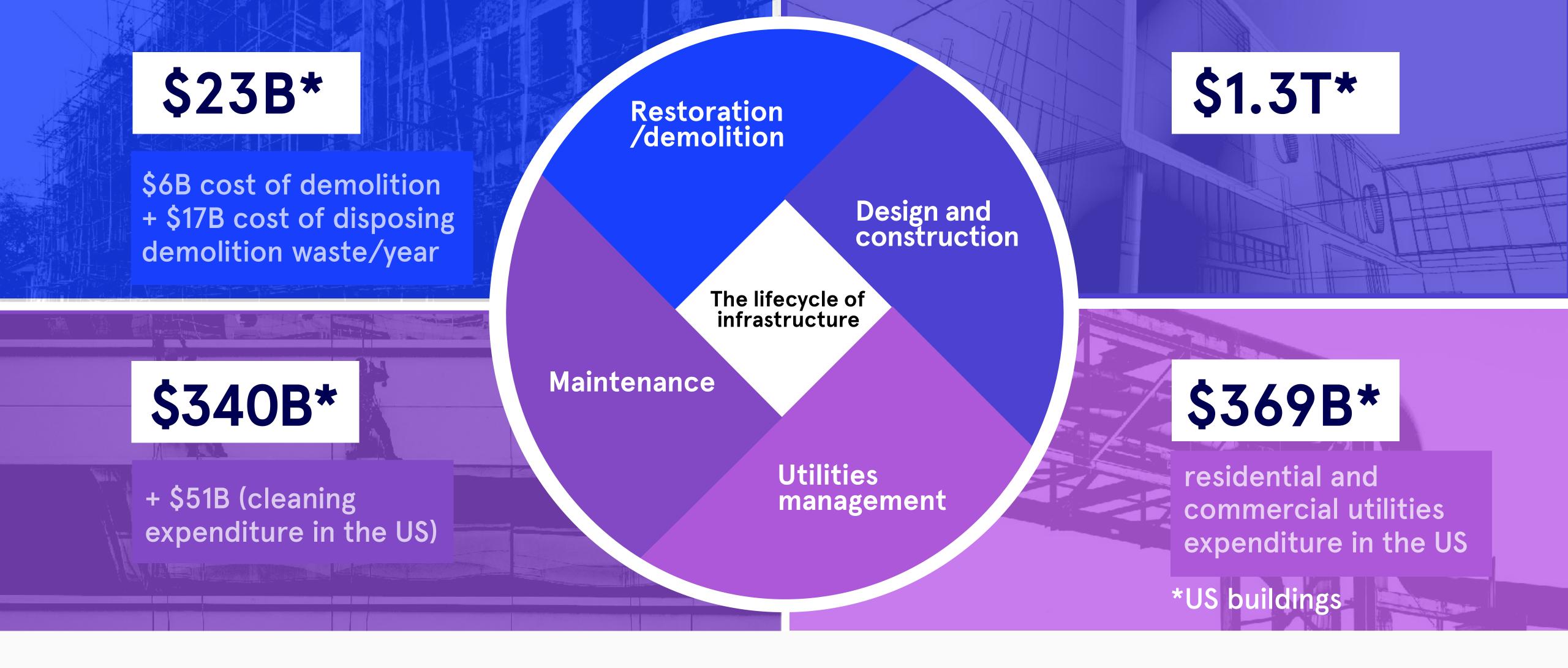
200K people are added daily to urban areas

50% of general contractors struggle to find experienced labor

51TN financing shortfall to keep up with demand

HAX Hardware Trends 2019

Source: http://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF_Shaping_the_Future_of_Construction_full_report__.pdf



To comprehensively solve the construction productivity problem, we need to think about the entire lifecycle of built infrastructure.

A building needs to be thoughtfully designed and constructed, run at optimum efficiency, be maintained regularly to extend its lifespan, and then ultimately be restored and/or demolished to allow for new creation.

