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ROBOTIC FRUIT PICKERS MAY HELP ORCHARDS WITH WORKER SHORTAGE

Harvesting Washington state's vast fruit orchards each year requires thousands of farmworkers, and many of them work illegally in the United States.

That system eventually could change dramatically as at least two companies are rushing to get robotic fruit-picking machines to market.

The robotic pickers don't get tired and can work 24 hours a day.

"Human pickers are getting scarce," said Gad Kober, a co-founder of Israel-based FFRobotics. "Young people do not want to work in farms, and elderly pickers are slowly retiring."

FFRobotics and Abundant Robotics, of Hayward, California, are racing to get their mechanical pickers to market within the next couple of years.

Harvest has been mechanized for large portions of the agriculture industry such as wheat, corn, green beans and tomatoes for some time. But

for more fragile commodities like apples, berries, table grapes and lettuce - where the crop's appearance is especially important - harvest is still done by hand.

Members of Washington's \$7.5 billion annual agriculture industry have long grappled with labor shortages, and depend on workers coming up from Mexico each year to harvest many crops.

But President Donald Trump's hard line against immigrants in the U.S. illegally has many farmers in the country looking for alternative harvest methods. Some have purchased new equipment to try to reduce the number of workers they'll need, while others have lobbied politicians to get them to deal with immigration in a way that minimizes harm to their livelihoods.

"Who knows what this administration will do or not do?" said Jim McFerson, head of the Washington State Tree Fruit Research Center in Wenatchee. For farmers, "it's a question of survival."

Washington leads the nation in production of apples and several other crops. Harvest starts in the spring with asparagus and runs until all the apples are off the trees in late fall.

The work is hard and dangerous, and has long drawn Mexican workers to central Washington, where several counties near the Canadian border are now majority-Hispanic. Experienced pickers, who are paid by the bin, can make more than \$200 a day.

Advocates for farmworkers say robot pickers will have a negative effect.

The eventual loss of jobs for humans will be huge, said Erik Nicholson of Seattle, an official



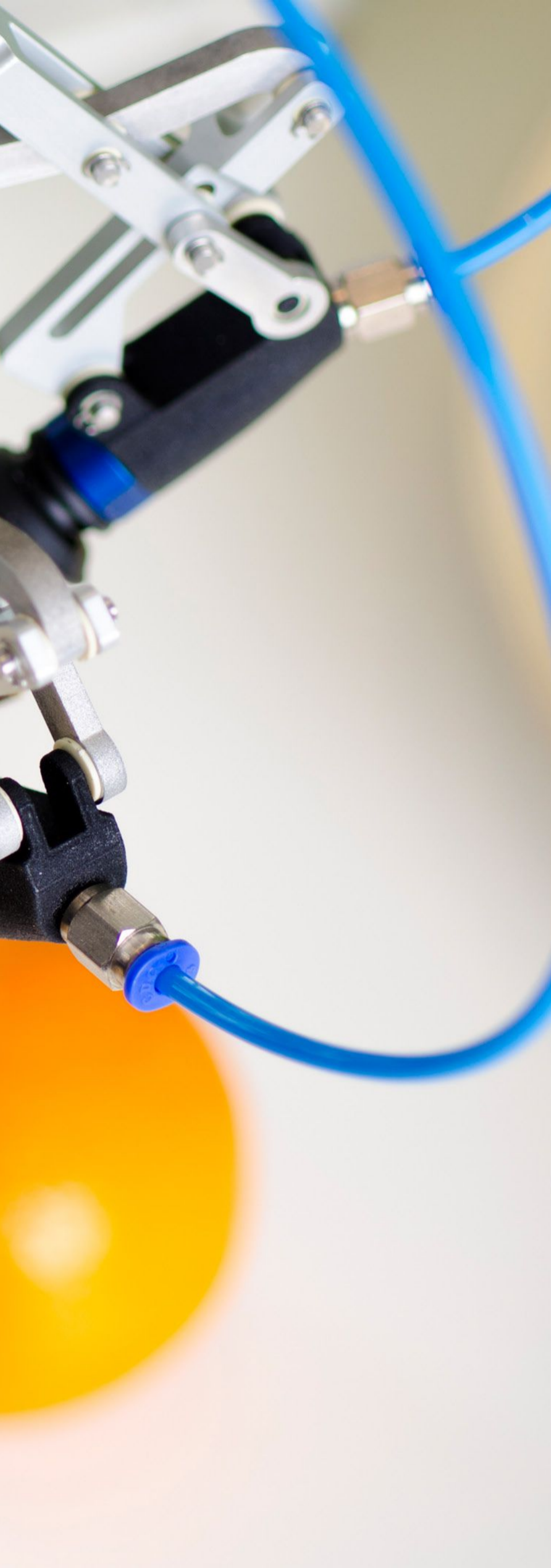


BORTON

08

NEPA
CAMEO





with the United Farm Workers union. He estimated half of the state's farmworkers are immigrants who are in the country illegally.

But many of them have settled in Washington and are productive members of the community, he said.

"They are scared of losing their jobs to mechanization," Nicholson said. "A robot is not going to rent a house, buy clothing for their kids, buy food in a grocery and reinvest that money in the local economy."

While financial details are not available, the builders say the robotic pickers should pay for themselves in two years. That puts the likely cost of the machines in the hundreds of thousands of dollars each.

FFRobotics is developing a machine that has three-fingered grips to grab fruit and twist or clip it from a branch. The machine would have between four and 12 robotic arms, and can pick up to 10,000 apples an hour, Kober said.

One machine would be able to harvest a variety of crops, taking 85 to 90 percent of the crop off the trees, Kober said. Humans could pick the rest.

Abundant Robotics is working on a picker that uses suction to vacuum apples off trees.

Plans for the robotic harvesters - including a goal of getting them to market before 2019 - were discussed in February at an international convention of fruit growers in Wenatchee.

The two robot makers are likely to hit their production goals, said Karen Lewis, a Washington State University cooperative extension agent who has studied the issue.

“Both of them will be in the field with prototypes this fall,” Lewis said, calling the robotic harvesters a “game changer.”

But for the machines to work, apples and other crops must be grown in new trellis systems that allow robots to see and harvest the fruit, she said.

“We are evolving the tree architecture and apple placement to be compatible with robotics,” Lewis said, a process called “robot-ready.”

Large farming operations likely will be first to adopt the machines, but it might be decades before their use is widespread.

“I think for the next 10 to 20 years, they will be used by some growers to supplement regular picking crews and to serve as a backstop for picker shortages,” said Mike Gempler of the Washington Growers League in Yakima. Reliability and cost will determine if their use expands.

Republican U.S. Rep. Dan Newhouse, whose family owns a large farming operation in Washington’s Yakima Valley, said the industry is deeply interested in alternatives to human labor.

“We are absolutely looking at ways we can increase our efficiency,” said Newhouse, adding his family’s farm each year employs some 120 farmworkers, many of them picking cherries and nectarines.

