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Autonomous Akin



November 9, 2023

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Our newsletter reflects the focus of Akin’s cross-practice autonomous systems and advanced mobility team on developments in the regulatory, policy, trade, intellectual property, and cybersecurity and privacy spaces. Autonomous Akin brings you the latest news and developments so that you can keep a pulse on what is happening in government and industry that is impactful for your business. For our new readers, you can subscribe to future issues of this newsletter [here](#). Thank you!

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Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS)

Senate Confirms Biden’s Nominee to Lead the F.A.A. - *New York Times*

“The Senate on Tuesday confirmed Michael G. Whitaker, a former Obama administration official, to lead the Federal Aviation Administration, filling a key vacancy that had persisted for more than 18 months. Mr. Whitaker, 62, was confirmed by a vote of 98 to 0, bringing an end to the carousel of leadership that had plagued the agency for more than half of President Biden’s time in office.”

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Amazon Starts Delivering Medications by Drone in Texas City - *Bloomberg*

“Amazon.com Inc. laid out plans to expand its still-experimental drone delivery effort, announcing the start of sending prescription medication by air and promising to start flights

in Britain and Italy by late 2024. The online retailer recently began listing drone delivery as an option for Amazon Pharmacy customers in a test program in College Station, Texas, one of two US cities where Amazon is delivering products using its unmanned, riding-lawnmower-sized vehicles.”

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Drone Delivery for Disaster Response: In Japan, Bringing Critical Supplies to Isolated Villages - *Drone Life*

“In Japan, a shrinking rural population and dramatic landscape means that some villages may be difficult to reach in the case of a disaster. NEXT DELIVERY has successfully conducted a 2-day demonstration of drone delivery for disaster response, bringing supplies to Kawanemoto Town, Shizuoka Prefecture.”

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Advanced Air Mobility



UAE ‘Taking Right Steps’ in Advanced Air Mobility, Boeing Says - *The National News*

“The UAE is ‘taking the right steps’ to become a key player in the advanced air mobility (AAM) segment, Boeing’s chief of strategy Marc Allen has said. Mr. Allen made the comments during a three-day visit to the UAE to meet key executives in the AAM sector to discuss its regulatory framework and explore potential ways to strengthen existing partnerships.”

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Joby’s Electric Air Taxi is Now Flying with Pilots on Board - *Flying Magazine*

“Joby Aviation’s preproduction prototype electric vertical takeoff and landing (eVTOL) air taxi has been flying for months since the manufacturer began flight testing in June. Now, the company’s test pilots have joined it in the skies.”

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Archer Aviation to Launch Air Taxis in Abu Dhabi in 2026 - *Tech Crunch*

“Electric vertical takeoff and landing vehicle company Archer Aviation plans to start air taxi operations in Abu Dhabi in 2026, making the city its first international market outside the United States. From there, Archer plans to launch an air taxi service across the United Arab Emirates as part of the company’s recently signed memorandum of understanding with the Abu Dhabi Investment Office (ADIO).”

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Founder of Joby Aviation Says Electric Air Taxis will be in Service in 2025 - *ABC News*

“The notion that hundreds or even thousands of electric-powered air taxis could be whisking people over jammed roads is inching away from science fiction and closer to reality. Battery technology is improving enough for eVTOLs - short for electric vertical takeoffs and landings, the name given to these aircraft that can act like helicopters near the ground but fly like small planes. The bigger question may be whether there is a profitable business in producing them.”

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Autonomy and Electric Vehicles



Automakers are Making Fewer Moves Around Mobility - *Bloomberg*

“In the years leading up to the pandemic, automakers were eager to cast themselves as more than just automakers. The CEOs of manufacturers including BMW, Ford and Toyota vowed to remake their enterprises into mobility companies. It was common for executives to make the case their companies were best positioned to win the race to fully autonomous driving and offer robotaxi services. Both of these strategic areas would move automakers away from selling goods and into the role of service providers.”

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California Sidelines GM Cruise’s Driverless Cars, Cites Safety Risk - *Reuters*

“California on Tuesday ordered General Motors’ Cruise unit to remove its driverless cars from state roads, calling the vehicles a risk to the public and saying the company had ‘misrepresented’ the safety of the technology. California’s Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) said it suspended Cruise’s autonomous vehicle deployment and driverless testing permit, ending efforts by the company for the time being to test the cars without safety drivers.”

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How Will Driverless Cars ‘Talk’ to Pedestrians? Waymo Has a Few Ideas - *The Verge*

“For years, developers have been working on ways for driverless cars to communicate intent to other road users, either through audio recordings or visual cues. Today, Waymo says it wants to be one of the first companies to put some of these methods into practice.”

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The EV Transition Could Upend the Warranty Industry - *Automoblog*

“The extended car warranty industry is big business in the U.S., valued at \$20.5 billion in 2022. And according to many experts, the industry is expected to continue to grow in the coming years. However, much of the business model is based on covering components of internal combustion engine (ICE) vehicles. Given that fact, the rapid growth of electric vehicles (EVs) as a share of the auto market in recent years could disrupt the warranty industry’s well-established business model.”

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Waymo’s Driverless Taxi Launch in Santa Monica is Met with Excitement and Tension - *Los Angeles Times*

“Waymo’s self-driving cars are taking a tour around Los Angeles. Its first stop? Santa Monica’s Third Street Promenade. After months of testing, the Silicon Valley-based driverless car company began offering Waymo One – its 24/7 robotaxi service – to the public Wednesday.”

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America’s High EV Costs are Driving Buyers to Hybrids - *Bloomberg*

“When Amber Lombardi went car shopping last year, she knew she needed an efficient vehicle able to haul a large trailer for her mobile dental practice. And it would be great if it could help provide electricity for some of her onboard equipment. The Ford F-150 pickup she chose has plenty of towing capability, and her drills and teeth-cleaning tools can draw juice from a 7.2-kilowatt generator built into the bed of the truck, powered by the same battery that helps propel it down the road.”

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A new roadmap to speed the spread of electric vehicles in Washington state - *The Columbian*

“When it comes to meeting Washington’s ambitious electric vehicle goals, bolder cash incentives and charging outlets in thousands more locations are needed now. Rules pushing drivers to forgo cars and trucks that run on gas for ones powered by batteries are needed soon. And an aggressive outreach and education campaign must be sustained if the state hopes to expand electric vehicle ownership and slash vehicle emissions statewide. Those are the major prongs of a forthcoming report that’s intended to provide the state with a blueprint for getting more electric vehicles on its roads.”

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Akin Thought Leadership



[Autonomous Akin Update - September 2023](#) (September 12, 2023)

[CPPA Takes Aim at Connected Cars in First-Ever Review](#) (August 23, 2023)

[Autonomous Akin Update - August 2023](#) (August 11, 2023)

[Congress Takes a Step Forward on Outbound Investment](#) (July 27, 2023)

[Autonomous Akin Update - July 2023](#) (July 6, 2023)

[Akin's Mid-Year TMT Report Provides Important Updates on Regulatory and Policy Developments for TMT Leaders](#) (May 25, 2023)

[Autonomous Akin Update - May 2023](#) (May 11, 2023)

[Autonomous Systems & Advanced Mobility: 2023 Trends & Predictions](#) (May 5, 2023)

[Kayo Sustainable Infrastructure Webinar Recording - Passcode: Fm%X07T](#) (April 19, 2023)

Questions?

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