Last Week In Innovative Mobility

April 21 - 27, 2025

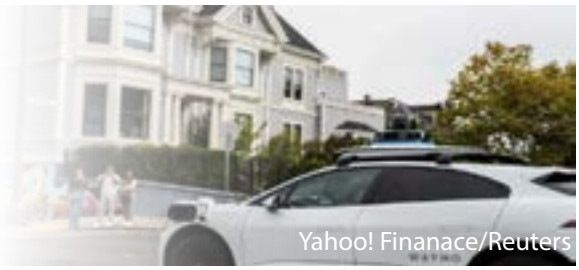

United Airlines

ADVANCED AIR MOBILITY

United Airlines Ventures is investing in Jet Zero and has signed a conditional agreement to buy its new blended wing body (BWB) aircraft, the Jet Zero Z4. This next-generation airplane could use up to 50% less fuel per passenger mile compared to today's typical aircraft. Designed to run on both regular jet fuel and sustainable aviation fuel, the Z4 can also operate at existing airports without major changes.

AUTOMATED VEHICLES

Waymo has announced that its self-driving vehicles could become available for personal ownership in the future. While there is no timeline yet, one expert notes that the cars would likely be sold through a partnership, since Waymo's parent company, Google, does not manufacture vehicles itself.


Yahoo! Finanace/Reuters


VW/Uber

AUTOMATED VEHICLES

Uber and Volkswagen (VW) are teaming up to launch a robotaxi service using the all-electric VW ID. Buzz van. The service is expected to roll out in Los Angeles in 2026, starting with human safety drivers on board. If testing goes well and California regulators give the green light, fully driverless rides could begin as early as 2027.

ELECTRIC VEHICLES

Ford has announced a breakthrough in electric vehicle (EV) battery technology using Lithium Manganese Rich (LMR) chemistry. According to a Ford spokesperson, the company has found a way to use this new battery type without reducing energy density. The goal is to bring longer range and lower-cost EVs to customers in the future.


Mark Phelan


Slate

ELECTRIC VEHICLES

Slate, the EV startup backed by Jeff Bezos, has announced that its first model will be an affordable electric pickup truck. Priced at around $25,000, the truck is expected to offer a range of 150 miles. According to Slate's chief executive officer, nearly every part of the vehicle is designed to be upgradable, allowing customers flexibility in deciding when and what features they would like to change about their vehicle.

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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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