The industry has no choice but to embrace mechanization, said Mark Powers, president of the Northwest Horticultural Council, a trade group for farmers in Yakima.

“We don’t see some miraculous new source of labor appearing on the horizon,” Powers said. “We think labor will continue to be a scarce resource.”







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Have Fun
Make Histo





5 REASONS AMAZON IS EXPERIMENTING WITH PHYSICAL STORES

Is the online giant of retail also looking to conquer physical stores?

Amazon has been dabbling in physical retail since 2015, during which time it's opened a half-dozen bookstores that double as gadget emporia, a score of campus bookstores that don't sell books and a convenience store without cashiers. For now, its efforts seem largely experimental, though that may not be true for long.

Although the company already dominates e-commerce, 90 percent of worldwide retail spending is still in brick-and-mortar stores, according to eMarketer. Amazon has the chance to change retail with automation and data-mining technologies borrowed from e-commerce.

“It seems counterintuitive they are investing in any physical stores when they are blamed for the demise of so many of them, but no cow is sacred,” says Sucharita Mulpuru, a retail analyst in Charlotte, North Carolina.

Amazon’s offline ambitions could even boost Amazon’s online operations further, even though they seem to be doing just fine for now. In the first three months of the year, the Seattle company earned \$724 million, or \$1.48 per share, a 41 percent increase from a year earlier. Amazon soundly beat Wall Street’s expectations of \$1.08 per share, according to FactSet. Revenue increased 23 percent to \$35.7 billion, above expectations of \$35.3 billion.

Amazon doesn’t break out numbers for its retail-store operations. Amazon Chief Financial Officer Brian T. Olsavsky told investors Thursday that the stores represent “another way to reach the customer and test what resonates with them.” He said the company has been pleased with the results, but he didn’t elaborate.

Exactly what it’s learning, and what it plans to do with that knowledge, is the next big question.

Here are five ways physical stores could help Amazon.





amazon boo



Highly Rated
Mystery & Thriller
4.5 Stars & Above

Arts & Crafts Coloring Book

Home & Garden

Highly Rated Fiction
4.5 Stars & Above

Sports



A SHOWCASE FOR GADGETS

At Amazon's six physical bookstores - six more are on the way - books are arranged on shelves face out, even though that takes more space. Amazon isn't trying to cram its entire inventory into these stores; Amazon figures you can just order everything else from your phone.

Amazon also devotes a lot of space to its Kindle e-readers, streaming TV devices and other gadgets, so you can try them out before buying. Tutorials are also offered on weekends.

Wedbush Securities analyst Michael Pachter says physical bookstores are good places to win Kindle converts, as "the only people who don't have Kindles who should have Kindles are luddites who also read."

SERENDIPITY

Amazon opened its third bookstore in October, near Portland, Oregon. Miriam Sontz, CEO of Powell's Books in Portland, calls Amazon's entry "an acknowledgement of the inability of the internet to provide a certain retail experience that book buyers enjoy." That includes spontaneous conversations with fellow shoppers on what they're reading, and having a book cover or blurb grab you as you walk down the aisle.

Robert Hetu, a retail analyst at Gartner, says online customers tend to go to a website knowing what they want to buy. By contrast, customers visiting a physical store often make impulse purchases, even if they go in with something specific in mind. Amazon could learn more about that serendipity from its stores, and perhaps find better ways to increase impulse buying online, Hetu says.

amazon fresh





MAKE CUSTOMERS DO THE WORK

Amazon is scheduled to open its 20th bookless campus bookstore next week in Cleveland. Students order textbooks and dorm furnishings online and come to these stores to pick them up. The centralized pickup location reduces shipping expenses.

The company is also testing a grocery pickup service at two locations in Seattle. Once it launches, Prime members will be able to order groceries online and visit one of these stores for pickup, skipping the aisles. Crews will even bring orders to the car. It's cheaper than door-to-door deliveries.

RETAIL TECHNOLOGY

Amazon already makes heavy use of robots at warehouses to fulfill online orders. Now Amazon is trying to bring automation to retail. The Amazon Go convenience store in Seattle uses sensors to track items as shoppers put them into baskets or return them to the shelf. The shopper's Amazon account gets automatically charged. The store is expected to open to the public soon, after a test with Amazon employees.

Amazon not only saves money on cashiers but also could use the data to manage inventory better and even assess when to discount items, says Mulpuru, the retail analyst.

Hetu suggests that Amazon might even license its technology to other retailers, the way it rents out its data centers to businesses and groups to power their websites and other digital needs. That business, known as cloud computing, made up 10 percent of Amazon's revenue in the first quarter, as sales grew 43 percent to nearly \$3.7 billion.



BUILDING LOYALTY

Amazon can use its campus locations to promote its Prime loyalty program (students get 50 percent off the normal \$99 annual fee). The strategy is simple: Get students hooked, and they'll be customers for life.

As for the regular bookstores, Prime members get the same prices available online. For everyone else, only Amazon gadgets match the online prices; books and other items are sold at an often-higher list price. Of course, you can sign up for Prime on the spot.

Hetu said Amazon could use these experiences to deepen loyalty - though they can also damage Amazon's reputation if it can't deliver an experience Prime members are already used to.



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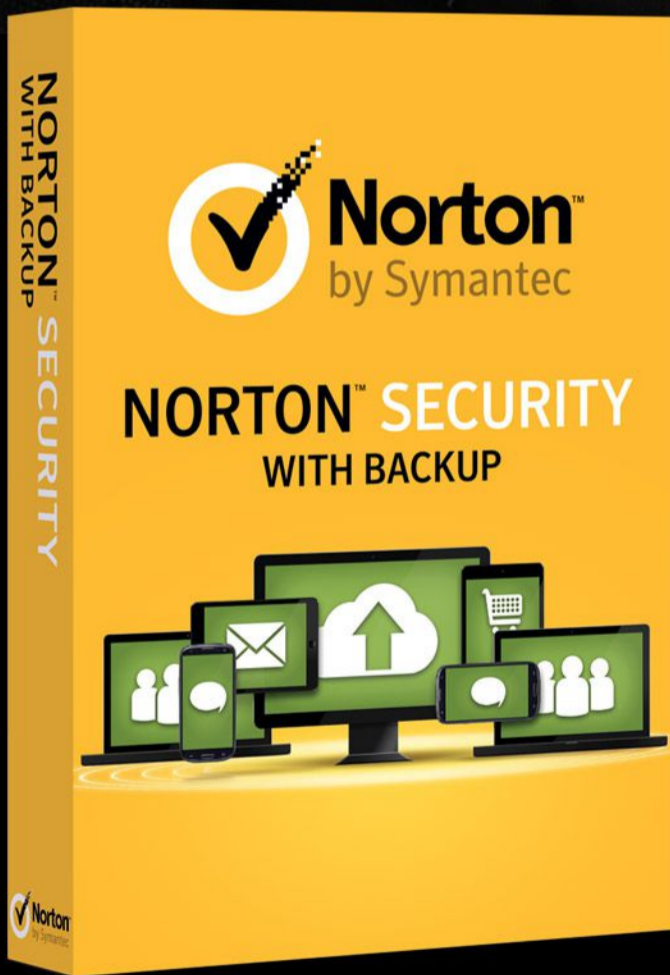
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HACKER CLAIMS RELEASE OF STOLEN COPIES OF NETFLIX SERIES

A hacker claims to have followed through on a threat to release several episodes from the upcoming season of Netflix's hit series "Orange Is The New Black."

