

24144 Elon Musk says first Neuralink product Telepathy will enable computer control by thinking

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Elon Musk's brain chip startup Neuralink already has its "first product" — dubbed Telepathy — after the company successfully inserted an implant into its first human test subject. The program "enables control of your phone or computer, and through them almost any device, just by thinking," Musk said Monday night. "Initial users will be those who have lost the use of their limbs," Musk wrote on X. "Imagine if a genius could communicate faster than a speed typist or auctioneer. That is the goal."

Musk revealed that Neuralink's first human subject had received their brain chip implant Sunday and was "recovering well." No details were available about the patient, but Musk said "initial results show promising neuron spike detection."

Musk also teased another possible feature of the brain chip called Blindsight, which could help with vision restoration, in response to a video posted by another user on X.

Last month, the company said it was looking for quadriplegics under 40 years old to participate in the human trials.

It also said a surgeon would remove part of the test patient's skull before a 7-foot-tall robot named R1 would take over to implant 64 threads lined with electrodes into their brain.

The US Food and Drug Administration cleared Neuralink to conduct its first-ever clinical trial last May. At the time, Musk's startup described the agency's decision as "an important first step that will one day allow our technology to help many people."

Musk has long touted the potential benefits of the experimental brain chip — ranging from improved cognitive function to assisting people with disabilities, such as individuals with vision loss or who have become paralyzed.

Neuralink advertised the "telepathic" potential of its brain chips in 2021 when it released a video of a monkey test subject playing the video game "Pong" with its mind.

The company has faced scrutiny from animal rights activists over its allegedly inhumane treatment of monkeys and pigs as test subjects — with one group alleging that the monkeys had gone through "extreme suffering." Musk and Neuralink have denied wrongdoing.

Separately, a group of American lawmakers asked last fall for an investigation to determine whether Musk had made misleading statements over the device's safety.

Despite the criticism, the outspoken executive has long insisted that the brain chips are safe. In December 2022, Musk said he would be "comfortable" implanting one of the chips into his own children's brains.

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