LAST WEEK IN INNOVATIVE MOBILITY

March 13th - March 19th, 2017

VEHICLES

Intel Corp. announces plans to purchase Mobileye NV for about $15 billion. With this acquisition, Intel plans to offer a “cloud-to-car” solution for automakers. In January, Intel and Mobileye partnered with BMW AG to test a fleet of 40 automated vehicles on public roads in the second half of 2017. At that time, Intel’s chips were already in 30 vehicle models on the road and were being used in hundreds of automated test vehicles.

GRAB, Uber’s main rival in Southeast Asia, expands its engineering development efforts to Bangalore, India and Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. While Grab does not have plans to launch in India, they will hire around 200 staff in Bangalore to develop their payments service over the next two years. With the engineering center Grab opened in Jakarta, Indonesia last month, the company will total six R&D locations worldwide.

BIKESHARING

San Mateo-based dockless bikesharing startup LimeBike raises $12 million in venture funding in preparation to launch in April 2017. LimeBike’s bicycles are equipped with GPS- and 3G-connectivity, on-board solar panels, and center kickstands with smart locks that are unlocked using QR codes provided by a mobile app. Users will be charged one dollar for every 30 minutes of use.

A new roundtrip carsharing service, Choimobi Yokohama, launches in Yokohama, Japan with a fleet of 25 Nissan all-electric New Mobility Concept vehicles. The launch follows a successful two-year pilot of one-way carsharing using Nissan’s ultra-compact electric vehicles. The new service allows users to pickup and drop off vehicles at any one of 14 locations for a base charge of 200 yen ($1.78), plus 250 yen ($2.22) per 15 minutes of use.

CARSHARING

Carsharing startup J’Car launches in Gwangju, South Korea with a fleet of 15 Hyundai Tucson ix full cell electric vehicles (FCEVs). Hyundai is also supplying J’Car with a mixed fleet of 27 battery-powered Ioniq and Kia Soul battery electric vehicles. The South Korean Ministry of Environment and the Gwangju Metropolitan City subsidized the purchase of the FCEVs, which will be available for rent for about five dollars per hour.

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Innovative Mobility Research (IMR) is based at the Transportation Sustainability Research Center (TSRC) at the University of California, Berkeley

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