The hacker, who goes by the name The Dark Overlord, announced the move on Twitter early Saturday (29). The post included a link to an illegal file-sharing service where purportedly 10 episodes from the series' upcoming fifth season were available for download. The Associated Press could not legally confirm the authenticity of the uploaded files.





New episodes of “Orange” are scheduled for official release on June 9. Pirated copies of the series’ episodes could dent Netflix’s subscriber growth and the company’s stock price. A spokeswoman for the video streaming service declined to comment on the release of the episodes Saturday.

Earlier, Netflix said that a small production vendor that works with several major TV studios suffered a breach. The Los Gatos, California, company described it as an “active situation” that’s being investigated by the FBI and other authorities.

The Dark Overlord had been demanding that Netflix pay an unspecified ransom in exchange for not releasing the episodes prematurely online. In a statement online Saturday, the hacker noted that Netflix had remained “unresponsive” to the ransom request.

“It didn’t have to be this way, Netflix,” the hacker wrote. “You’re going to lose a lot more money in all of this than what our modest offer was.”

The hacker claims to have stolen other series from Netflix and other studios, including ABC, National Geographic and Fox. The Dark Overlord promised to also release titles from those other networks unless “modest” ransoms are paid.

Rumors of a massive leak of Hollywood films and TV episodes have been circulating online for months, fed by purported screenshots of the footage and a copy of a proposed deal to delete the stolen’ material in return for tens of thousands of dollars in electronic currency.

When the AP contacted The Dark Overlord in February, the hacker said the purloined video wouldn't be made publicly available after all, making the far-fetched claim that "no one really (cares) about unreleased movies and TV show episodes."

It's not clear what triggered The Dark Overload's renewed ransom demands.

Netflix is counting on "Orange" to help it add 3.2 million subscribers from April through June. That's substantially higher than the company's average gain of 1.8 million subscribers in the same period over the past five years.

Whenever Netflix's quarterly subscriber gains fall short of management's projections, the company's stock usually plunges.



AIRBNB, SAN FRANCISCO REACH DEAL ON RENTAL REGISTRATIONS

San Francisco and Airbnb reached a deal this week that aims to prevent the short-term rental website from listing housing units that are not following city rules that limit the duration of stays and the number of nights units can be rented.

The settlement resolves a lawsuit filed by Airbnb over a city law that fines the company for booking rentals not registered with the city.

Under the deal, residents looking to list a rental will be able apply for a city registration number through Airbnb's website and will have to list their registration number to post a listing.

The company will provide a monthly list of all San Francisco listings to the city, so officials can verify that units are registered. Airbnb will deactivate listings that the city says are invalid.







“This settlement protects our neighborhoods and will help prevent our precious housing stock from being illegally turned into hotels at the expense of evicted or displaced tenants,” City Attorney Dennis Herrera said. “I think this is going to put San Francisco on the road to being a model for effective regulation of home-hosting platforms.”

Airbnb said in a statement that the agreement “puts in place the systems and tools needed to help ensure our community is able to continue to share their homes.”

San Francisco-based Airbnb is the world’s largest short-stay online rental company.

Critics complain Airbnb’s business model encourages landlords to take already scarce rentals off the market. Supporters say they couldn’t live in San Francisco without the extra money made in rentals.

San Francisco allows short-term rentals, but it requires hosts to register with the city and limits the length of stays to less than 30 nights at a time. Hosts can rent out their units when not present there for a maximum of 90 nights in a year.

Additionally, people can only register one unit and must live there for more than 9 months each year.



Create an Account

Log In

The city argued that only 2,100 of the more than 8,000 San Francisco listings on Airbnb were registered, making enforcement of those requirements difficult.

The city ordinance at issue threatened Airbnb with fines up to \$1,000 for every booking it completes for a unit not registered with the city.

Airbnb argued the law would force it to screen and remove listings because the company would not want listings for units that could not legally be booked. The company said that role would violate a 1996 federal law that prohibits internet companies from being held responsible for content posted by users.

A federal judge in San Francisco rejected that argument, but said Airbnb might still be able to block the law on the grounds that the city does not have a way for it to quickly determine whether a unit is registered.

U.S. District Judge James Donato in November told the city and Airbnb to work harder to resolve Airbnb's lawsuit.

Chris Lehane, head of global policy and communications for Airbnb, said on a conference call with reporters that the settlement provides a simple registration system while allowing the city to make sure hosts are following the law.

City officials said it will take four months to build the technology to allow people to apply for registration directly through Airbnb. Everyone who wants to be on the site must register by 2018, Herrera said.

Airbnb has agreed to drop its lawsuit if the San Francisco Board of Supervisors endorses the settlement, Herrera's office said.





