Last Week In Innovative Mobility

June 19 - June 25, 2023


Cruise

AUTOMATED VEHICLES

Personal automated vehicles (AVs) are further from being commercially available than consumers may realize. The current AV focus is on trucking, delivery, and ridehailing services. Many AV misconceptions are likely attributed to the five levels of autonomation, three of which require human operation or assistance.

AUTOMATED VEHICLES

Kodiak Robotics, an automated trucking startup, partners with Loadsmith Transportation, a third-party logistics company, to develop an automated freight truck fleet. Kodiak Robotics is outfitting the semi-trucks with the necessary automation hardware and software. Locksmith Transportation plans to pay for the Kodiak automation equipment on a per-mile basis and will use the trucks for long-haul trips.


Kodiak Robotics

ELECTRIC VEHICLES

Rivian, an electric vehicle (EV) manufacturer, is adopting Tesla's North American Charging Standard (NACS) EV charging port. Current Rivian vehicles will be able to use the Tesla NACS Superchargers with an adapter. Future Rivian models, R1T and R1S, will come equipped with the NACS charging port.


Rivian

ELECTRIC VEHICLES

Texas is requiring EV charging companies to provide both NACS and Combined Charging System (CCS) plugs to qualify for a state program that distributes federal funds. This requirement was spurred by the recent decisions by Ford, General Motors, and Rivian to partner with Tesla and incorporate NACS plugs in their vehicles. The mandate is expected to take affect in Summer 2023.


Tesla


The Detroit News

TRANSPORTATION TECHNOLOGY

Ford and SK On Co., a battery manufacturer, will conditionally receive a $9.2 billion loan from the Department of Energy (DOE) to support three EV battery factories in Kentucky and Tennessee. The DOE loan is the largest of its kind and is expected to yield at least 120 gigawatt hours of battery production each year. Ford and SK On Co. have already invested $11.4 billion, and the facilities are currently under construction.

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Innovative Mobility Research (IMR) focuses on the future of mobility and is based at the Transportation Sustainability Research Center at the University of California, Berkeley

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