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Towards a National AI Strategy

INTRODUCTION

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- 4 Weeks ago at the Delta Summit Prime Minister Joseph Muscat announced that Malta was looking into Artificial Intelligence.

- Today we are launching Malta's Vision on Artificial Intelligence.

- After succesfully positioning Malta as The Blockchain Island, being the first in the world to regulate for DLT Products and Services, we now would like to position Malta amongst the top 10 countries in the world with an Artificial Intelligence Policy.

DEFINING AI

- AI is a rapidly evolving technology that harnesses the ability of machines to learn and perform cognitive functions, similar to that of the human brain.

- AI is derived from the applied extraction of knowledge or insights from data allowing machines to make informed decisions.

- Artificial Intelligence is not only robots. It is the processing of data that can be used for machine learning, computer vision, natural language processing and predictive modelling.

- To achieve this we need more advances in computers, chip design and Quantum Computing.

ECONOMIC POTENTIAL

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- AI is expected to underpin **$15.7** trillion of global economic growth by **2030.**

- It is expected to impact every economic sector and transform current jobs and create new ones.

- It is estimated that over **2000 companies** globally working in this sector raise over **$36.7 Billion.**

- A market which has the potential of growing compoundly at a rate of **75%** until the year **2021.**

OUR AIM: TOWARDS A NATIONAL AI STRATEGY

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- To develop a National AI Strategy;

- Publish and refine it through stakeholder consultation.

- This shall be done in a strategic manner conversant with other strategies being pursued such as that of DLT and IoT.
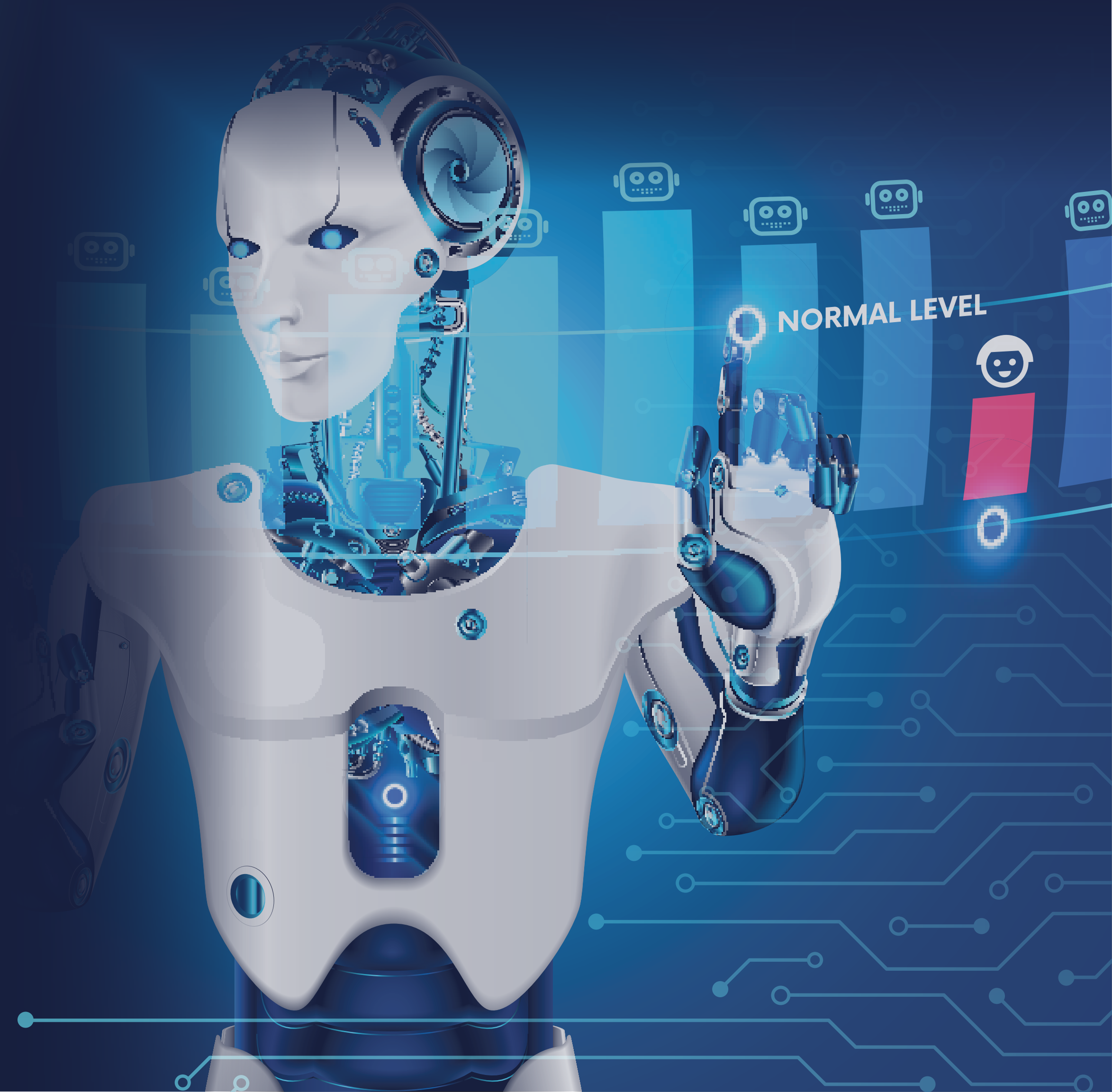
OUR OBJECTIVES