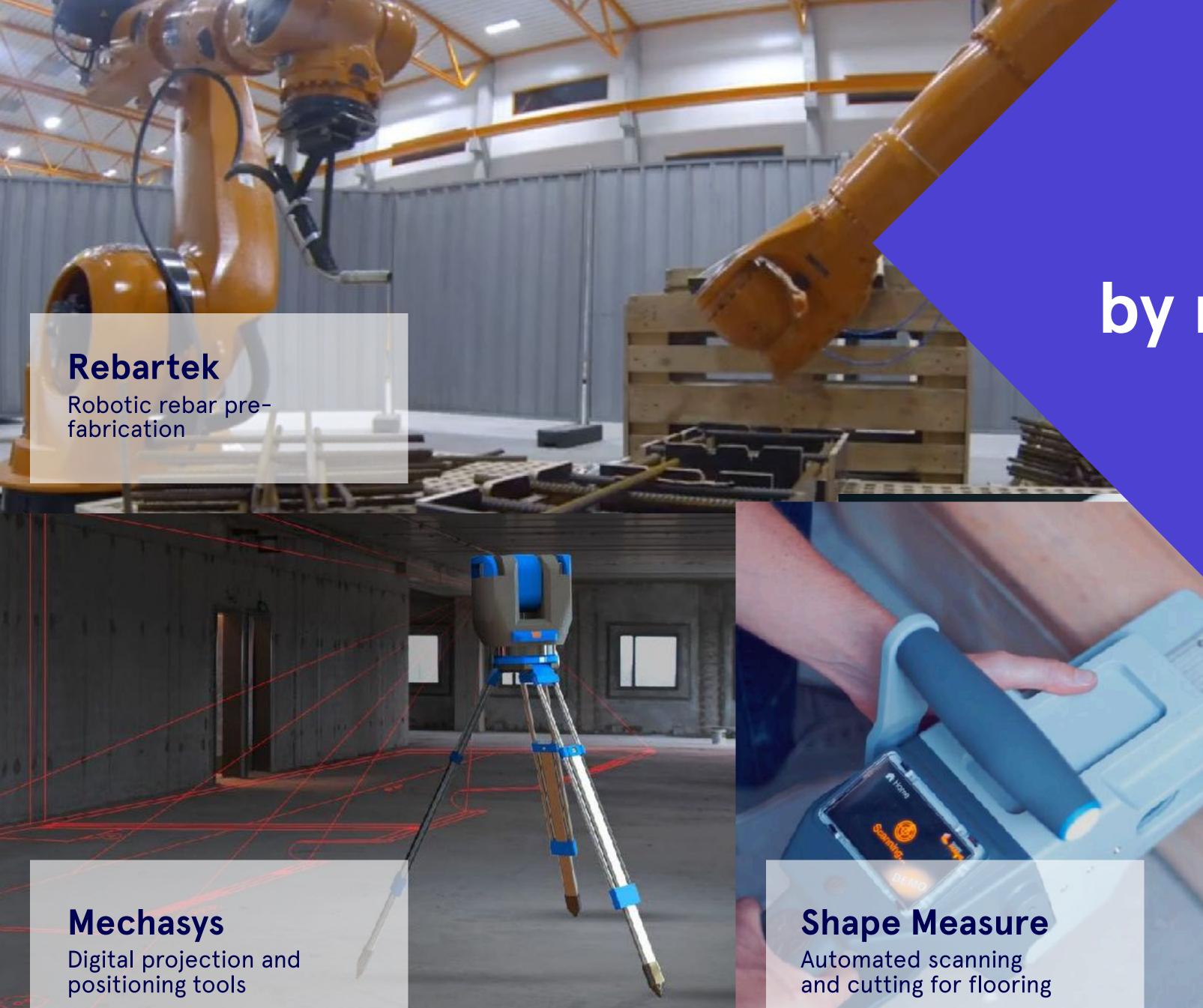


Productivity is severely affected by real world variability

Construction occurs in the physical world. Solutions for this industry can't be digital only; software needs additional sources of information from a variety of workflows to unlock new avenues for productivity.

As such, it needs a combination of sensors and hardware automation to gather data and take corrective action where required.







Maintenance \$340B

New business models for continuous maintenance

Automation makes it possible to perform maintenance more frequently and for a lower price per unit. Interestingly, it also makes it easier for property

management companies to offer traditionally dull and dangerous, value-add services on a recurring basis.

