Last Week In Innovative Mobility November 7 - 13, 2022



AUTOMATED VEHICLES

Waymo, an automated vehicle (AV) company, is closer to charging for rides in San Francisco, California. The California Department of Motor Vehicles approved an amendment to Waymo's existing operational permit to allow for driverless operations. Once Waymo receives a driverless permit from the California Public Utilities Commission the company can start charging for AV rides in the city.

AUTOMATED VEHICLES

Waymo expands its AV rides outside its "Trusted Tester" program in Phoenix, Arizona. Waymo's Phoenix AV service mirrors its service in Chandler, Arizona - it is available 24/7 to anyone who downloads the app and requests a ride in the service area. However, the AV service to the airport in Phoenix is still only available to Waymo trusted testers.



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AUTOMATED VEHICLES

Pony.ai, a Chinese AV company, plans to deploy a taxi service using AVs in Chinese cities in the first half of 2023. The service will use Toyota Sienna Autono-MaaS vehicles equipped with three millimeter-wave radars, four light detection and ranging (Lidar) units, and seven cameras. The vehicles have undergone a four-month closed road test.

URBAN AIR MOBILITY

Amazon is building an improved drone to support the company's Prime Air delivery service. The company plans to deploy the new drone, the MK30, in 2024. The MK30 is designed to operate more quietly, over longer distances, and in different atmospheric environments (e.g., light rain).





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URBAN AIR MOBILITY

Boeing, an aircraft company, urges regulators to hold urban air mobility aircraft to the same strict standards as commercial jets rather than small planes. The rationale is that since urban air mobility aircraft are anticipated to fly over urban areas, they should adhere to existing commercial aircraft standards. The European Safety Administration already has these requirements for air taxis, but it is unclear whether the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration will adopt them as well.

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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