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# Tech Decoded

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Hello. Meta has told employees it will slash one in 10 jobs worldwide as it ramps up its spending on artificial intelligence. It is the latest big tech firm to announce large-scale layoffs, citing both cost pressures and the potential productivity gains of AI. Below, I explore whether such deep cuts to the workforce are sustainable. Plus, we examine the challenges facing [Apple's incoming CEO](#), deep-dive into nuclear fusion and check out a ping pong-playing robot.

## THE DOWNLOAD

### Are big tech's job cuts sustainable?



Meta boss Mark Zuckerberg has said AI will 'dramatically' change the way the firm works. Credit: Getty Images

On Thursday, Meta confirmed what many staff have feared for months. It will **slash roughly 8,000 jobs** as it seeks to offset some of the costs of its investment in AI and use the technology to run its business more efficiently.

It is just the latest Silicon Valley firm to have announced major layoffs in part because of AI. Giants including **Amazon**, as well as smaller firms such as Pinterest and **Block**, have all announced or warned of plans to reduce headcount, pointing to developments in the technology that they say are allowing their firms to do more with fewer people.

Large-scale job losses in the tech world are nothing new, and some experts have questioned whether CEOs **are scapegoating AI** for cuts they might have made anyway.

Firms like Meta and Amazon are widely thought to have over-hired during the Covid-19 pandemic and have been scaling back for some time.

But Dan Ives, from analysts Wedbush Securities, believes that the vast sums being invested by big tech firms in AI have "put pressure on cash-flow", prompting firms to tighten their belts.

Meta, for example, has said it **will spend up to \$135bn (£100bn) on AI projects** in 2026 – roughly the same as what it spent on the technology in the last three years.

Perhaps not surprisingly, tech bosses have been talking up the efficiency gains they hope to achieve through AI. In January, Zuckerberg said the technology would "dramatically" change how the company worked in 2026.

And in April, Evan Spiegel, Snap's co-founder and CEO, said AI tools would "reduce repetitive work and increase velocity" at the firm as it announced **plans to cut 16% of its workforce**.

The big question is whether these promised productivity gains will materialise, says Nick Patience, a tech industry analyst at the Futurum Group.

"If they don't, there's a risk that cutting jobs this aggressively could damage the engineering and product talent base these companies need to thrive."

***The download:*** While AI is not the only factor behind job losses in Silicon Valley, it's become the common theme. Expect to see further cuts in the year ahead.

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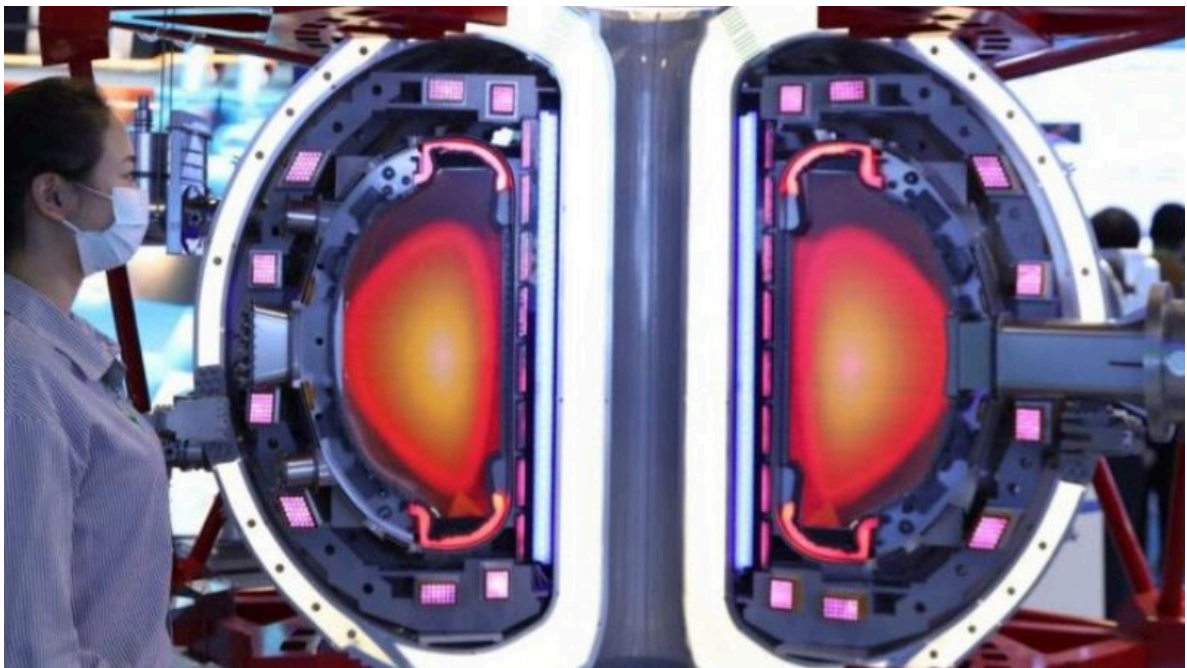
Access to global messaging apps has been restricted and there are widespread disruptions to mobile internet.

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### SOMETHING DIFFERENT

## The future of fusion



Extremely high temperatures are needed to maintain fusion here on Earth. Credit: Getty Images

Scientists and engineers working on nuclear fusion projects around the world are often accused of attempting the impossible. After all, they are trying to

capture, on Earth, the reaction that powers the Sun – a complex process involving extremely high temperatures. It could lead to abundant, cheap and emission-free electricity, but a working power station remains a long way off. Ben Morris meets [the scientists trying to solve the problem](#).

**PODCAST PICK**



**A hologram to remember: Pam and Bill's love story**

A widow tells Tech Life about how she created a lifelike hologram of her husband after he passed away.

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**And finally...**

Do you think you could beat a robot at table tennis? An AI-powered robot named Ace has done just that, triumphing over elite players at an event in Tokyo. The feat has been hailed as a milestone and a true test for robotics – [check it out here](#).

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