HAX Hardware Trends 2019





Somatic

Robots that clean commercial bathrooms



Modular robots that perform outdoor maintenance tasks



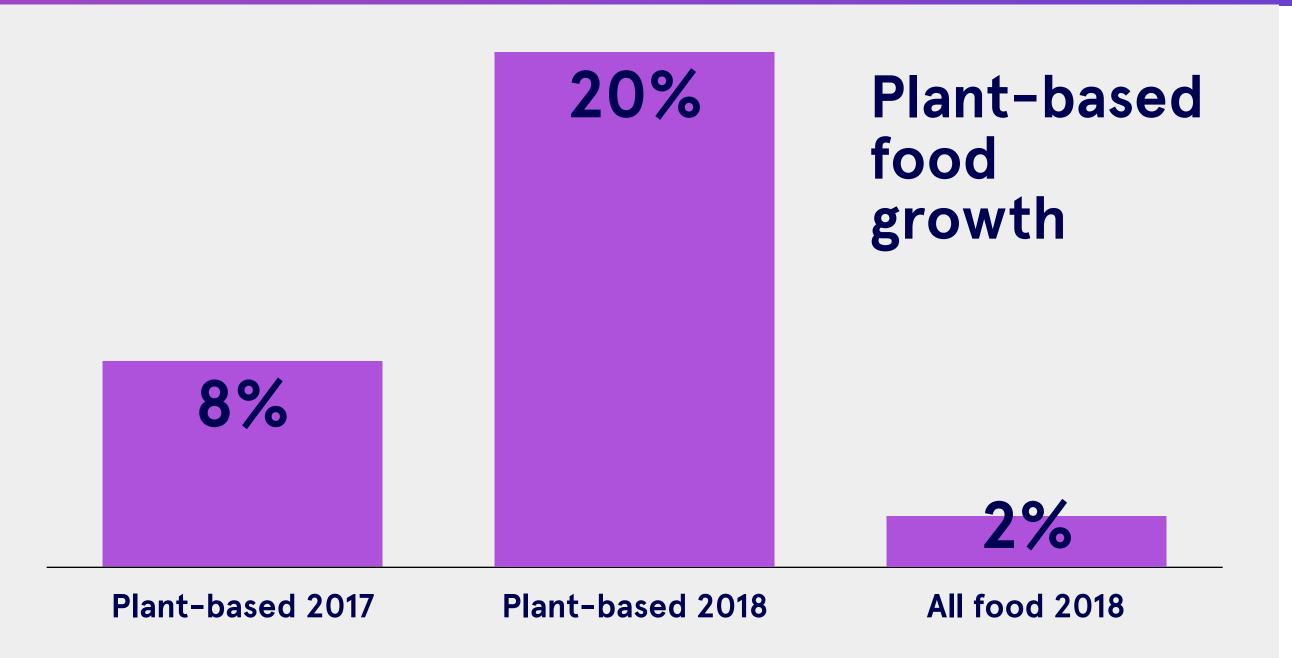




HARB2B Agriculture



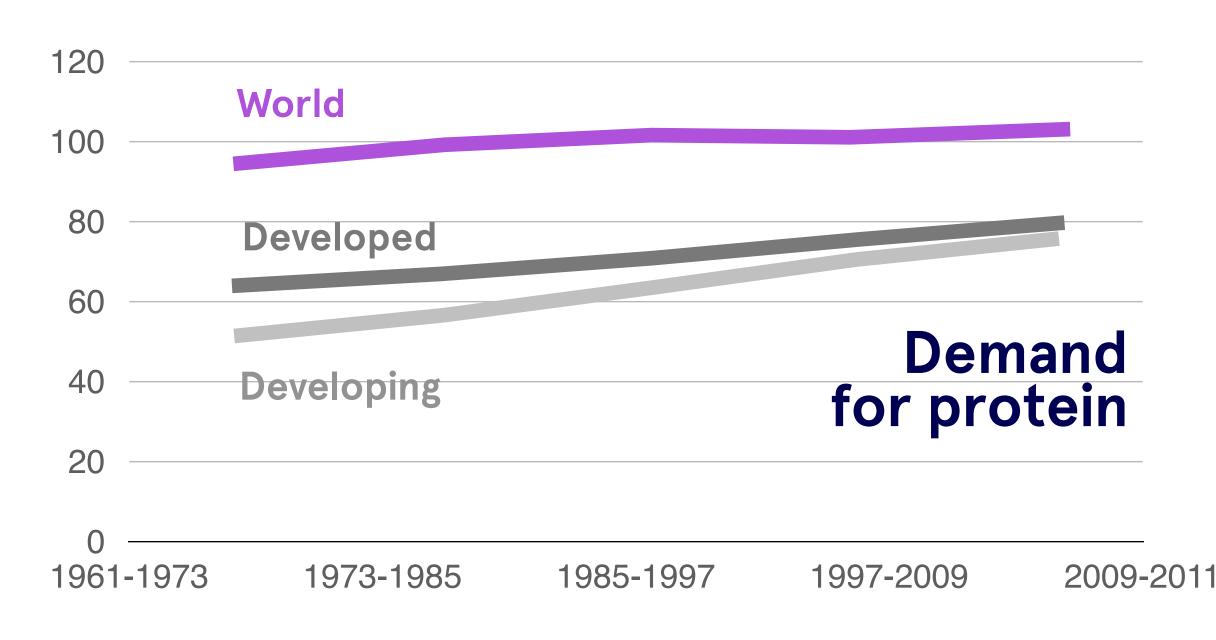
Plant-based protein is surging to support global growth



