

Brain-computer interface: Elon Musk's Neuralink venture hopes to dramatically increase communication. What's he up to?

[Elon Musk] claimed that sticking electrodes in people's heads is going to lead to a huge increase in the rate of data transfer out of, and into, human brains.

The occasion of Musk's post was the [announcement](#) by Neuralink, his brain-computer interface (BCI) company, that it was officially seeking the first volunteer to receive the "N1," an implant comprising 1,024 electrodes able to listen in on brain neurons.

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One day, it might be possible to transmit a picture between two brains over a cable.

"Elon thinks a lot about mental imagery, and I believe he's imagining a future where the image that I'm thinking of could be presented to you, or stimulated directly in your cortex," says Vikash Gilja, a professor at the University of California, San Diego.

So that's where more bandwidth could make a difference—not in speeding up speech, but in unexpected forms of thought transfer. It's also possible, for example, to detect emotional states, like whether a person is depressed, by measuring the brain. Those feelings are not only hard to describe, but you might not even be aware of them.

[**This is an excerpt. Read the original post here**](#)