



AD PUNCTUM

Autos & Mobility Industry Briefing -- 13th September to 19th September 2021

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

News about the major automakers

Ford (history)

- Announced that it will increase capacity for the all-electric F-150 to 80,000 per year. Ford says it has almost enough orders to fill two years of production. ([Ford](#))
- Ford's COO of North America wouldn't commit to when the company might reduce production capacities for vehicles with internal combustion engines, saying that currently demand for all-electric vehicles appears to be incremental. The company's current, favoured, route is to build cars that can have either fully electric drive or internal combustion engines, but with the added hassle of separate final assembly facilities. She also said that the decision to move from purchasing batteries from third parties to use joint ventures was purely driven by a greater ability to reap scale benefits (which she didn't quantify). ([Ford](#))
- Appointed a new chief information officer, with a background in online retail. ([Ford](#))

Geely (includes Volvo) (history)

- Volvo is reportedly set to list with a valuation of \$15 billion to \$20 billion. ([Reuters](#))

General Motors (history)

- GM said it has sent process improvement experts into plants owned by LG Chem as it bids to get enough parts to refit all-electric Bolts with batteries that could catch fire. ([Reuters](#))
- GM invested in sensor startup Oculii. ([TechCrunch](#))

Honda (history)

- Honda's researchers are studying human brain waves to try and understand how drivers perceive risk out on the road. They aren't yet sure that the company can realise its ambition of having zero fatal accidents by 2050. ([Nikkei](#))

Hyundai / Kia (history)

- Hyundai's upmarket Genesis brand will start offering face recognition for vehicle access. Each vehicle can register two faces. ([Hyundai](#))
- Hyundai is using robot dogs for real time safety inspections in factories. ([TechCrunch](#))
- Used Hyundai and Kia electric batteries will go into a stationary storage system in Texas, USA. ([Autocar](#))

Nissan and Mitsubishi (history)

- Mitsubishi will stop designing its own products for the Japanese market and will instead rely on engineering provided by part-owner Nissan. ([Nikkei](#))

Stellantis (formed via the merger of PSA and FCA)

- CEO Tavares is giving up his board seat at Airbus to concentrate fully on Stellantis. ([Stellantis](#))

Tesla (history)

- CEO Musk says Chinese automakers have his respect, thanks to their software expertise. Some journalists thought the remarks might have been made to please the Chinese government. ([TechCrunch](#))
- Tesla will monitor how well owners drive for seven days before allowing them to try out the most advanced release of its driver assistance system. ([CNBC](#))
- Ended its referral program (for the second time). ([Engadget](#))

VW Group (history)

- Bugatti has launched a new razor. As if Bugatti buyers shave their own faces. ([Bugatti](#))
- VW's captive finance company sold off its Indian loan portfolio, which the company said was because of a "refined digital strategy". ([Autocar](#))

Other

- Solar powered vehicle developer **Lightyear** raised \$110 million. ([Lightyear](#))
- **Rivian** is reportedly hoping that its IPO will raise \$8 billion in cash. ([Reuters](#))
- **Workhorse** accepted that it wouldn't win its legal case against the US Postal Service choosing a competitor's product for a big fleet deal. ([FreightWaves](#))
- **AM General** showed off the next generation Humvee. ([AM General](#))
- **Foxconn's** project to build an all-electric car with **Byton** is reportedly on the ropes due to the OEM's worsening financial situation. ([Economic Times of India](#)) Despite the troubles, Foxconn signed a joint venture with Thai fossil fuel producer PTT to build electric vehicles. The partners hope for 150,000 vehicles per year. ([Nikkei](#))
- **Evergrande** is in grave financial problems. ([Deal Street Asia](#))
- **Xpeng** wants to expand and is open-minded about acquiring weaker rivals to do so. ([Deal Street Asia](#))
- **Lucid** celebrated achieving a 520 mile range in US certification. ([Lucid](#))
- **Rivian** is launching a scheme that will bundle charging, data and membership of an owners' club along with software updates. It will be free for an unspecified period. ([Rivian](#))
- There are reportedly three final bidders for **Ssangyong**. ([Economic Times of India](#))

News about other companies and trends ...

Economic / Political News

- US regulators are reportedly looking at another round of failures related to **Takata** airbag inflators. ([Reuters](#))
- **Chinese** ministers hope to consolidate the country's electric vehicle brands. ([Reuters](#))
- **CATL** and **BASF** will work together on battery materials. ([CATL](#))

Suppliers

- **Allison Transmission** is acquiring **AVTEC's** Indian off-highway components division. ([Allison](#))
- **Continental** completed the spin-off of **Vitesco**. ([Handelsblatt](#))
- **Redwood Materials** hopes to have enough capacity to produce cathode and anode materials for 500 GWh of batteries by 2030. ([TechCrunch](#))
- Chipmaker **GlobalFoundries** says it will double production for automotive parts. ([Nikkei](#))

Dealers

- UK used car dealer **Cazoo** acquired vehicle reconditioning business **SMH**. ([Motor Trader](#))

Driverless / Autonomy (history)

- Self-driving firm **DeepRoute.ai** raised \$300 million. ([Deal Street Asia](#))

Other

- Electric scooter maker **Gogoro** is merging with a special purpose vehicle in a \$2.4 billion deal. ([Deal Street Asia](#))
- **Volta Trucks** raised €37 million. ([TechCrunch](#))
- **Xpeng Heitech**, part-owned by carmaker **Xpeng** says it will have flying cars on sale by 2024. ([Deal Street Asia](#))