Plant-based protein had its coming-of-age moment in 2018. The growth of plant-based food products far outpaced the growth of all other food last year.



In the developed world, this trend is driven by consumer consciousness. In the developing world, it'll be driven by increased living standards and a demand for more complete nutrition



Land use per gram of protein, m²



1.02

Source: Environment Footprint by Food Type (protein) - Clark & Tilman (2017)

SUSV

The most active early stage investor in agriculture in 2019

At SOSV, we have a deep-seated belief in supporting companies that build the food supply of the future. Our food and biotech focused accelerators have led the charge in backing some of the world's leading alternative protein companies.

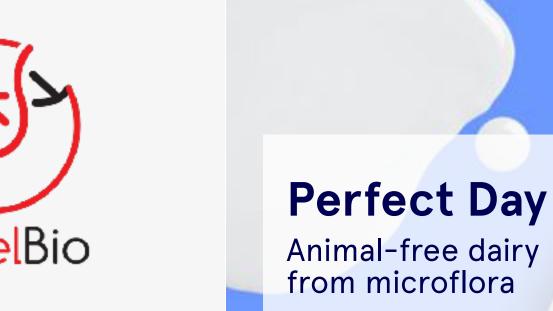














Precision agriculture maximizes output with less input HAX Hardware Trends 2019

Ultimately, plant-based proteins are useful for shifting the end product from meat to plant-based. However, the raw materials required are still a product of farming. As a result, our emphasis on precision agriculture still remains.



Tensorfield

Robots to identify weeds and kill them with hot oil macrodosing instead of chemical fertilizers.

Apix

Sensor analytics and automation for beehive maintenance and colony health.





In the future, every single component will have a real-time digital twin

The manufacturing sector is no longer as simple as offline and online operations. Instead it is fully integrated with real-time "digital twins" of everything happening throughout a supply chain.

Enabled by sensing in real time

The value of digital twins goes far beyond where something is. It enables deeper understanding and measures that indicate quality, efficiency and cost in the system.