APPLE MAKES \$1B COMMITMENT TOWARD MORE US MANUFACTURING JOBS

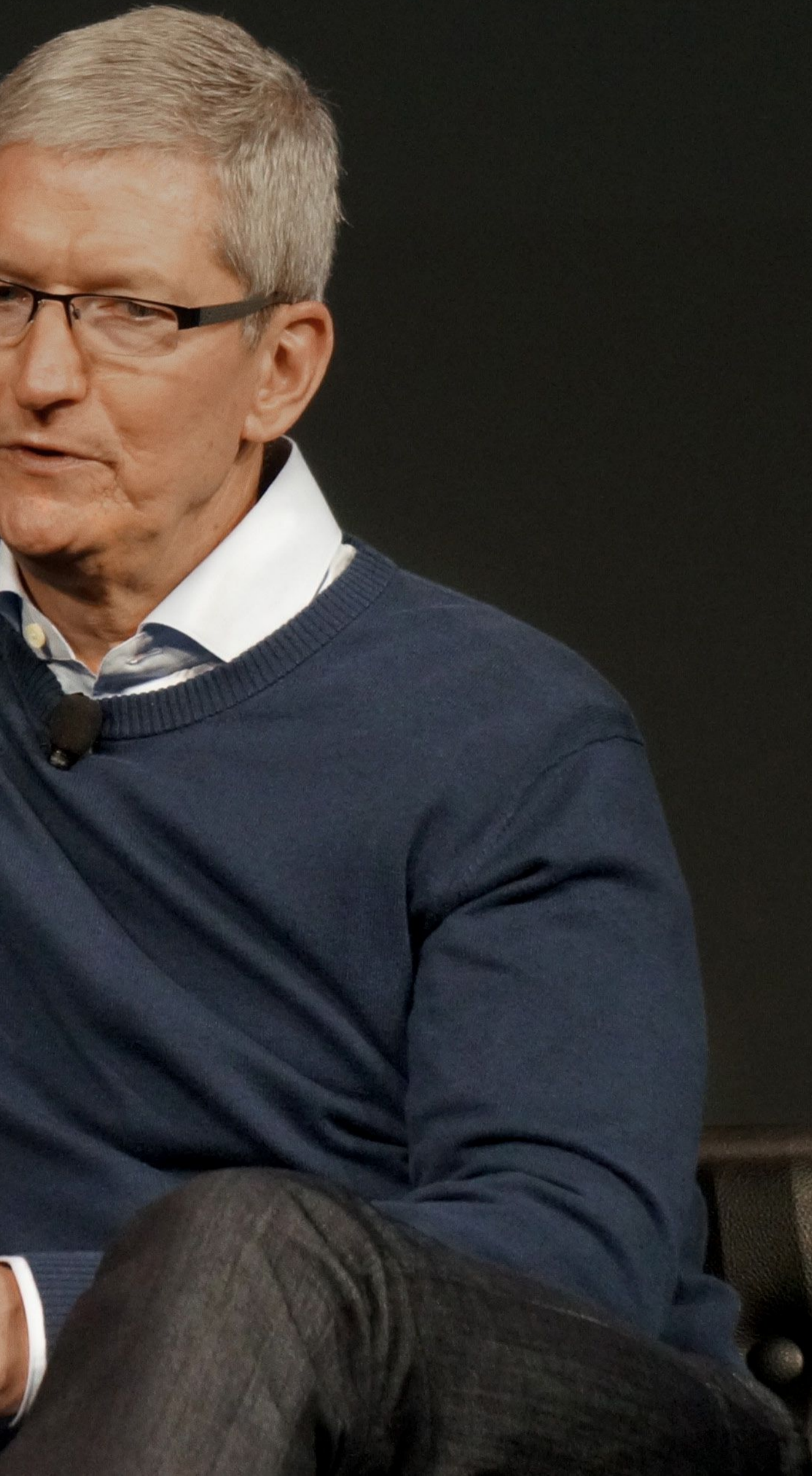
Apple will invest \$1 billion to help create more U.S. manufacturing jobs and to counter recurring criticism about its reliance on overseas factories to assemble most of its iPhones and other devices.

Apple CEO Tim Cook announced the fund during a Wednesday interview on CNBC's "Mad Money." Cook didn't provide additional details, such as how the company will direct that money.

He did say the fund will make its first investment by the end of this month. Apple's contribution amounts to a tiny fraction of its \$257 billion in cash.

Although Apple designs its products in the U.S., most of them are built in factories run by contractors in China and other countries. That practice has been a sore point for President Donald Trump and some members of U.S. Congress.









APPLE GROWING CASH STASH SPURS TALK OF HUGE ACQUISITION

As Apple's stash of cash grows, so does the possibility that the world's most valuable company will use some of the money for a huge acquisition that would expand its empire beyond iPhones and other gadgets.

The company currently holds more than a quarter-trillion dollars it could use to go shopping. So far, the guessing game has primarily focused on possible targets such as Netflix and Tesla Motors. Either deal could make sense, given Apple's long-running interest in providing a TV service to consumers and its more recent work on self-driving cars.

But in recent months the takeover talk has swirled around whether Apple might do something even more dramatic by making a bid for Walt Disney Co.





THE MOUSE AND THE APPLE

Such a combination would create the world's first company worth \$1 trillion. Beyond that, an Apple-Disney marriage would unite some of the world's most successful brands in technology and entertainment - a list that includes the iPhone, iPad, Mac computer, Mickey Mouse, Disneyland, ESPN, Lucasfilm, Pixar and Marvel.

"If there's a deal out there that would strike fear in the hearts of Silicon Valley and Hollywood, this could be it," RBC Capital Markets analyst Amit Daryanani wrote in a recent research report assessing the logic of an Apple-Disney combination.

Apple doesn't discuss specific companies that it might buy, but it's exploring far and wide, according to Chief Financial Officer Luca Maestri. "We are looking at every size of acquisition, so we will see how it goes going forward," Maestri told The Associated Press in a Tuesday interview.

Disney hasn't given any inclination that it's looking for a buyer, but publicly held companies are required to consider all takeover offers. Buying Disney would be expensive. Daryanani estimates that Apple would have to pay \$157 per share, or about \$250 billion.





TREASURE CHEST

Apple is one of the few companies - if not the only one - that could pay that sum out of its pocket. The Cupertino, California, company ended March with nearly \$257 billion in cash and marketable securities, according to numbers released Tuesday with Apple's earnings report for the January-March quarter.

That's up from \$233 billion a year ago, and the figure is expected to keep growing as Apple piles up more profits from the iPhone, iPad and Mac, as well as the applications and services that feed those devices. In its latest quarter, Apple's earnings climbed 5 percent to \$11 billion while revenue also rose 5 percent to nearly \$53 billion.

In recent years, Apple has used a large chunk of its cash to provide its shareholders with extra income. The company disclosed plans on Tuesday to raise its quarterly dividend by more than 10 percent to 63 cents per share, marking the fifth increase in five years. Apple also has spent \$151 billion buying back its own stock since 2012.

Doing a mega-deal would be a major departure for Apple, whose largest acquisition to date was its \$3 billion purchase of Beats Electronics in 2014 that helped launch its music streaming service.

THE SLOWING SMARTPHONE

But Daryanani and other analysts believe Apple may need to make a pricier acquisition to lessen the company's dependence on the iPhone at a time when smartphone sales have been slowing.

iPhone sales edged up 1 percent in Apple's latest quarter, extending a recovery from an unprecedented downturn last year.

But many investors remain concerned that Apple has become too vulnerable to the ups and downs of the smartphone market, mostly because the company hasn't been able to come up with another hit product since the 2011 death of its co-founder and CEO, Steve Jobs. Apple's last big success, the iPad, came out in 2010, but sales of the tablet have been declining for more than three years.

Meanwhile, the iPhone accounted for nearly two-thirds of Apple's revenue in the past quarter.

The Trump administration may give Apple another reason to mull a major acquisition, given earlier promises to lower U.S. taxes on overseas corporate cash brought back to the U.S. Should that tax cut happen, Apple CEO Tim Cook has said the company will consider bringing back most of the more than \$230 billion it now keeps in foreign countries, making it easier to finance a blockbuster deal in the U.S.



Image: Ariel Zambelich







NUATOMY, GROUPE PSA TO COLLABORATE ON SELF-DRIVING CARS

Self-driving software company nuTonomy is teaming up with French automaker Groupe PSA.

