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**Showcasing Japan's advancements in self-driving laboratory development. Left: Maholo LabDroid from RIKEN Center for Biosystems Dynamics Research, Hyogo, Japan. Right: Robotic powder grinding system from The University of Osaka, Osaka, Japan.**

#### Self-driving laboratories in Japan

This perspective highlights Japan's initiatives in self-driving laboratory (SDL) development, showcasing diverse applications across materials science, biology, chemistry, and software. In addition, it covers national funding programs, research communities and ecosystems, and industries supporting progress in this field. Additionally, the perspective emphasizes the critical roles of education, standardization, and benchmarking in fostering the continued growth of SDL research.

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See Naruki Yoshikawa *et al.*, *Digital Discovery*, 2025, **4**, 1384.