Sound Vibration Humidity

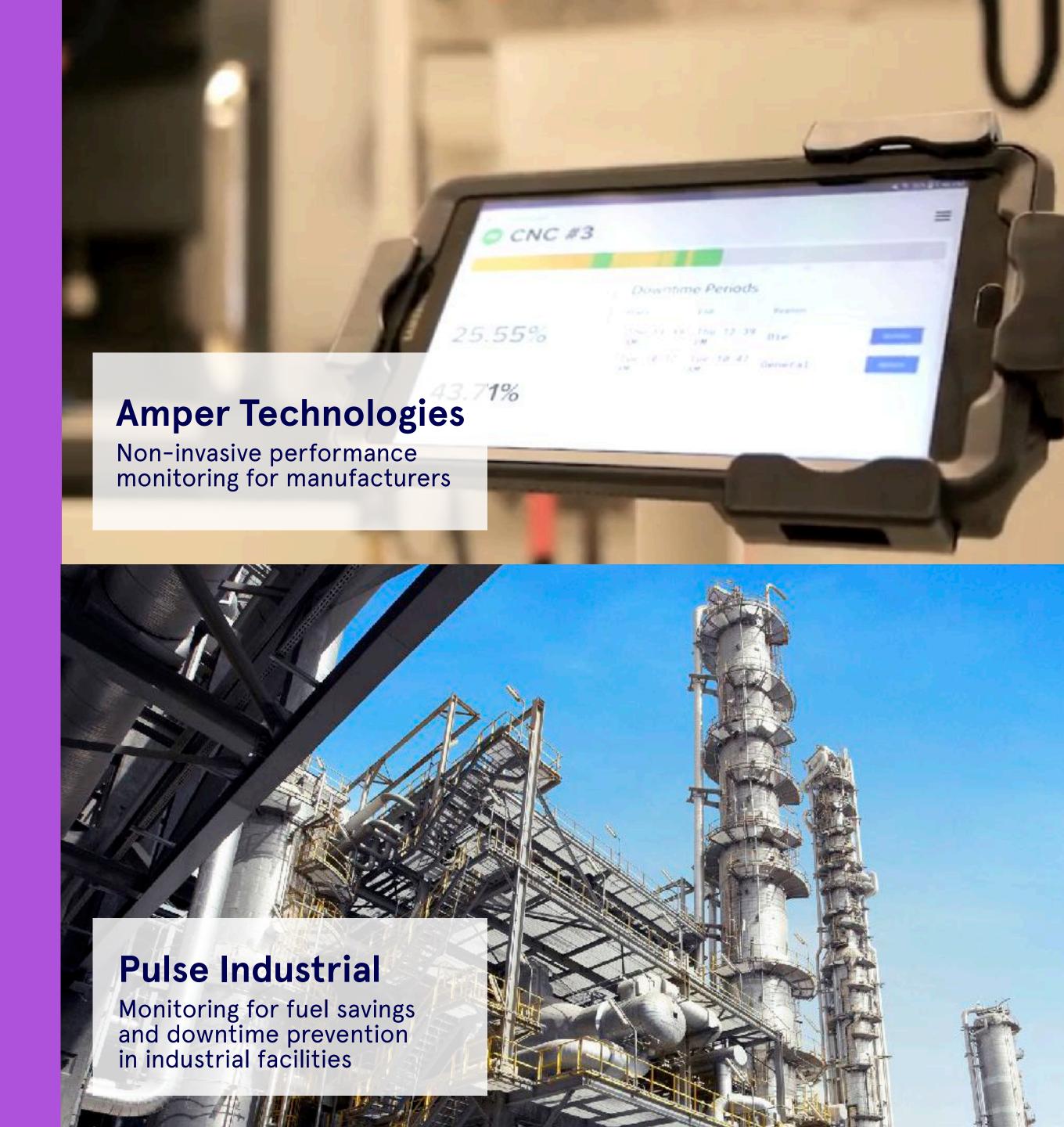
Visual Temperature RF signal

Deeper insight optimizes and prevents costly downtime

98% of organizations say a single hour of downtime costs over \$100,000.

Digital manufacturing systems were first used to prevent unscheduled downtime or high cost inefficiencies.





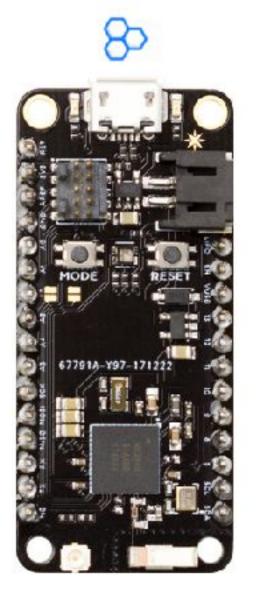






Fully integrated Internet of Things platform for secure and scalable deployment





Equipment as a service starts with connectivity and sensing

Connectivity and software integration enable new business models that can continuously add value and scale beyond the initial hardware.