Boston-based nuTonomy says it plans to install its software and specialized sensors into two Peugeot 3008 SUVs this summer. It will begin testing them on public roads in Singapore in September.

The companies plan to expand that test fleet to about a dozen vehicles by the beginning of 2018. Eventually, nuTonomy and Groupe PSA say they could expand testing to other cities worldwide.

NuTonomy has been testing self-driving taxis in Singapore since last August. The Peugeot SUVs won't be part of that taxi fleet.

Groupe PSA is the parent company of the Peugeot, Citroen and DS brands.

It is the fifth automaker nuTonomy has partnered with. Renault, Mitsubishi, Lincoln and Land Rover are also testing the company's software.



**THE FATE
OF THE
FURIOUS...
AND THE
APPLE CAR**

**THE FURIOUS
FRANCHISE GETS INTO
EVEN HIGHER GEAR**





Have you seen the... actually, we're probably asking far too late. We were about to ask whether you had seen *The Fate of the Furious*, the latest theatrical installment in the *Fast and the Furious* franchise; however, judging from the box-office takings so far, you probably saw it a while ago. The film has already clocked **a world-record opening, capturing an estimated \$532.5 million during its first weekend.** With familiar favorites Vin Diesel, Dwayne Johnson and others returning and Charlize Theron joining the fold, the movie easily excites - and also reminds us of that Apple Car...



A FAST HISTORY OF A FURIOUS FRANCHISE

The series' first film, simply titled *The Fast and the Furious*, sped into theaters with the ferocity of one of its illegally-driven cars way back in 2001. However, at the time, few critics likely believed that there was a major, consistently blockbusting franchise being tinkered with in distributor Universal Pictures' garage. To date, reviews gathered by Metacritic awarded the film a score, on average, of a little under 60%. Furthermore, it wasn't until the fifth film that the 60% mark was finally surpassed.

However, for the most part, the critical responses to the *Fast and the Furious* movies have been foreshadowing their financial successes. As made clear in **graphs published by *The Telegraph***, the second, third and fourth movies saw a lull in both critical acclaim and box-office hauls. Those disappointing years ended with *Fast Five*, *Fast & Furious 6* and *Furious 7*, which have all passed both \$200m in the United States box-office and 60% in Metacritic reviewers' ratings.

Those aren't the only eye-opening numbers associated with the series. **E! Online has provided a fun, "by the numbers" rundown** - pointing out that there have been 23 total races, 311 gear shifts, 174 curse words, 84 damaged or destroyed buildings and 311 damaged or destroyed cars across all of the films. There have also been nearly 80 minutes of bicep-bearing by the male characters and six cameos by musicians, including Iggy Azalea and Rita Ora. *Furious 7* was the film that took critical pole position, amassing a score of 79% on Metacritic.





THE
FAST
AND
THE
FURIOUS



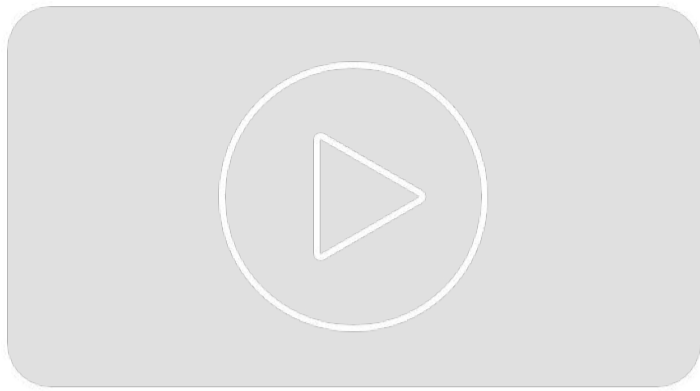


THERE'S NO OVERLOOKING THOSE CARS AND PAUL WALKER

Much of the fond feeling towards the seventh film has its roots in the tragic death of one of the franchise mainstays, Paul Walker. The actor, who played cop-turned-criminal Brian O'Conner, met his end in a car crash in November 2013 - making *Furious 7*, upon its release in 2015, something of a tribute to him. *The Telegraph* observes that the "elegiac tone made for a more nuanced outing and it is apparent when looking at the tone of the dialogue used in the films." *Furious 7* had a lower prevalence of aggressive words than its predecessors, a sentiment analysis revealed.

The film was also a good opportunity for his fellow cast members to say goodbye to him. They included Diesel and Johnson, who return for *The Fate of the Furious* in their roles as Dominic Toretto and Luke Hobbs. Only one of the films, *2 Fast 2 Furious*, has been without Diesel. Also making the leap between the seventh and eighth movies is Michelle Rodriguez as Toretto's wife, Letty Ortiz. She told *E! News* that **filming *The Fate of the Furious* without Walker was "not easy."**

Nonetheless, even as the franchise has evolved in this way, the recipe for its success remains clear: it's fun, fun, fun! *The Telegraph* has declared the films "unabashed, all-action affairs with some cars making repeated appearances and becoming part of the narrative themselves," adding up to "a pleasing juxtaposition of classic motors and modern supercars." It is rare for, either literally or metaphorically, a foot to be taken off the gas. It's fitting, then, that the



*EXCLUSIVE: Michelle Rodriguez Says Charlize Theron
in 'Fast 8' Is the 'Most Powerful Villain' Yet*



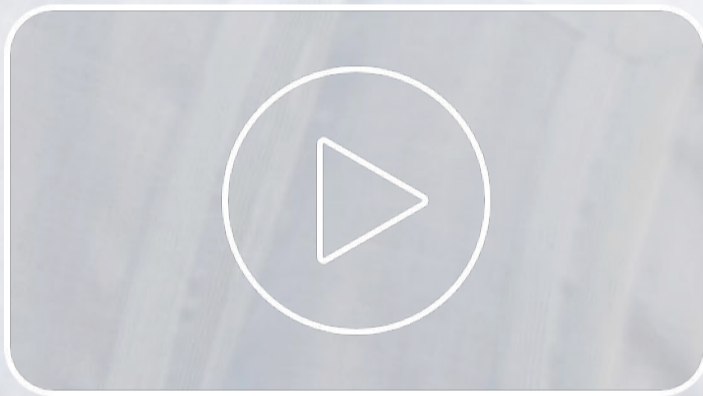
average major car in *Furious 7* had 573hp - more than 200hp than in *2 Fast 2 Furious*.

READ MUCH MORE ABOUT THE NEW MOVIE

We've touched a few times upon the new, eighth movie, which brings *The Fast and the Furious* to parity with Harry Potter as cinema's lengthiest single narrative franchise. There's no New Coke-style bumbling of the winning formula here; indeed, London-born mercenary Deckard Shaw, played by British actor Jason Statham, also returns. One significant new addition to the cast, however, is Charlize Theron. She plays the movie's villain, a cyber-terrorist with the alias Cipher.

