Last Week In Innovative Mobility

January 27 - February 2, 2020

ITSBerkeley
Institute of Transportation Studies

AUTOMATED VEHICLES

California grants Aurora a permit to transport passengers in automated vehicles (AVs). Aurora is the fifth company in California to receive this permit. The company has developed an AV stack and is working with partners to integrate the stack into different vehicle platforms (i.e., sedans, SUVs, Class 8 trucks, and others). The permit will last until January 2023.

ELECTRIC VEHICLES

General Motors (GM) will spend $2.2 billion to build AVs and electric vehicles (EVs) in Detroit. GM will renovate its Detroit-Hamtramck plant into the company's first fully-dedicated EV assembly plant. The company planned to close the facility in June 2019, but GM changed course after discussions with the United Auto Workers union in Fall 2019.

SCOOTER SHARING

Bird acquires Circ, a scooter sharing company located in Europe and the Middle East. Bird will keep 300 current Circ employees. Circ operates in 40 cities across 14 European countries and the United Arab Emirates. Bird also announced a $75 million extension to its Series D funding round, bringing the total to $350 million.

TNCS/RIDESOURCING

Grab launches GrabCar Electric at the Soekarno-Hatta International Airport in Jakarta, Indonesia. Riders can request a ride from one of the fleet's 20 Hyundai Ioniq EVs through the Grab app. The service costs 10 to 15 percent more than the regular GrabCar Airport service.

URBAN AIR MOBILITY

The University of California (UC) San Diego, UPS, and Matternet partner for a small unmanned aerial system (sUAS) delivery pilot. The partners will fly blood samples and other items to and from the Jacobs Medical Center and nearby facilities. The sUAS operations will be autonomous, but they will be monitored remotely and via line of sight.

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