The AI Race China Is Now Winning

What the West missed while Beijing built its next-gen tech empire

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January - DeepSeek

- Efficient open-weight GPT rival
- Supports 128k+ context, reasoning modes
- Competitive pricing, developer-friendly APIs
- **Better Known as:** China's GPT

Strategic impact:
- Forces the AI race to compete on cost, not hype.

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February - OmniHuman 1

exabytes | GROW Digital

OmniHuman-1
Redefining Human Animation Technology

- Photorealistic avatars with accurate lip sync
- Text, voice, image to video pipeline
- Fast output, minimal setup
- **Better Known as:** China's HeyGen/Synthesia

Strategic impact:

- Boosts AI creator economy with scalable media.

March - Manus AI

- Autonomous multi-agent execution
- GAIA benchmark performance
- Plans, browses, runs tools independently
- **Better Known as:** China's Devin

Strategic impact:

- Moves AI from chat to autonomous action.

April - Qwen 3 (Alibaba)

- MoE + hybrid reasoning family
- Enterprise-ready via Alibaba Cloud
- Strong code + multilingual support
- **Better Known as:** China's Claude (Enterprise)

Strategic impact:

- Enterprise AI shifts from demos to deployment.

May - Kling AI 2.1

Kling 2.1

Cinematic AI Video Generation.
Rendered by Prompt.

- Cinematic AI video generation
- Speed vs quality control modes
- Long-form capabilities
- **Better Known as:** China's Sora

Strategic impact:

- Video becomes a frontline AI battleground.

June - Baidu ERNIE 4.5

- MoE architecture up to 424B params
- Knowledge graph + search grounding
- Full multimodal pipeline
- **Better Known as:** China's Google

Strategic impact:

- AI moves closer to reliable, factual reasoning.

July - Zhipu GLM 4.5

Z.ai's
next-generation flagship model
GLM-4.5

- Agent-first model
- 128k context, strong tool use
- MIT-licensed open weights
- **Better Known as:** China's Claude Sonnet

Strategic impact:
- Open models challenge closed-model dominance.
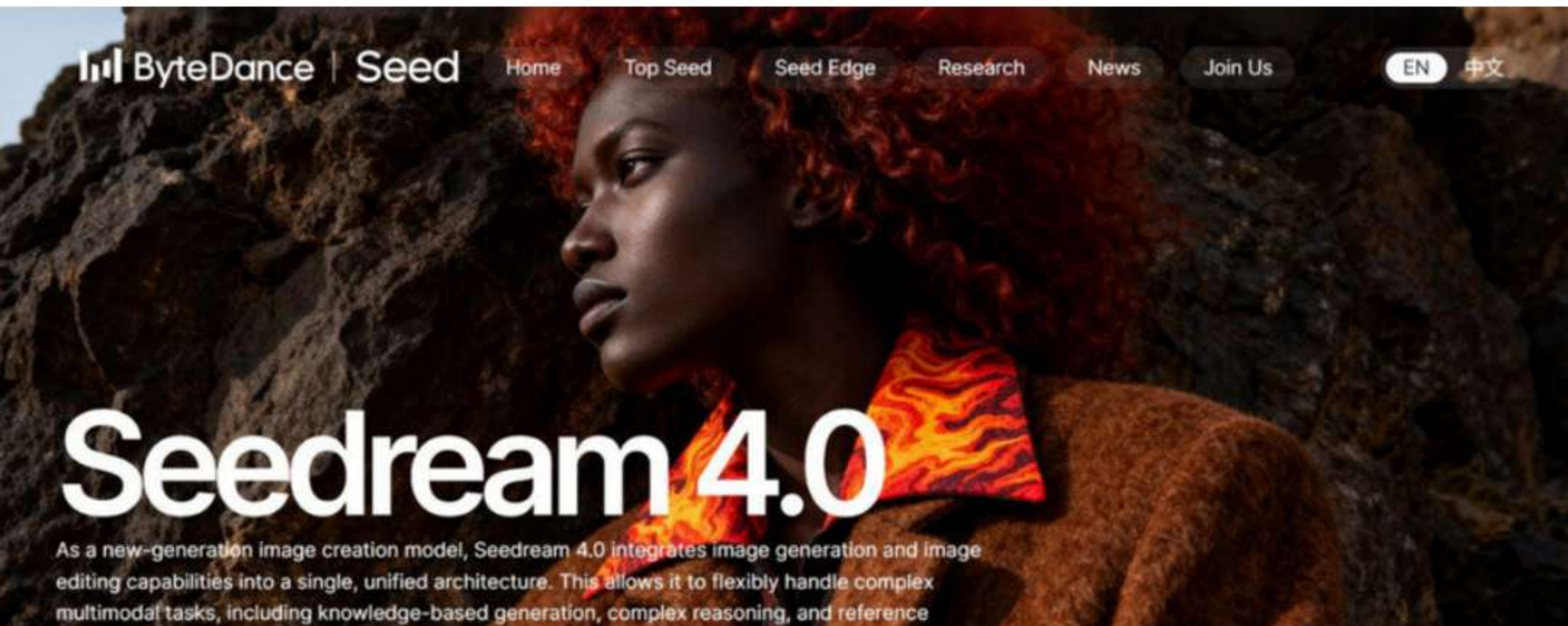
August - DeepSeek V3.1

- Hybrid inference efficiency
- Strong reasoning benchmarks
- Optimized for tools + agents
- **Better Known as:** China's OpenAI o1

Strategic impact:
- Reasoning is now a feature, not a niche.

September - Seedream 4.0

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Seedream 4.0

As a new-generation image creation model, Seedream 4.0 integrates image generation and image editing capabilities into a single, unified architecture. This allows it to flexibly handle complex multimodal tasks, including knowledge-based generation, complex reasoning, and reference

- Unified gen + editing
- 2K/4K fast render
- Multi-reference consistency
- **Better Known as:** China's Midjourney

Strategic impact:

- AI single images evolves from to brand systems.

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