Theron's presence has been welcomed by critics. *koimoi.com's* **Surabhi Redkar declares her "the best thing that happens to this film,"** adding: "She is deliciously evil and looks extremely sexy in her blonde avatar." Meanwhile, *Vanity Fair's* **Richard Lawson calls her "amusing" as the "purring villain."** The character plays a particularly pivotal role in seducing Dom into doing her work, to his team's dismay. Overall, the film is very much what we have come to expect from the series - as, in Lawson's words, "cars go vroom, things blow up, Tyrese Gibson makes lots of self-effacing wisecracks."

Whether due to the film's adherence to the familiar formula or simply the hype surrounding it following the much-loved *Furious 7*, there's been no shortage of tickets getting booked. In fact, it has already **surpassed \$1 billion in worldwide box-office**



The Fate of the Furious - Official Trailer - #F8



revenue, as indicated by *The Numbers*. Can it catch up with and beat the approximately \$1.5b made by *Furious 7*? Probably not, judging from the poorer critical reception. However, Universal still has a lot of reason to be pleased; in fact, the ninth and tenth of the series' movies are already being planned.

A TANTALIZING GLIMPSE AT THE APPLE CAR

Thankfully, Apple has not, to our knowledge, been implicated in any illegal street racing. There remains, however, some recently-emerged evidence that the Cupertino company might have just put a car on the road. ***Bloomberg* has reported the sighting of what seems very likely to be that car.** In April, shortly after the California Department of Motor cleared Apple to trial three vehicles, **the site posted images of a white Lexus RX450h SUV that had taken to Silicon Valley roads while equipped with various sensors,** including Velodyne Lidar Inc.'s high-end 64-channel lidar.



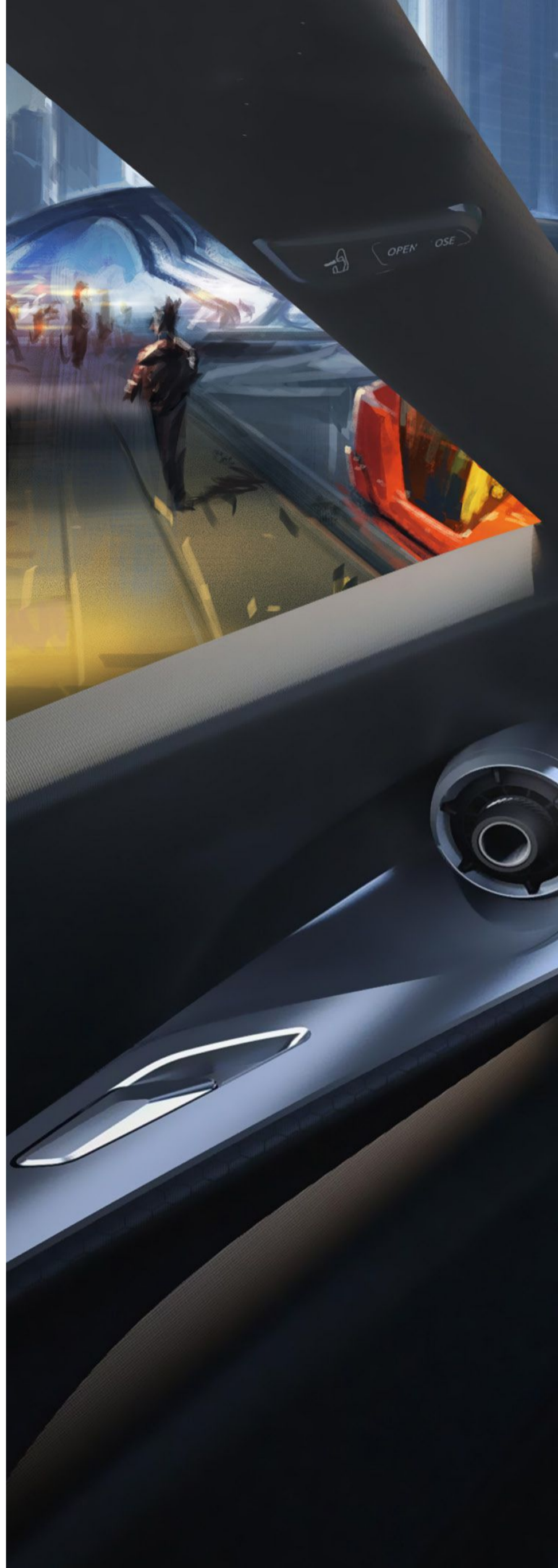


There were also cameras on the vehicle - though an industry expert, upon looking at the photos, has told *Bloomberg* that the sensors have apparently been purchased “off the shelf” from suppliers. In other words, they are not custom-made; however, the vehicle was seen emerging “from an Apple facility,” in the news outlet’s words. The most recent word from inside Apple is that Bob Mansfield, the current leader of the company’s car project, has focused his team on making autonomous driving software before the thought is put to whether Apple should also build its own car.

Is this a wise strategy? Opinion from the press isn’t exactly unanimous. In **a long article for *Recode***, Bob O’Donnell, chief analyst at the tech consulting firm Technalysis Research LLC, has said that making a car is, at least, a sensible idea for Apple to explore. However, Apple’s policy of designing complete products inside-out, both hardware and software, would be at odds with it. Making and selling an entire car is “really hard” for firms outside the auto sector, O’Donnell remarks, adding that established car vendors would not, in the main, like to outsource in-car software development.

Does all of this leave the Apple car initiative - or Project Titan, to use its internal codename - a non-starter? It’s a matter of opinion, of course - but, unlike the makers of the *Fast and the Furious* films, Apple might need to iron out a lot of issues if it is eager to make success in the car space plausible.

by Benjamin Kerry & Gavin







APPEALS COURT WON'T RECONSIDER NET NEUTRALITY RULING







A federal appeals court said this week it won't reconsider its ruling to uphold the government's "net neutrality" rules that require internet providers to treat all online traffic equally.

The decision means the rules favored by consumer groups but despised by telecom companies will remain in place for now. But the Trump administration has already signaled that it intends to scrap the Obama-era policy.

