



I AM THE MACHINE

COUNTLESS KIDS have daydreamed about putting on an exoskeleton that provides superhuman strength and protection from bad guys. But as this illustration shows, Jonathan Tippett, an artist and mechanical engineer, is bringing his childhood vision to life. Tippett, assisted by a team of volunteers, has designed a mock-up of Prosthesis, the Anti-Robot, which he says is the world's first human-piloted racing robot. The 5-meter-tall aluminum quadruped's limbs mirror the movement of its pilot's arms and legs. An electrical system that draws power from a bank of lithium-ion batteries delivers up to 230 kilowatts to hydraulic pumps that amplify the force exerted by the pilot by up to 100 times. This will allow the human who controls the 3500-kilogram machine to make it gallop at speeds approaching 30 kilometers per hour.

THE BIG PICTURE HEW 5