



AD PUNCTUM

Autos & Mobility Industry Briefing -- 12th October to 18th October 2020

News is arranged by company and topic. Stories that apply to more than one company or topic are duplicated.

News about the major automakers

BMW (history)

- Created a scheme for owners of plug-in hybrid vehicles to encourage charging: for each kilometre driven in all-electric mode, drivers will get a credit towards free charging. In certain areas, the award doubles. The program will initially be available in Germany, Belgium and the Netherlands. ([BMW](#))
- Will not use VDL's Nedcar plant, which builds Mini and BMW X1 on a contract basis, after 2023. ([Dutch News](#))
- Published a series of principles for the application of artificial intelligence within BMW. Viewers of the Terminator films will be familiar with the background to many of them. ([BMW](#))
- Daimler and BMW's mobility joint venture is reportedly looking to offload its parking unit. ([Bloomberg](#))

Daimler (history)

- Reported preliminary financial results (because they were better than the market was expecting). Group EBIT was €3.071 billion and cars and vans EBIT was €1.782 billion. On an adjusted basis, cars and vans EBIT of €2.1 billion represented a 9.4% margin on sales. Industrial free cash flow was €5.139 billion. ([Daimler](#))
- Launched an insurance joint venture with Swiss Re, called Movinx. ([Daimler](#))
- Daimler and BMW's mobility joint venture is reportedly looking to offload its parking unit. ([Bloomberg](#))

FCA (history)

- Reached a tentative contract agreement with Canadian unions, but declined to reveal the terms. ([FCA](#)) Unions said FCA had agreed to invest up to \$1.5 billion in its primary Canadian factory to build electric cars. ([Reuters](#))

Ford (history)

- Admitted that because of problems with the Kuga PHEV, it will have to pool emissions with a rival group to meet 2020 EU CO₂ targets and avoid fines. It isn't clear how much the pooling agreement will cost, or who Ford will pool with although Renault remains a possibility. ([FT](#))
- Reckons that moving to an electronic manual for the F-150, stored within the infotainment system, saves 290 tons of paper each year (not to mention hundreds of thousands of dollars). ([Ford](#))
- Sold 164,532 vehicles in China during Q3 2020, up 25.4% on a year-over-year basis. ([Ford](#))
- Sold 299,632 vehicles in Europe during Q3 2020, a drop of (4.2)% versus prior year. ([Ford](#))
- Recalling over 5,000 vehicles to replace faulty engine and vehicle computers that affect engine cooling, tyre pressure monitoring and control of the daytime running lights. ([Ford](#))
- Because of continued problems with the Kuga PHEV in Europe, Ford is delaying the launch of the Escape PHEV (the same vehicle) in North America. ([Europa Press](#))

Geely (includes Volvo) (history)

- Volvo's self-driving unit, formed through the dissolution of the Zenuity joint venture previously owned with Veoneer, will be called Zenseact. ([Volvo](#))

General Motors (history)

- Taking a leaf out of Tesla's PR playbook, GM announced that the Detroit-Hamtramck, USA, factory will need a new name to signify that the future is now and everyone needs to forget about everything they ever though they knew about car building. From now on, the plant will be called Factory ZERO. ([GM](#))
- GM's Chinese sales of 771,440 vehicles in Q3 2020 rose 12% on a year-over-year basis. ([GM](#))
- GM's Cruise self-driving unit will soon start testing in San Francisco without safety drivers. ([Cruise](#))

Honda (history)

- Successfully completed the tender offer of portfolio companies Keihin, Nissin Kogyo and Showa, enabling a merger of the three units with Hitachi Automotive. ([Honda](#))

Hyundai / Kia (history)

- Hyundai family scion Euisun Chung became the firm's new chairman. ([Hyundai](#))
- Hyundai's new Singapore plant will have a Fiat Lingotto-esque test track on the roof. ([ET](#))

Nissan and Mitsubishi (history)

- Mitsubishi unveiled a facelift for the Eclipse Cross. ([Mitsubishi](#))
- Nissan's US finance company will pay \$4 million in fines for improperly repossessing vehicles. ([Reuters](#))

PSA (history)

- Sold 588,576 vehicles in Q3 2020, down (13)% on a year-over-year basis. ([PSA](#))

Renault (history)

- Sold 806,700 vehicles in Q3 2020, down (6)% on a year-over-year basis. ([Renault](#))
- Held an electric vehicle event called Renault EWays. The firm said that by 2050 all vehicles sold in Europe will be zero emission. If recent political promises are followed through, Renault may find the aspiration has to be brought forward. A "concept" battery electric Mégane was also on display. Renault says a production version will go on sale in 2021. ([Renault](#))
- Unveiled a minor refresh of the Twingo city car, and an all-electric version. ([Renault](#))
- Lost a legal case against Borgward. A judge ruled that Borgward's logo was sufficiently different from Renault's that there was no trademark infringement. ([Borgward](#))
- Drew some of the state backed €5 billion loan because it was due to expire at the end of the year and the CFO felt it would have been a shame not to use it. ([Reuters](#))
- Sold off the Marcel ride hailing business. ([Les Echos](#))

