

# Humble's \$24M Freight Bet, PEARL's Protein Model, and New AI Traction from Eurasia

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*By VC Tech Radar • July 2, 2026*

Humble Robotics' \$24M raise, Genesis Molecular AI's PEARL results, and a cluster of revenue-bearing AI startups from 500 Global's Eurasia batch stand out this cycle. Also notable: renewed robotics sentiment, a nuclear-powered AI data-center concept, and investor appetite for new Series A funds.

### 1) Funding & Deals

- **Humble Robotics raised about \$24M led by Eclipse.** The company emerged from stealth in April and is building a fully autonomous cabless electric hauler for short-haul freight, with initial routes under 50 miles. The product thesis is deliberately constrained: CEO Eyal Cohen describes Humble as a search for the simplest possible robotics platform to move freight from A to B. Cohen says he has spent 20 years in Bay Area deep tech across 7-8 startups, and Humble reassembled veterans from seven previous companies. [1]
- **Valar Atomics and Nvidia are partnering to explore a 30 MW nuclear-powered AI data center in Emery County, Utah.** The concept pairs microreactor energy with next-generation cooling designed for near-zero water consumption. The announcement is notable because it specifies both the power source and cooling architecture upfront. [2]

### 2) Emerging Teams

- **Cerberus.** Aziz says Cerberus built an autonomous AI ethical hacker on a new programming language where every instruction must receive a mathematical proof of safety. He says he made a programming-language safety breakthrough at 17, runs Central Asia's top cybersecurity firm, has

secured 300+ projects in three years, and Cerberus has already generated \$150k+ in revenue with 15+ bank pilots. [3]

- **Klinova.** Maryam Haraz Ashvili is targeting a real clinical-ops bottleneck: matching patients to trials across handwritten, multilingual, and legacy records. Klinova says it found 4,000 eligible patients for a recent migraine trial in two hours, launched six pilots across 1 million patient records, and signed 22 LOIs worth \$1.2M in five months; the team includes an operator who ran 35 clinical trials across Eastern Europe and a second-time founder. [3]
- **mybots.** The company says its AI sales agent can replace the CRM and outreach stack by finding customers, qualifying leads, sending offers, and closing deals. It reports \$240k ARR after seven months, 25% MoM growth, and a 23% close rate across 147 businesses; the team includes a second-time founder and a competitive-programming champion CTO. [3]
- **Tezbur.** Umid Ahmedov says Tezbur’s AI-optimized hybrid delivery network has processed 600k+ parcels, reached \$1.7M ARR, and is growing 40% MoM. The company says it has 500+ customers, partnerships in Kazakhstan, paying clients in Denmark, and recently acquired a delivery company in Uzbekistan that should double MRR from next month; Ahmedov previously led data and AI architecture at Microsoft. [3]
- **Bloomy.** Y Combinator highlighted Bloomy as a mastery-learning platform for K-12 English, Math, and Writing. The product uses a Socratic AI tutor for standards-aligned instruction and teacher-facing insight tools, and early pilots showed about 2x faster than projected growth on NWEA MAP assessments. [4]

### 3) AI & Tech Breakthroughs

- **Genesis Molecular AI / PEARL.** Co-founder Evan Feinberg and CTO Sergey Edunov are building a diffusion-based protein-ligand co-folding model that adjusts both ligand placement and protein structure, targeting induced fit and protein flexibility. In a recent OpenBind evaluation on 802 never-before-seen EV-A71 co-complexes, Edunov said PEARL was especially strong at moving the relevant loop; Feinberg argues that roughly 1Å RMSD is the threshold that really preserves interactions. Genesis says these gains have pushed its internal SAPPHIRE system toward agentic drug-discovery loops that can inspect poses, form hypotheses, read literature, and generate the next candidates. Edunov previously led Llama 2 training and Llama 3 pretraining at Meta. [5]

“If your model is sitting at 1.8, 1.9 Angstrom RMSD, that’s slop, most likely.” [5]

- **Humble’s autonomy stack is a concrete example of recent vision-model gains changing robotics design.** Cohen says pre-trained vision

models quickly handled scenarios that used to require months of engineering work, including cones, traffic lights, and an officer holding a stop sign. Humble still uses lidar, radar, and camera on the vehicle, but says recent improvement in camera-centered vision models has been strong enough to reshape the stack. [1]

- **Devin Security Swarm points to a more structured agent architecture for software security.** Cognition introduced it as a more cost-effective and accurate way to find vulnerabilities in complex codebases, based on an architecture it calls Agentic MapReduce. Harrison Chase’s follow-up is useful because he ties the idea to a broader pattern: programmatically spawning subagents to get more deterministic control over how agents are created and run. [6, 7]

#### 4) Market Signals

- **500 Global’s Eurasia batch is producing revenue-bearing AI companies across multiple verticals.** In one demo day, Cerberus reported \$150k+ in revenue, mybots \$240k ARR, May Call \$28k MRR, and Tezbur \$1.7M ARR across cybersecurity, sales, debt collection, and logistics. [3]
- **Autonomous vehicle and robotics sentiment is warming again, but around teams that stayed through the last cycle.** In the TechCrunch discussion, the sector was described as starting to have a moment again in 2026, and Humble’s CEO said many of the same operators from 10 years ago kept at it and are now beginning to see the results. [1]
- **AI data-center design is increasingly bundling energy source and cooling architecture from day one.** The Valar Atomics/Nvidia concept pairs microreactor power with next-generation cooling designed for near-zero water consumption. [2]
- **Some investors are explicitly framing new Series A funds as a source of alpha.** One current example is Ashton Kutcher leaving Sound Ventures to start a new firm with former NFX GP Morgan Beller; Garry Tan then described new Series A funds as probably the biggest alpha in all of VC. [8, 9]

“new Series A funds are probably the biggest alpha in all of VC” [9]

#### 5) Worth Your Time

- **Latent.Space: The Coolest Diffusion Research Isn’t in LLMs** — the strongest long-form technical item in this set for PEARL, induced fit, and why diffusion primitives matter in 3D structure prediction. [5]
- **TechCrunch Equity on Humble Robotics** — the clearest source here on the narrow freight thesis and why recent pre-trained vision models



# 2016 ALL OVER AGAIN

EQUITY PODCAST  
EYAL COHEN, HUMBLE ROBOTICS

changed the autonomy stack. [1]  
*Autonomous vehicle hype is back, and Humble Robotics is bringing it to freights | Equity Podcast (17:50)*

- **500 Global in Eurasia Demo Day** — a dense sourcing list for early traction across AI security, clinical operations, sales automation, debt collection, and logistics. [3]
- **Cognition’s Devin Security Swarm thread** and **Harrison Chase’s follow-up** — worth reading if you are tracking agent architectures built around programmatic subagent creation. [6, 7]
- **YC on Bloomy** — short, but one of the cleaner pilot outcome metrics in this set for AI tutoring. [4]

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## Sources

1. Autonomous vehicle hype is back, and Humble Robotics is bringing it to freights | Equity Podcast
2. X post by @AtomsNotBits
3. 500 Global in Eurasia, Batch 10 Demo Day
4. X post by @ycombinator
5. The Coolest Diffusion Research Isn’t in LLMs — Evan Feinberg & Sergey Edunov, Genesis Molecular AI
6. X post by @cognition
7. X post by @hwchase17
8. X post by @ychernova

9. X post by @garrytan