

TLDR: Happy New Year Envision! In this edition, we are wrapping up the past year as well as looking into what this new decade might bring. As always, for any new readers, please [tell us about yourself](#) here so that we can help the community become connected based on both interest and location. Let us know what you think!

A look back into 2019

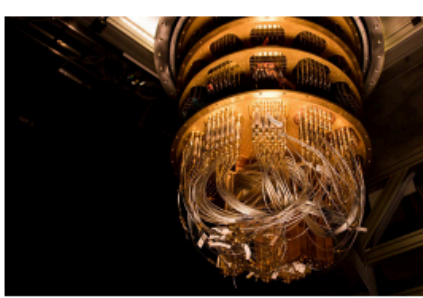
As we leave 2019 behind, let us take a second to appreciate the milestones that have been achieved in the past year. Here is a list of 5 notable technological and scientific achievements of 2019.



1. First picture of a black hole
The first-ever picture of a black hole was released in April next to a galaxy called *Messier 87*. In fact, this black hole is a Supermassive Black Hole. The picture was taken by the [Event Horizon Telescope](#), an international collaboration.

2. AI beats multiplayer poker

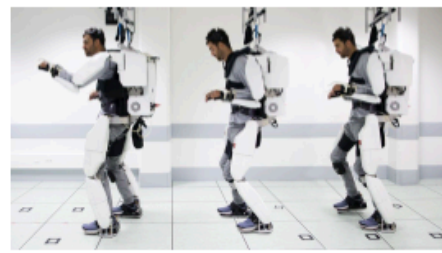
In July of this year, the AI bot [Pluribus](#) won a six-player poker game against some of the top human professionals. Using reinforcement learning similar to AlphaZero, Pluribus teaches itself everything from scratch.



3. Google claims to have achieved quantum supremacy
In October, [Google claimed to be the first to build a quantum computer](#) which solved a problem that a classical computer cannot solve. However, some IBM specialists did not agree.

4. An exoskeleton allows paralyzed man to walk by thinking

The 28-year-old French patient pictured paralyzed all four limbs but is [now able to walk again](#) with an exoskeleton which he controls with his brain. Although he started learning how to use the exoskeleton two years ago, the patient only perfected it this year.



5. Envisioning the Past
A new human ancestor was discovered in April, in a cave in the Philippines. The species [Homo Luzonensis](#) is dated back to 50, 000 - 65,000 years and adds a significant complexity to our understanding of human evolution.

Vote here to tell us which achievement you think was the most monumental!

What to expect in 2020

The Economist	Demis Hassabis Super-AI	Juan Guaidó Venezuela's future
	Jacinda Ardern Countering extremism	Iván Fischer Ode to Beethoven
	Ren Zhengfei Data with destiny	Special section on 2020 visions

T H E
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The cover of The Economist issue of *The World in 2020* - a great read with predictions for the next decade!

We are marking the start of not only a new year but a whole decade. Hopefully, the next decade will see a lot of the ideas and aspirations we in the Envision community have been discussing come to life.



We will continue to work on these new initiatives, the Innovation Series, the Newsletter and our Envision Radio podcast! Please feel free to submit any articles or suggestions to improve the efforts! Links are below.