Building trust across multiple stages and partners

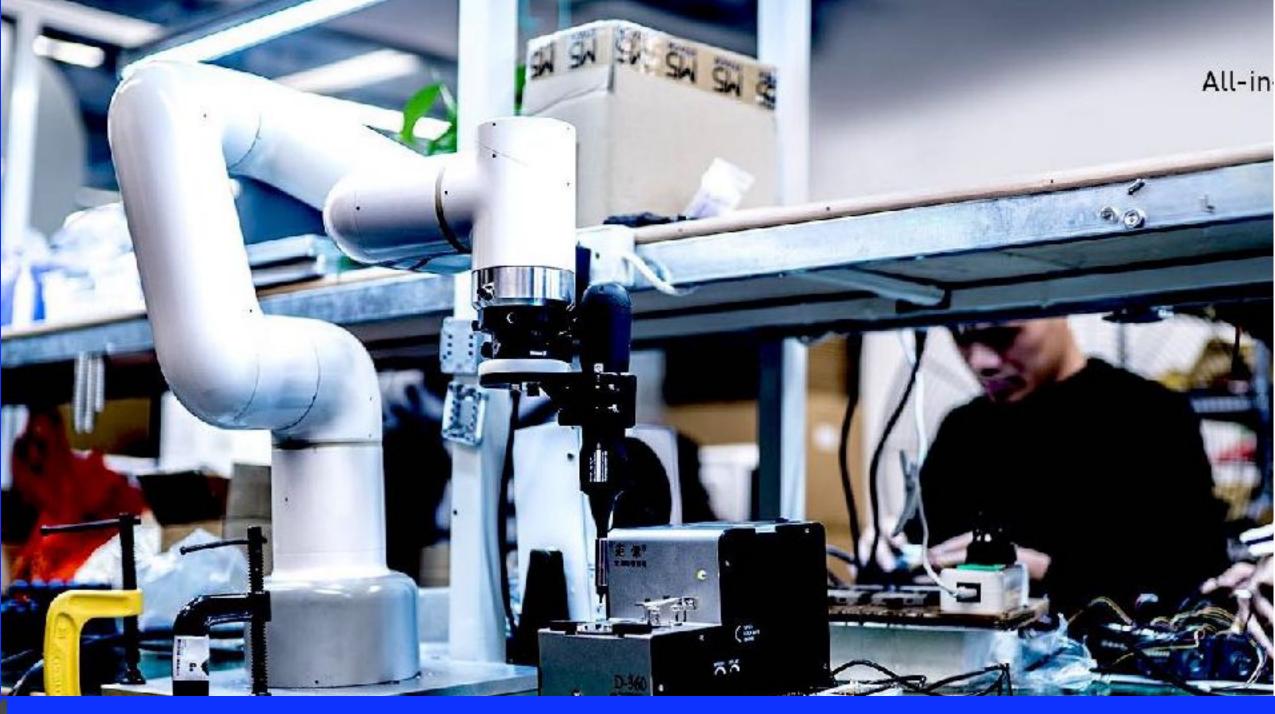
Connected manufacturing systems are creating value across all stages of production, augmenting relationships and adding transparency between partners.

