



Futurist Jack Uldrich's Predictions for 2023

The world is getting better. The world is getting worse. The reality is that both statements are true at the same time. Having said that, as a professional futurist, I am a “glass-half-full” kind of guy and here are 10 predictions for why the world of 2023 will be better than the world of yesteryear.

1. **Take Heart!** Heart attacks, one of the world's leading causes of death, could soon become a rare event. Verve Therapeutics is exploring how gene-editing technology could be used [to prevent the build up of bad cholesterol](#). If successful, the technology will prevent millions of heart attacks.
2. **Carbon Dioxide Sucks.** Carbon Dioxide (CO2) accounts for 76 percent of the planet's greenhouse gasses and contributes significantly to global climate change. A new facility is currently being planned in Wyoming and will [remove an estimated 5 million tons of CO2 on an annual basis](#)—the equivalent of 5 million round-trip flights between New York City and London. The technology is known as [Direct Air Carbon Capture](#) and it works by sucking CO2 from the atmosphere and safely storing it underground.
3. **Technology Gets “Boring.”** [A new plasma boring robot can dig tunnels 100 times faster and 98 percent cheaper](#) than conventional tunnel boring systems. If the technology can be developed at commercial scale it promises that tunnels, sewers and subways systems will be built faster, more affordably and more sustainably.
4. **A Weapon of Mass Disruption?** Green Launch, a California-based company, is developing [a massive gas cannon capable of launching satellites directly into space](#) at a speed of Mach 20. If successful, the “space cannons” as they are called, will revolutionize access to space by significantly reducing the cost of satellite launches.
5. **Birth Control. Time to “Man Up!”** Scientists at the University of Minnesota are racing to create [the first male contraceptive that isn't either a condom or elective surgery](#). The contraceptive comes in the form of a pill and is expected to begin clinical trials in 2023.
6. **Let it Rain!** Solar power is great on sunny days but what about those days it rains? Researchers in Hong Kong may have found a partial answer by developing [a new material capable of generating short bursts of power from raindrops](#). If connected with an existing system of solar panels and micro wind turbines, the technology could become an important part of a comprehensive renewable energy micro-grid system.
7. **Say What?** Scientists at Frequency Therapeutics have [developed a technology that reverses hearing loss without hearing aids or implants](#). The company's proprietary technology works by injecting small molecules directly into the cochlea. This, in turn, assists progenitor cells transform into the hair cells that help people hear,
8. **The Future is About to Get Hairy.** Amplifica, another California-based company, is using stem cells [to hack hair follicles in order to restart and promote rapid hair growth](#). If the technology works as planned, the procedure could be a fast, simple and relatively inexpensive way to cure baldness.
9. **Tech Gets Up Close and Personal.** Over the past few years, millions of people have grown accustomed to the limitations of Zoom. Alphabet, the parent company of Google, is working to change this and has recently begun demonstrating its [“Project Starlight.”](#) The technology can be thought of as a 3D version of Zoom that makes it feel as though the person or persons you are speaking with are directly across from you.
10. **A New House for the Cost of a Used Car.** Azure, a new start-up construction company, is now offering [3D printed houses for as low as \\$26,995](#). Combined with the



growing “tiny house” movement, the houses could become a meaningful tool in helping address the affordable housing crisis plaguing many communities around the world.

11. **Bonus: Flying Cars!** What is a vision of the future without flying cars? Well, they are now a reality. For a cool \$92,000 you can get on the waiting list to buy “[Jetson](#)”—a [single unit flying car](#). (Be forewarned: Before you can jet around your neighborhood, the flying cars will first need regulatory approval.)

Jack Uldrich is a leading global futurist, the author of 13 books, and is a popular keynote speaker.