Subaru

- The head of Subaru's US unit reckons industry volumes will take three years to return to 17 million units. ([Reuters](#))

Tesla (history)

- Construction at the Berlin factory was halted because Tesla hasn't paid its water bills and the utility gladly explained that it would get the same treatment as everyone else who falls into arrears. ([Manager Magazin](#))
- CEO Musk said that there would be a "beta" release of full self-driving next week. ([Twitter](#))

Toyota (history)

- Toyota Tsusho invested in Data Integrated (DII) a Kenyan firm that aggregates informal bus operators. ([Toyota](#))

- Recalling around 3,100 Highlander vehicles in the USA because incorrectly fitted seat fabric could stop airbags from working properly. ([Toyota](#))
- Local Motors raised \$15 million from the VC fund that includes Toyota as one of its main backers. ([Local Motors](#))

VW Group (history)

- Porsche has upped its sustainability game, participating in a responsible sourcing initiative for mica, a raw materials used in some car paints. ([Porsche](#))
- Navistar and Traton reached a tentative agreement for Traton to take over the US firm, in which it already owns a minority stake. ([VW](#))
- VW unveiled the Tarek small crossover (to be called Taos in some markets). ([VW](#))

Other

- **Arrival** received \$118 million in funding ([Reuters](#)) and celebrated by announcing announced a new factory, initially for buses, in South Carolina, USA. ([Autocar](#))
- Electric bus maker **Proterra** announced a \$200 million investment round. ([TechCrunch](#))
- **Workhorse** raised \$200 million in debt. ([Workhorse](#))
- **Fisker** will no long use **VW's** MEB platform for the forthcoming Ocean SUV, instead it will sit on **Magna's** electric vehicle architecture. The car will be built in Magna's plant (as already announced). ([Magna](#))
- **Lucid** opened its order book for the all-electric Air. ([Lucid](#)). Karma did likewise for the GSe-6. ([Karma](#))
- **Local Motors** raised \$15 million from the VC fund that includes **Toyota** as one of its main backers. ([Local Motors](#))
- **Nikola's** CEO said that if the company didn't agree a technology sharing and manufacturing agreement with **GM** then it could go it alone to build the Badger pickup, or drop it altogether. ([Bloomberg](#))
- **Bollinger's** founder says lots of special purpose vehicles have been offering him deals but he hopes to wait until his company has risen in value before considering a public listing. ([Bloomberg](#))
- **Foxconn** unveiled the MIH Open Platform, hoping that the technology set can underpin cars from a variety of different brands. ([CNBC](#))

News about other companies and trends ...

Economic / Political News

- **European** passenger car registrations in September of 1,300,048 units rose 1.1% on a year-over-year basis. ([ACEA](#))

Suppliers

- **Liberty House** bid for **ThyssenKrupp's** steelmaking unit. ([Industry Europe](#))
- **Valmet** sold off its German vehicle engineering business. ([Valmet](#))
- **Honda** successfully completed the tender offer of portfolio companies **Keihin**, **Nissin Kogyo** and **Showa**, enabling a merger of the three units with Hitachi Automotive. ([Honda](#))
- **Magna** will supply the electric vehicle architecture for **Fisker** to use for the forthcoming Ocean SUV, replacing **VW's** MEB component set. ([Magna](#))
- **VDL's** Nedcar plant, lost the contract to build the Mini and **BMW X1** after 2023. ([Dutch News](#))
- **TomTom** reported Q3 revenues of \$148 million and a net loss of \$(67) million. ([TomTom](#))

Ride-Hailing, Car Sharing & Rental (history)

- Car sharing firm **Getaround** raised \$140 million. ([Auto Rental News](#))
- **Uber** is investing \$150 million in a South Korean ride hailing joint venture with **SK Telecom**. ([Reuters](#)) The firm is rumoured to be looking to offload part of its flying taxi business. ([Reuters](#))
- **Hertz** raised \$1.65 billion in debt to help it survive bankruptcy proceedings. ([Auto Rental News](#))
- **Toyota Tsusho** invested in **Data Integrated (DIL)** a Kenyan firm that aggregates informal bus operators. ([Toyota](#))

Driverless / Autonomy (history)

- **Innoviz** says that its next lidar sensor will cost less than \$500. ([Reuters](#))
- **GM's** Cruise self-driving unit will soon start testing in San Francisco without safety drivers. ([Cruise](#))
- **Tesla** CEO Musk said that there would be a “beta” release of full self-driving next week. ([Twitter](#))

Electrification (history)

- Battery maker **LG** says it is in talks with several OEMs about creating joint ventures. ([Reuters](#))
- The **Indonesian** government is championing a plan to create a battery champion and says that, together with foreign partners, it will invest \$12 billion in new factories. ([Reuters](#))

Connectivity

- **TomTom** and **Uber** signed a new agreement for maps, which will give Uber the ability to edit. ([TomTom](#))

Other

- Electric motorcycle maker **Ultraviolette** hopes to raise \$75 million. ([Deal Street Asia](#))
- Singaporean electric motorcycle developer Ion Mobility raised \$3.3 million. ([Deal Street Asia](#))