

LAST WEEK IN INNOVATIVE MOBILITY

April 10th - April 16th, 2017



VEHICLES

Apple obtains a permit to test three automated hybrid Lexus vehicles in California. Apple had not released further details of its automotive plans since December 2016 when the company wrote a letter to the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration indicating interest in the study of machine learning and automated systems as applied to many areas, including transportation.

VEHICLES

GM plans to spend \$14 million to build a new research and development facility in San Francisco for the company's subsidiary, Cruise Automation. Over the next five years, GM will add more than 1,100 new jobs at Cruise to bolster the development of automated driving technology. Reports suggest that GM is planning to expand its test fleet to 300 automated vehicles as early as next month.



VEHICLES

The Japanese National Police Agency unveils draft rules for testing automated vehicles on public roads with no driver present. Under the new rules, testers would be required to remotely monitor the vehicles using the same audio and visual information as would be available to a driver of the car and would have to be able to trigger the brakes of the automated vehicle remotely.

COURIER NETWORK SERVICES

Yelp's Eat24 food delivery service pilots robot deliveries in partnership with robotics startup Marble. Four restaurants in San Francisco's Mission and Potrero Hill neighborhoods will offer robot deliveries during dinner rush hours, using robots slightly smaller than a shopping cart. Customers that opt-in to receive their order from a robot courier will be provided a code to unlock the robot's storage compartment.



RIDESOURCING/TNCS

Uber launches an initiative to increase the number of electric vehicles (EVs) in its U.S. fleet. Uber drivers in Portland, Oregon will be able to rent or lease a Nissan Leaf for about \$100 per week deducted from their Uber earnings. A new "EV ambassador" program will train drivers on how to discuss the benefits of EVs with their passengers in return for \$20 to \$25 a month that will go toward fueling costs.

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