

Weekly Progress Roundup

Progress in cruise ships, weather forecasting, and global electricity access.

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Global electricity access continues to rise

Like some other global trends, the steady growth in electricity access [temporarily reversed](#) during the pandemic. In 2023, however, [progress resumed](#), and a [recent update](#) from the International Energy Agency predicts that in 2024, the number of people without electricity will fall to 737 million, the lowest in decades.

AI weather forecasting achieves groundbreaking accuracy

DeepMind, Google’s AI laboratory, has developed a weather forecasting model that is both faster and more accurate than the European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts’ Ensemble Prediction System, a current leader in weather prediction. According to a [recent paper](#) in *Nature*, the DeepMind model demonstrated superior accuracy in 97.2 percent of cases and can generate forecasts in minutes rather than the hours required by conventional systems.

Cruise ships keep breaking records

News of stagnation in the world of atoms has not reached cruise ship builders: “Since the SS Great Eastern in 1858, the gross tonnage of the largest passenger ships has grown an average of 1.59 percent per year, nearly double the 0.84 percent annual growth rate in the height of the world’s tallest buildings.”

A [new article](#) in the *Works in Progress* magazine explores the lessons we can glean from this impressive growth.

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- [A Seed Treatment to Transform the Agrochemical Market](#)
- [How Big Data Created the Modern Dairy Cow](#)

Energy & Environment:

- [Per Capita CO2 Emissions Have Peaked Globally](#)
- [Meta Joins the Nuclear-Powered AI Fray](#)
- [Hawaiian Crows Return to Wild for First Time in More than 20 Years](#)

Health & Demographics:

- [Measles Vaccines Saved over 90 Million Lives in the Last 50 Years](#)
- [India Sees Huge Drop in AIDS Deaths, HIV Infections Since 2010](#)
- [India’s “Blockbuster” Drugs to Take On Deadly Superbugs](#)
- [“Neural Tourniquet” Can Stop Bleeding with Nerve Stimulation](#)

Science & Technology:

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- [Meta Plans to Build Subsea Cable Spanning the World, Sources Say](#)
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- [Satellites Launched to Create Artificial Solar Eclipses in a Demo](#)
- [Researchers Get an Updated Look at the Human Cell Atlas](#)

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