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The hole story

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Genetics: Pulling strands of DNA through tiny holes, called nanopores, could dramatically speed up the sequencing of human genomes

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Difference engine
Renumbering the net
The internet: Just as car number plates and telephone dialling codes need to be updated every so often to allow for growth, so does the internet's addressing system. But it should not need updating again any time soon

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Stretchable electronics
A shapely future for circuits
Electronics: Flexible circuits that can bend and stretch with their surroundings could have a wide range of uses

Inside story
How illuminating
Biotechnology: Scientists have uncovered the biochemical mechanisms used by living organisms to produce light, known as bioluminescence—and are putting those tricks to a dazzling range of uses

GPS jamming
No jam tomorrow
Navigation: As the uses of satellite-positioning technology continue to grow, what can be done to stop deliberate and dangerous jamming of the signals?

Brain scan
Betting on green
Vinod Khosla thinks most venture capitalists are being too cautious with their green investments. But is his own approach too risky?

Monitor

Rocks on the menu
Biotechnology: High commodity prices have encouraged the use of mineral-munching bugs to extract metals from waste or low-grade ore

Caught in a BEAR hug
Robotics: A newly designed robot can recover casualties from battlefields, and might also be able to make itself useful to soldiers in other ways

Do Not Attempt to steal
Security technology: Special transparent adhesives, dabbed on valuables or sprayed on thieves, are helping police solve crimes

Beam it up
Energy: Laser beams can deliver energy to machines through thin air. This might be a good way to power drone aircraft or a space elevator

Towering beauty?
Energy: A rather more elegant way to convey electrical cables across the countryside may be coming soon to a field near you

Anonymous no more
The internet: It is becoming ever more difficult to browse the internet without leaving behind digital footprints that reveal your identity

How to see round corners
Digital imaging: An unusual new type of camera analyses the reflections of a laser pulse to do the seemingly impossible

The right trousers
Robotics: An artificial exoskeleton, akin to a pair of robotic trousers, promises to bring hope and dignity to paraplegics by letting them walk

Addicted? Really?
The internet: Mental-health specialists disagree over whether to classify compulsive online behaviour as addiction—and how to treat it

Bright sparks
Innovation Awards: We invite nominations for our annual prizes recognising successful innovators in seven categories

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