HAX Hardware Trends 2019



Making robots more like people

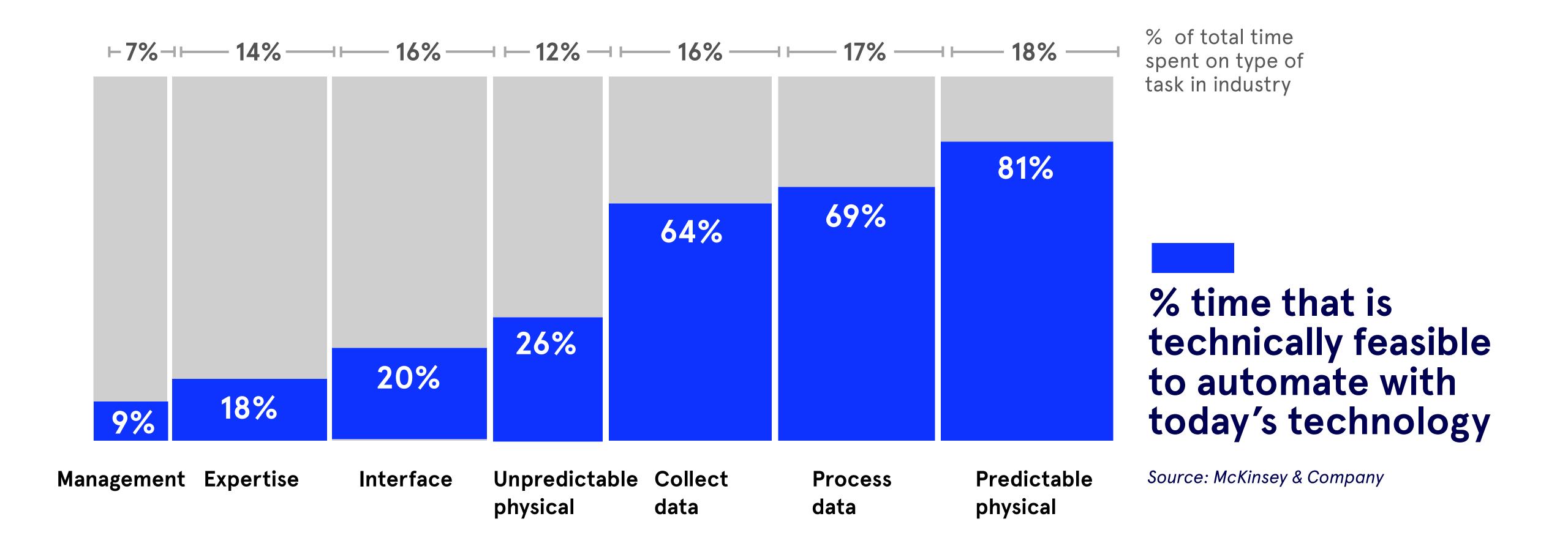




And people more like robots



More tasks are being automated but people and robots will need to work together for the foreseeable future **EXTHERINGS 2019**



Making people stronger, smarter and more consistent

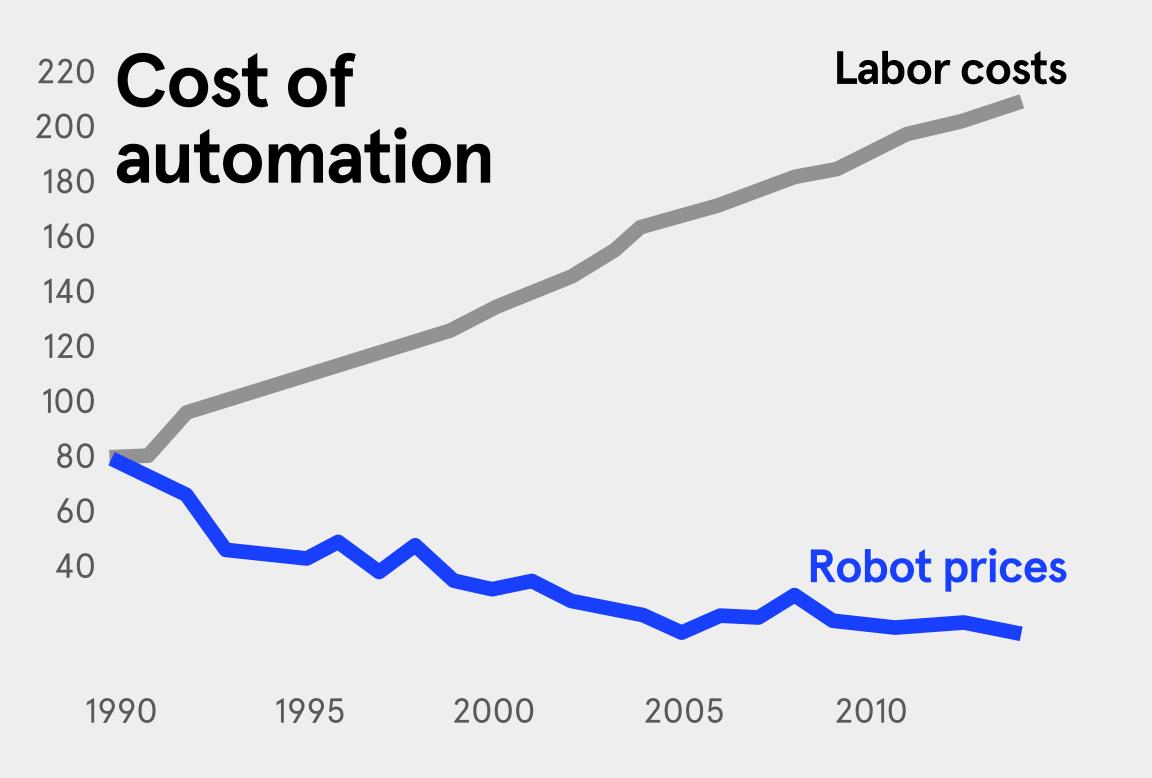
Employers are only adopting technologies that are designed to work well with their employees, integrate into current work flows, and help employees perform more safely and efficiently.

