

From the high-flying to the practical: CES 2016 in brief

January 8 2016, by Ryan Nakashima, Kimberly Pierce and Tom Krisher



The Hexo+ Your Self-Flying Camera drone is on display at the Hexo+ booth during CES International, Thursday, Jan. 7, 2016, in Las Vegas. The fully autonomous drone has no controller. Using a smart phone app, the user selects how and from what angle you want the drone to take video of you and it will automatically follow you around with its camera. (AP Photo/John Locher)

This year's CES gadget show, like ones before it, showed off a mix of the dreamy and the practical in technology. Gadget prototypes promised

us fully autonomous vehicles carrying commuters on the streets and in the sky, while gizmos went on sale that aimed to solve daily problems like restocking your fridge.

Here's a quick summary of the highlights of CES 2016:

DRONES

Drones might no longer be just a toy for hobbyists or weapons for the military. Chinese drone maker Ehang Inc. unveiled what it called the world's first drone capable of carrying a human passenger, a four-armed quadcopter with eight propellers that it said has been on more than 100 test flights, including some with a human passenger.

The idea is to set a course and then sit back for about a 20-minute ride—assuming, of course, that regulators approve, which will probably be a long haul itself.

Companies are making drones smaller and smarter than ever for that high-tech selfie. Many can hover and shoot up to 4K video, and several companies are working toward including a more difficult "follow me" function into drones so small they fall under the minimum weight requiring registration by the Federal Aviation Administration.

CONNECTED CARS

Automakers and parts suppliers took further steps to make autonomous driving a reality. Quanergy, for instance, announced a low-cost version of laser-based sensors called Lidar that cuts the cost of outfitting autos with the technology to around \$1,000 per car from about \$70,000.



Segway's new personal robot and scooter is seen during its debut at the Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas Wednesday, Jan. 6, 2016. The company showed off the motorized scooter equipped with a pair of blinking eyes. The scooter - apparently dubbed either "Segway Robot" or the Segway Advanced Personal Robot, according to the company's site—should be able to see you and its surroundings even in the dark, while filming everything. (AP Photo/Kimberly Pierceall)

Israeli company Mobileye and German company Here announced plans to start making super-detailed road maps based on cameras and sensors that exist in cars today. Those maps will help autonomous vehicles navigate in poor weather. Owned by Audi, BMW and Mercedes, Here said it plans to have detailed maps of the highway networks in North America and Western Europe by 2018.

VIRTUAL AND AUGMENTED REALITY

Some companies showed off technology that combined augmented reality—which superimposes digital images and text on the real world—and virtual reality—which blocks out the real world in a completely immersive environment using a headset and headphones.

HTC says it's launching the latest version of its Vive headset with a front-facing camera that allows users to do real-life things like take a drink or sit down without taking it off. A startup called uSens showed off a prototype headset attached to a Samsung Galaxy S6 smartphone that had forward-facing infrared and optical cameras so wearers could use their hands to manipulate virtual objects.



A display shows a demonstration of the HD Live Map for autonomous vehicles at the Here booth during CES International, Thursday, Jan. 7, 2016, in Las Vegas. (AP Photo/John Locher)

Google and Lenovo announced a consumer mobile device would go on sale this summer that incorporates technology from its depth-sensing Project Tango robotic sight technology. That could make it easy to do things like get turn-by-turn directions indoors or measure dimensions in a room just by using the device's cameras.

But the biggest news was the sticker-shock of Oculus' consumer version of its Rift headset, which the company priced at \$599—or \$1,499 with the high-powered computer necessary to make it work. Facebook-owned Oculus began taking orders Wednesday for delivery starting at the end of March.

SMART HOME

More intelligent home appliances that can tell people how well they're sleeping, order more dishwasher detergent and know how much ketchup is likely left in the bottle were among the gadgets on display at CES.



The EHang 184 autonomous aerial vehicle is unveiled at the EHang booth at CES International, Wednesday, Jan. 6, 2016, in Las Vegas. The drone is large enough to fit a human passenger. (AP Photo/John Locher)

Segway, the maker of the two-wheel transporters popular with city tour guide companies, hopes that by next year people might add a personal robot to their homes to carry the groceries home.

That's if the milk, butter and bread weren't already ordered and delivered with a touch of a button on a fridge door, a technology unveiled by Samsung and Mastercard.

KIDS

Companies are hoping new parents in the not-so distant future won't just want to share photos of their new arrival with Grandma. They might also

want to presage that with a clip of the baby's heartbeat, while still in the womb.



Matthew Taylor paints in 3D virtual reality at the Intel booth using HTC Vive virtual reality goggles at CES International, Wednesday, Jan. 6, 2016, in Las Vegas. (AP Photo/John Locher)

Familial bonding now comes with plenty of Bluetooth.

The newest baby monitors on display this week come equipped with smile detection, in the case of Motorola, or senses and records the baby's breathing with First Alert's One Link system.

Most if not all are sold as consumer devices, steering clear of any medical claims requiring FDA approval. That includes a \$250 sock

equipped with a pulse oximetry device from Owlet. It can keep tabs on the child's breathing and heartbeat with the aim of alerting parents via their smart phones if either seems irregular.

TVs

TV makers like Samsung, LG, Sony, Hisense and TCL touted a new standard for screens called HDR, or high dynamic range, which show images with higher contrast and more vivid colors. The new tech creates another chicken-and-egg problem for the TV industry, as only a handful of movies and TV shows have been reissued in a format that takes advantage of HDR.

There are also disparate standards that might end up confusing consumers; some flavors of HDR are branded "premium" while others only processed HDR signals but don't relay all the benefits to the screen.

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