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- To dialogue with stakeholders in order to build awareness of the key topics and issues that will inform a national AI Framework.

- Consult on a policy that considers for ethically aligned, transparent and socially responsible AI.

- In fact the Law enacted for DLT already establishes an Ethics Committee within the MDIA.

- Identify policy, regulatory and fiscal measures to strengthen Malta's appeal as a hub for foreign investment in this sector.

- Identify the underlying skill base and infrastructure needed to support AI.
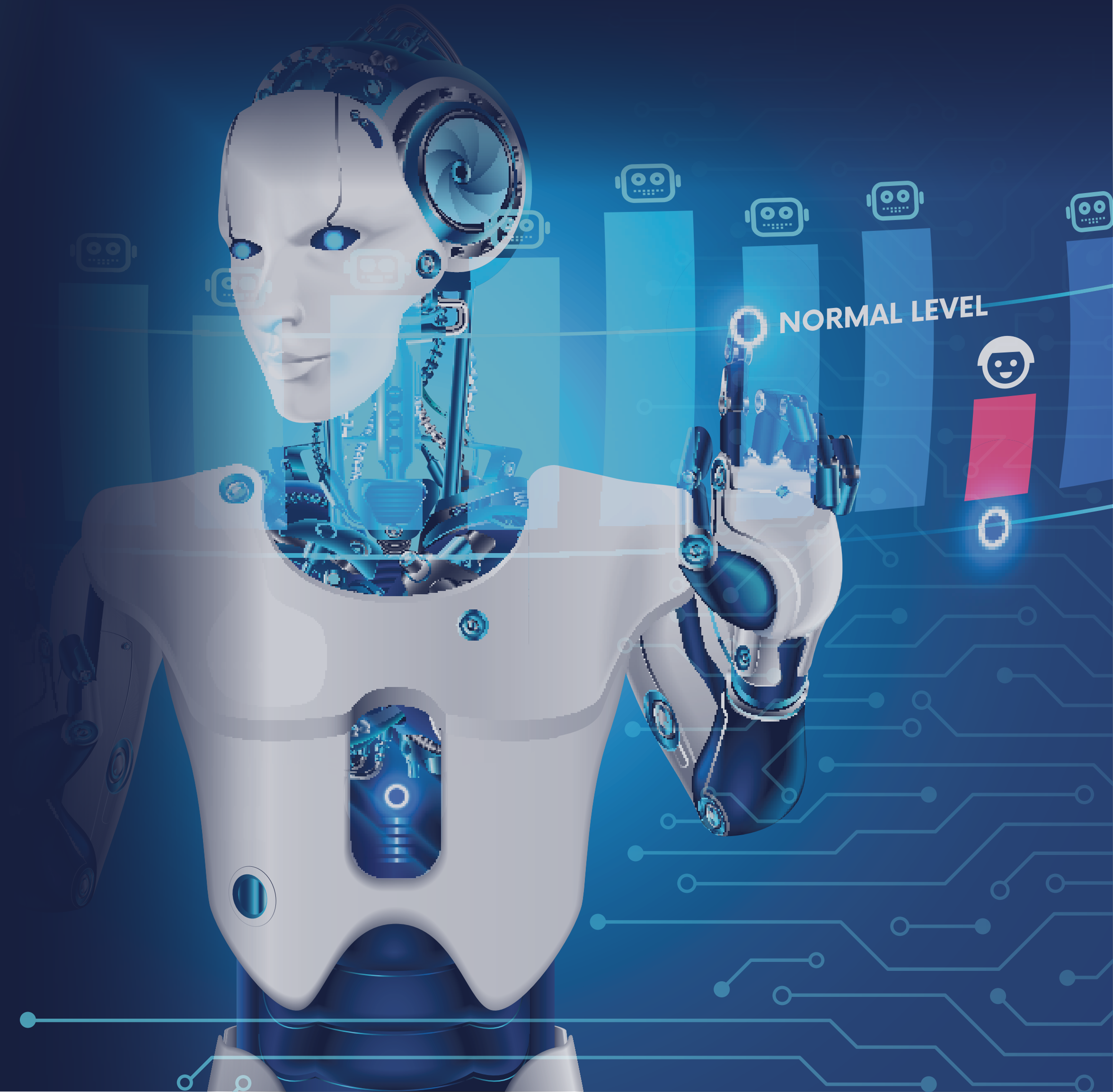
OUR OBJECTIVES