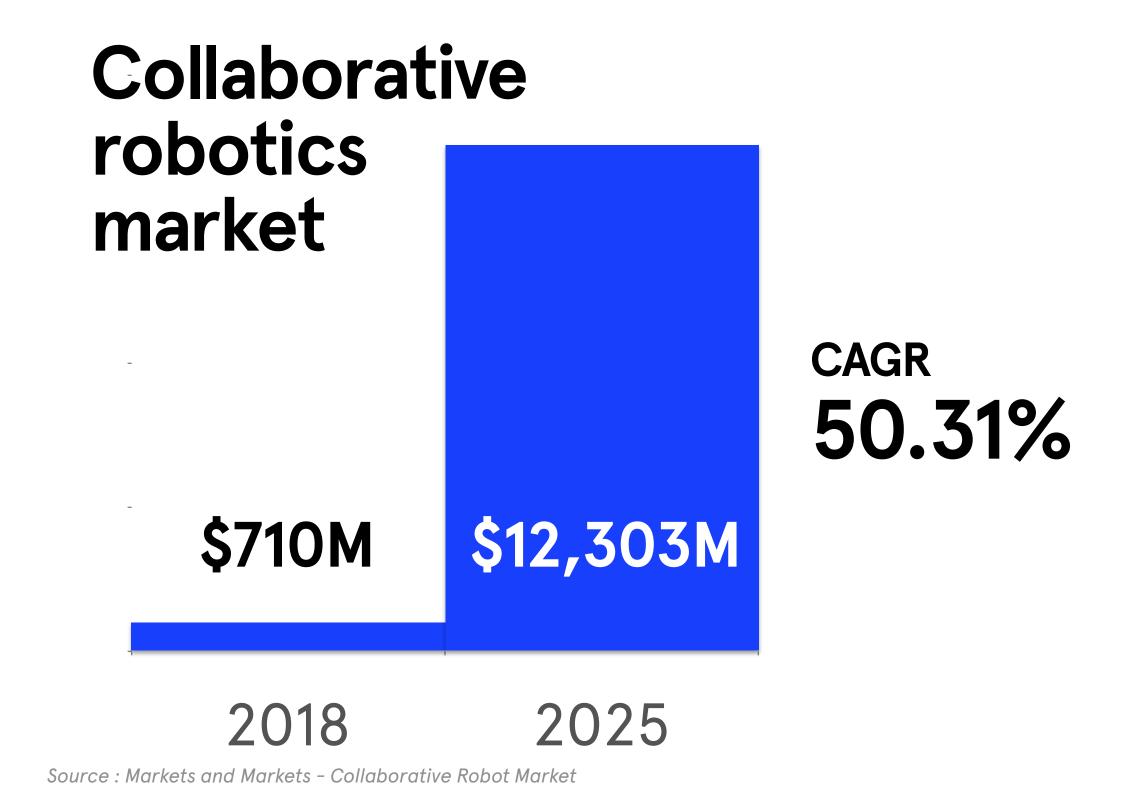


Nuada

soft exoskeleton wearable system that helps users to hold heavy objects with their hands completely relaxed

Robotics are not only cost-reducing, they are becoming easier to set up, re-tool, and safer to interact with HAXTHERIDES 2019





Source: Economist Intelligence Unit; IMB; Institut für Arbeitsmarkt – und Berunfsforschung; International Robot Federation, US Social Security Data; McKinsey Analysis

A race to scale platforms that are flexible and integrate with people

The collaborative robotics market is booming. Emergent winners emphasize speed of development, integration time and how well they work and share environments with people.





