

CES 2019: Buzz remains as autonomous cars take back seat

January 7 2019, by Matt O'brien And Joseph Pisani



The LG Signature OLED TV R, partially rolled up, is on display during an LG news conference at CES International, Monday, Jan. 7, 2019, in Las Vegas. (AP Photo/John Locher)

The CES 2019 gadget show is revving up in Las Vegas. Here are the latest findings and observations from Associated Press reporters on the ground as technology's biggest trade event gets underway.

ENOUGH ABOUT SELF-DRIVING CARS

Many people at CES would rather hear about better video games. Nvidia CEO Jensen Huang got a big round of applause when he told a crowd that he'd spend more time talking gaming than [autonomous driving](#).

The Santa Clara, California-based chipmaker's computer graphics technology is used in both industries. But it was his unveiling of a new gaming-oriented graphics processor that elicited the biggest cheers Sunday night. Huang also detailed how his company's advances in artificial intelligence and a graphics technology called "ray tracing" are helping to generate ever-more-realistic scenery in popular games.

This year's CES is less focused on autonomous cars compared with last year, though there's ongoing buzz about self-driving innovations. Ride-hailing service Lyft says that after launching a self-driving Las Vegas taxi service at last year's CES, it's now had almost 30,000 paid rides. Daimler on Monday unveiled a new self-driving truck and Bosch unveiled its concept for a driverless shuttle bus.



An OLED 8K television is on display during an LG news conference at CES International, Monday, Jan. 7, 2019, in Las Vegas. (AP Photo/John Locher)

Meanwhile, executives from Audi, Toyota, Cruise Automation, chipmaker Nvidia, Google spinoff Waymo and several startups are gearing up to convince the public that autonomous vehicles are safe.

They say the coalition is not a lobbying effort but a united front to invest in countering what they describe as public confusion, fears and unrealistic expectations about self-driving technology. The industry push follows a year of news about self-driving crashes, including an autonomous Uber that fatally struck a pedestrian in March. Neither Uber nor Tesla, which has also had crashes, is part of the group.

A CENTURY-OLD CES FIRST-TIMER

You wouldn't expect to find the maker of Pampers and Bounty paper towels at the world's largest technology conference.



Tim Alessi, senior director of home entertainment product marketing, unveils a OLED 8K television during an LG news conference at CES International, Monday, Jan. 7, 2019, in Las Vegas. (AP Photo/John Locher)

But here's consumer goods company Procter & Gamble at CES 2019, showing off heated razors and a toothbrush that uses artificial intelligence. (Sorry if you were expecting self-changing diapers.)

Procter & Gamble, which was founded more than 180 years ago, said it's the first time it has been an exhibitor at CES. The company said it needs to infuse technology into everyday products to keep up with what customers want.



BOSCH Group management board member Markus Heyn, center, and president of BOSCH North America Mike Mansuetti, right, shake hands as Shawn Ryan, left, an actor in the latest BOSCH advertising campaign, runs off stage at the BOSCH new conference at CES International Monday, Jan. 7, 2019, in Las Vegas. (AP Photo/Ross D. Franklin)

Among the goods on display: a waterproof Gillette razor that heats up to 122 degrees; an Oral-B toothbrush that tells you if you're missing areas when brushing; and a wand-like device called Opte that scans the skin and releases serum that covers up age spots and other discoloration.

Although some of the products have been sold in test runs, pricing hasn't been set yet. But expect to pay a lot more than the ordinary stuff currently on drugstore shelves.



The LG Signature OLED TV R, partially rolled up, is on display during an LG news conference at CES International, Monday, Jan. 7, 2019, in Las Vegas. (AP Photo/John Locher)

DISAPPEARING TELEVISIONS

In this age of smartphone streaming, big television sets are no longer the centerpiece of many living rooms. South Korean electronics company LG is doing its part to make TVs disappear.

LG has unveiled a "rollable" TV—a 65-inch screen that can roll down and disappear into its base with the press of a button. The set can still play music when the screen's rolled down completely, or display a clock when it's just partially rolled down. LG says the TV will be available later this year. It didn't say how much it will cost.

The technology giant also displayed "8K" sets, with four times the

resolution as the high-definition sets of today and twice that of 4K sets such as the rollable one. It represents the next generation of television viewing, but many people won't have access to for quite some time. So far, 8K has been limited to the occasional experimental broadcast, such as during the Olympics. Even 4K content is just catching on.



David VanderWaal, vice president of marketing for LG Electronics USA, unveils the LG Signature OLED TV R during an LG news conference at CES International, Monday, Jan. 7, 2019, in Las Vegas. (AP Photo/John Locher)

"As always with TVs, innovations come with display hardware first and adoption of things like content and delivery always follow later," said Paul Gagnon, an analyst with IHS Markit.

But unlike past developments that never caught on, such as 3D TVs,

analysts believe 8K will become more popular eventually—just not ubiquitous.

Samsung announced its first 8K TV last year, an 85-inch model costing nearly \$15,000.



BOSCH Group management board member Markus Heyn speaks at the BOSCH news conference at CES International Monday, Jan. 7, 2019, in Las Vegas. (AP Photo/Ross D. Franklin)

AN ELEGANT WAY TO TEXT

People feeling overwhelmed by their array of connected devices can invest up to \$700 on another device meant to feel more artisanal.

Mui Lab, based in Kyoto, Japan, has designed an internet-connected wall panel made of sycamore wood that you can touch to send messages, check the weather or control other home devices such as lights and thermostats. Lighted letters and icons appear on the wood panel when it's being used—and disappear when it's inactive.

CEO Kazunori Oki says it's about bringing a more natural feel to a connected home.



Shawn Ryan, center, an actor in the latest BOSCH advertising campaign, tosses a hat into the crowd as he is flanked by BOSCH Group management board member Markus Heyn, left, and president of BOSCH North America Mike Mansuetti, right, at the BOSCH new conference at CES International Monday, Jan. 7, 2019, in Las Vegas. (AP Photo/Ross D. Franklin)

While you're at it, you can make your home smell better. Feeling like more lavender and less jasmine? Or want your holiday party to smell like

a blend of Christmas tree, fireplace and cookies? The company's Moodo "smart-home fragrance diffusers" enable users to adjust blends from their smartphones. Each \$139 device holds up to four capsules with different scents.

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