- Look into the creation of a centre of Research, Development and Application of the technologies involved while investing into startups for new economic opportunities.

- Help individuals and businesses to understand the ethics, risks and impacts of what's being unleashed.

- The strategy will develop cutting edge use-cases of how AI could be deployed in Malta as a central part of this policy.

NORMAL LEVEL

OUR OBJECTIVES

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- Malta is very similar to a cosmopolitan city and can serve as a test bed opportunity for AI companies to test their products in a real life scenario.

- Understand how AI can be applied by Government i.e to better the service given to the citizens.

NORMAL LEVEL

THE NEED FOR A NATIONAL STRATEGY

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- A holistic approach which involves accademia, start-ups and companies.

- Create a sustainable and local engine for growth.

- Look into the unknown risks of AI without hindering innovation and economic development.

- Create a new sector for investment on our shores.

HOW WILL AI HELP?

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- The powerful combination of many technologies will help us to develop AI applications that will make life easier and face human related challenges at the work place.

- It will diversify broad sectors in IT and Engineering resulting in the creation of **new jobs of the future**.

THE BENEFITS OF AI

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- Improve the health and well-being of our citizens.

- Make government services more accessible.

- Provide more relevant information to the public.

- Relieve employees from simple or repetitive tasks and allow them to focus on more complex high value added activities.

- Help in the processing of highly complex operations and make it easier for humans to reach higher milestones.

- Address data backlogs with cognitive technologies which can also perform end-to-end processes on a massive scale while leaving the harder work for human experts.

THE IMPACT OF AI

THE IMPACT OF AI

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- It will increase efficiency in work processes resulting in an improved service for our citizens.

- The technology will help us understand better the data we have.

- Reveal patterns.

- Provide insights that can help us predict future events.

- Make better informed decisions.

THE USE OF AI

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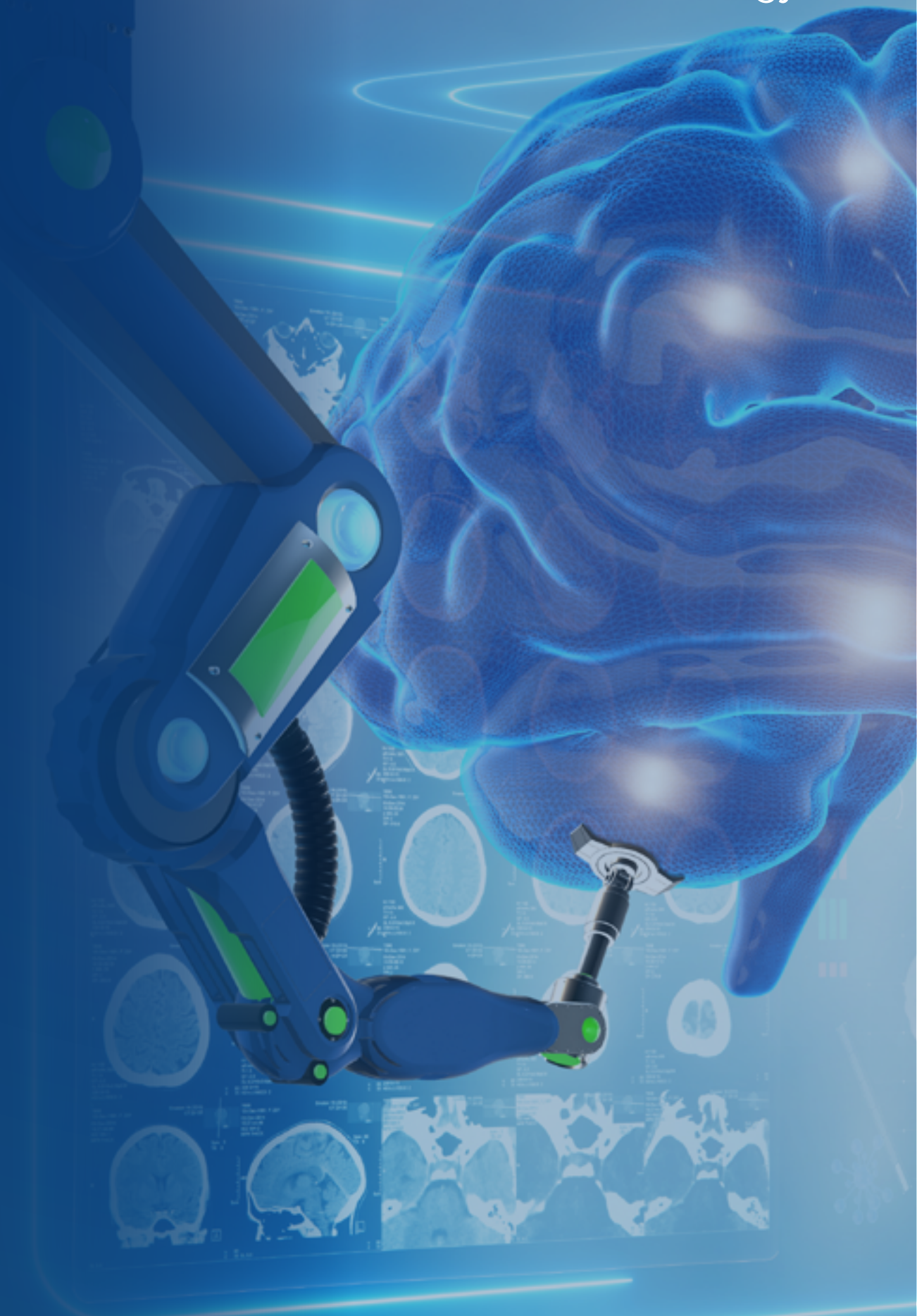
THE USE OF AI

- **PRIVATE SECTOR**

  - For the predective maintenance in manufacturing

  - Fraud detection in banking and insurance

  - Chatbots for customer services

  - Intelligent tutorial systems

THE USE OF AI

- **PUBLIC SECTOR**

  - Robot-assisted surgery

  - To improve traffic management

  - In self-driving vehicles and route optimization

  - Improve traffic flow through cameras on the road network and automated enforcement

AI TASKFORCE

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CHAIRMAN: **Mr Wayne Grixti**

MEMBERS: Dr Angelo Dalli
                   Ing. Antoine Sciberras
                   Prof Alexei Dingli
                   Dr Godfrey Vella
                   Dr Dylan Seychell
                   Dr Abdalla Kablan
                   Dr Jackie Mallia
                   Ing. Emanuel Darmanin
                   Mr Francois Piccione

SECRETARY: Mr Wilbert Tabone

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- In process, we have invited SingularityNET and the team behind Sophia the AI robot to contribute to the Taskforce entrusted with the AI Strategy.

- Amongst others, with SingularityNET, we shall explore a pilot project to create a citizenship test for AI Robots. Dr Ben Goertzel will be expanding further on this.

- I would like to take the opportunity to invite other international AI firms who wish to be part of our journey in AI to get in touch with us through MALTA.AI

CONCLUSION

- Artificial Intelligence can be a strong contributor to Malta's economic growth.

- The start of another chapter in Malta's vision to become a technological hub.

- We wish to replicate what we have done in the Blockchain sector.

- We look forward to work hand in hand on AI with all stakeholders including other European Institutions and International Organisations. Lets make it happen.

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