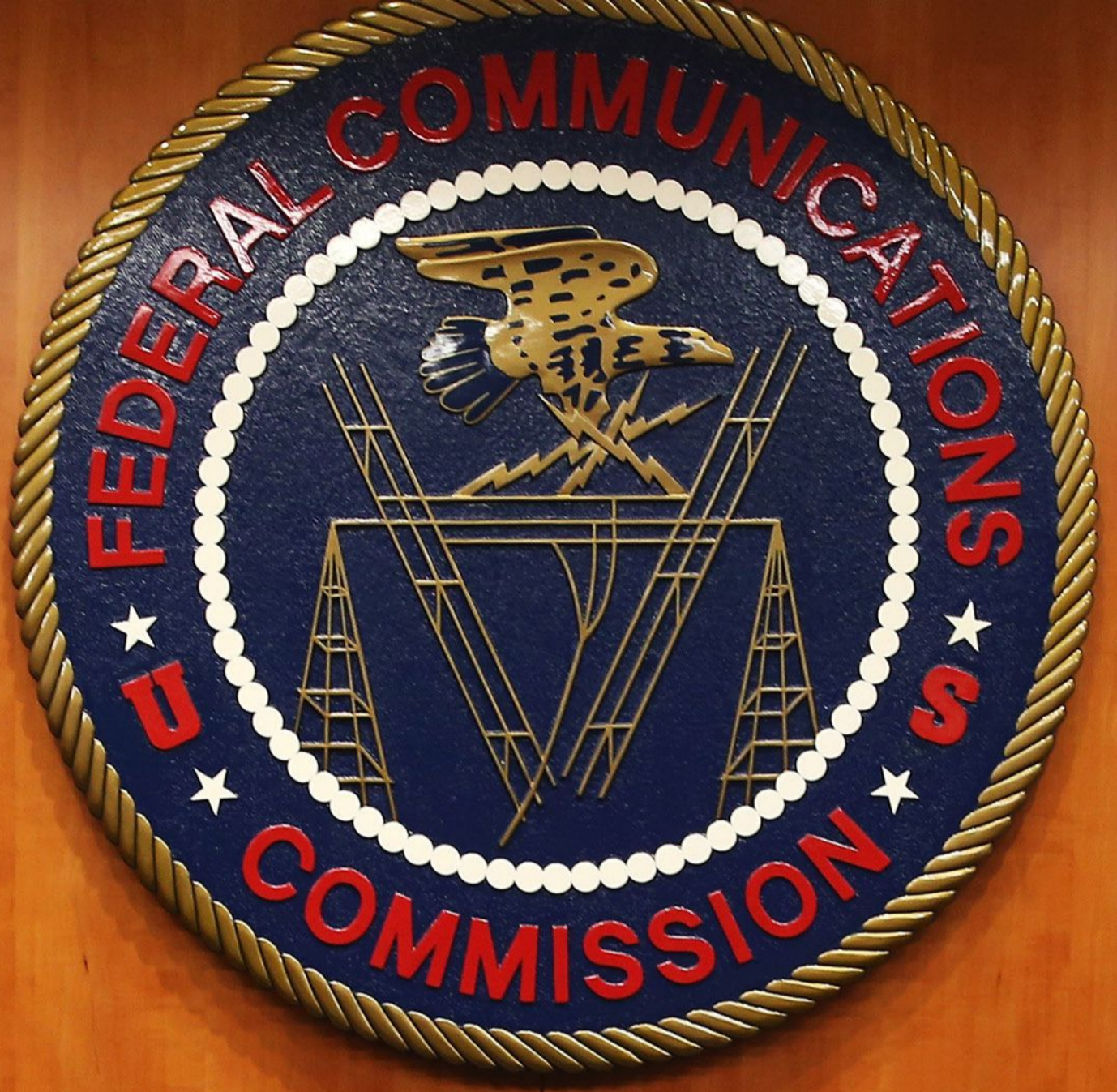
A divided three-judge panel ruled last year to preserve regulations that ban service providers from favoring some content over others. The 2-1 ruling was a win for the Obama administration and consumer groups that sought the rules.

Cable and telecom industry groups like Comcast, Verizon and AT&T say the rules threaten innovation and undermine investment in broadband infrastructure.

Those groups asked the full U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit to take another look at the earlier ruling, but a panel of eight judges on the court declined. Two judges dissented.

The rules prohibit internet service providers from favoring their own services, blocking other sites and apps, or creating "fast lanes" for video and other data services that pay for the privilege. That means companies like Verizon - which offers its own video services - can't slow down Netflix or charge Spotify extra to stream faster than competing services.

New FCC Chairman Ajit Pai said in a speech last week that the rules were unnecessary. He wants to eliminate the FCC's broad powers to monitor Verizon and others for bad behavior.





In a statement, Pai said the court's decision was "not surprising." He said the process of repealing the rules is expected to begin at the FCC on May 18.

Opponents of the rules also could appeal the case to the Supreme Court.

Judge Sri Srinivasan, who helped write the original opinion in favor of net neutrality, said reconsidering the case would be "particularly unwarranted at this point in light of the uncertainty surrounding the fate of the FCC's order." He noted that the agency would soon consider replacing the policy with a different one.

But Srinivasan said the earlier ruling should stand even apart from the move to repeal net neutrality. He said the rules assure that broadband providers "live up to their promise to consumers of affording them neutral access to internet content of their own choosing."

In separate dissents, Judges Janice Rogers Brown and Brett Kavanaugh said the FCC took action that should have been left to Congress. Kavanaugh also said the rules violate the First Amendment.

To pass the rules, the FCC said it had the power to regulate broadband internet service as a utility, much like telephone service. The commission made the decision after President Barack Obama publicly urged it to protect consumers by doing so.

But the FCC under President Donald Trump could change the rules or simply decline to enforce them. Congress may also write a new law that lays out net neutrality rules and what authority the FCC has to police broadband service.



Angie's list.



MEDIA AND INTERNET COMPANY IAC IS BUYING ANGIE'S LIST

Media and internet company IAC/ InterActiveCorp on Monday (01) said it is buying Angie's List Inc. with the aim of melding the consumer reviews company with its HomeAdvisor business and creating a new publicly traded enterprise.

The combined company will be called ANGI Homeservices Inc. and will keep both the Angie's List and HomeAdvisor brands.





Founded by Angie Hicks in 1995, Angie's List lets users research, shop for and rate local plumbers, home cleaners and other service providers. **HomeAdvisor.com** offers resources for home repair and improvement projects, such as helping find the average project cost across the country and finding professionals for the work.

It's a merger IAC first proposed in 2015, which Angie's List rejected, saying the per-share offer of \$8.75 was too low. But sales at Angie's List have been sliding, and in November it said it was exploring "strategic alternatives."

Under the deal announced Monday, Angie's List stockholders will get either one share of ANGI Homeservices Inc., or \$8.50 in cash, for each share of Angie's List they own. The cash portion of the deal is capped at \$130 million.

At \$8.50 a share, the deal values Angie's list at about \$505 million.

New York-based IAC, which is controlled by media mogul Barry Diller, will own between 87 percent and 90 percent of ANGI Homeservices Inc., depending on how many Angie's List shareholders take cash instead of stock in the combined company.

HomeAdvisor CEO Chris Terrill will become chief executive of ANGI Homeservices Inc., which will be based at HomeAdvisor's headquarters in Golden, Colorado.

Shares in Indianapolis-based Angie's List surged more than 42 percent to \$8.39 in extended trading after the deal was announced.





OKLAHOMA AUTHOR AWARDED OWNERSHIP OF MICROFILM LUNAR BIBLES

A Texas state agency has withdrawn its ownership claim to 10 microfilm Bibles that Apollo astronauts took into space, ceding them to an author who says they were left to her by a NASA chaplain who helped send the tiny books into the heavens, court records show.

The Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services dropped its claim to the so-called first lunar Bibles last week, ahead of a Wednesday hearing that would have decided who got to keep the valuable books. Judge Linda G.



Image: Sue Ogrocki



Morrissey ordered the artifacts turned over to Tulsa author and businesswoman Carol Mersch in a court document filed Friday.

The postage stamp-sized Bibles, including eight that made it onto the surface of the moon inside a pouch carried by astronaut Edgar Mitchell during NASA's 1971 Apollo 14 mission, had been locked away in the Tulsa courthouse while the legal fight dragged into its sixth year.

Mersch said Tuesday that she is relieved and that she plans to pick up the Bibles on Wednesday.

"Having your civil liberties restored after a protracted legal battle that never should have begun in the first place is hardly a victory," Mersch said. "It's like being happy that someone stopped finally beating you."

A spokeswoman for the Texas agency declined to comment on the case Tuesday.


Shooting the scriptures into space was the brainchild of the Apollo Prayer League, co-founded by the late NASA chaplain John M. Stout to pray for the success of the space program.

Mersch befriended Stout in 2009 while working on a book about the prayer group and efforts to land a Bible on the moon, and said the late chaplain gave her the Bibles while she wrote it.

But Texas attorneys argued that Stout's son, Jonathan Stout, should inherit the Bibles. They said Stout and his wife became wards of the state in their later years after their son raised concerns about their deteriorating mental and physical well-being.

Jonathan Stout didn't reply to a Tuesday phone message seeking comment.






Mersch vowed if she won, she would donate some of the Bibles to museums or seminaries around the world, per the chaplain's wishes.

"I believe Carol is the best person to have control of these and have possession of them to decide where they should best go," said Cathy Anello, the niece of legendary astronaut Buzz Aldrin.

Anello said she was prepared to attend Wednesday's hearing to lend the family name to Carol's cause.

"She will get (the Bibles) to places where they can be observed and honored," Anello said.





'HANDMAID' WINS 2ND SEASON AS HULU UNVEILS LIVE-TV OPTION

Just a week after its premiere, "The Handmaid's Tale" has won a second season from Hulu , which is bringing aboard Alec Baldwin for an upcoming drama series about events that led to the 9/11 attacks.

The subscription service also on Wednesday announced the launch of an optional upgrade that delivers multiple channels of live programming along with streaming content.

This live-TV option provides live and on-demand programming from more than 50 sports, news, entertainment and kids' channels, including shows from the four major broadcast networks, along with Hulu's existing streaming library.

The monthly plan costs \$39.99, which includes Hulu's standard \$7.99 commercial service. The no-commercials plan costs an additional \$4 per month.

“Hulu can now be your primary source of television - live or on demand,” said Hulu CEO Mike Hopkins.

Among newly acquired off-network series: NBC’s “This Is Us,” this season’s reigning freshman drama, now available on Hulu.

Hulu’s announced straight-to-series originals includes “Marvel’s Runaways,” which will explore the younger side of the Marvel Comics universe in a coming-of-age action drama. It is scheduled to premiere next winter.

Meanwhile, “The First” is a drama set in the near future about the first human mission to Mars. This series is created and written by Beau Willimon (“House of Cards,” “Ides of March”).

Actor and Donald-Trump-impersonator Alec Baldwin has been cast to guest star in “The Looming Tower” as George Tenet, the director of central intelligence for the CIA. The 10-episode series will be adapted from Lawrence Wright’s Pulitzer Prize-winning 9/11 expose with a cast also including Jeff Daniels and Peter Sarsgaard.

“The Handmaid’s Tale” has quickly emerged as a hit for Hulu, with its April 26 premiere watched by more Hulu viewers than any past series premiere on the channel, the service said. Based on the acclaimed 1985 novel by Margaret Atwood, it stars Elisabeth Moss as a woman pushing back against a totalitarian society where human rights are trampled and women in particular are treated as property of the state.

Online:

<http://www.hulu.com>





TOP 10 APPS

iOS
FREE APPS



#01 – Ballz

By Ketchapp
Category: Games / Free
Requires iOS 8.0 or later. Compatible with iPhone, iPad, and iPod touch.



#02 – Messenger

By Facebook, Inc.
Category: Social Networking / Free
Requires iOS 8.0 or later. Compatible with iPhone, iPad, and iPod touch.



#03 – Instagram

By Instagram, Inc.
Category: Photo & Video / Free
Requires iOS 8.0 or later. Compatible with iPhone, iPad, and iPod touch.



#04 – YouTube

By Google, Inc.
Category: Photo & Video / Free
Requires iOS 8.0 or later. Compatible with iPhone, iPad, and iPod touch.



#05 – Snapchat

By Snap, Inc.
Category: Photo & Video / Free
Requires iOS 8.0 or later. Compatible with iPhone, iPad, and iPod touch.



#06 – Facebook

By Facebook, Inc.
Category: Social Networking / Free
Requires iOS 8.0 or later. Compatible with iPhone, iPad, and iPod touch.



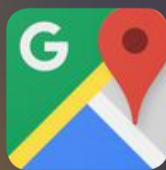
#07 – FaceApp: Free Neural Face Transformations

By Wireless Lab OOO
Category: Photo & Video / Free
Requires iOS 8.0 or later. Compatible with iPhone, iPad, and iPod touch.



#08 – Bitmoji - Your Personal Emoji

By Bitstrips
Category: Utilities / Free
Requires iOS 9.0 or later. Compatible with iPhone, iPad, and iPod touch.



#09 – Google Maps

By Google, Inc.
Category: Navigation / Free
Requires iOS 8.0 or later. Compatible with iPhone, iPad, and iPod touch.



#10 – Gmail

By Google, Inc.
Category: Productivity / Free
Requires iOS 8.0 or later. Compatible with iPhone, iPad, and iPod touch.



#01 – GarageBand

By Apple
Category: Music / Free
Compatibility: OS X 10.10 or later



#02 – Xcode

By Apple
Category: Developer Tools / Free
Compatibility: OS X 10.11.5 or later



#03 – WhatsApp Desktop

By WhatsApp Inc.
Category: Social Networking / Free
Compatibility: OS X 10.9.0 or later, 64-bit processor



#04 – Slack

By Slack Technologies, Inc.
Category: Business / Free
Compatibility: OS X 10.9 or later, 64-bit processor



#05 – Microsoft Remote Desktop

By Microsoft Corporation
Category: Business / Free
Compatibility: OS X 10.9 or later, 64-bit processor



#06 – OneDrive

By Microsoft Corporation
Category: Productivity / Free
Compatibility: OS X 10.9.0 or later, 64-bit processor



#07 – 1Doc: Word Processor for Writer

By Chengyu Huang
Category: Business / Free
Compatibility: OS X 10.10.0 or later, 64-bit processor



#08 – File Viewer and Investigator

By Amelia Dybala
Category: Utilities / Free
Compatibility: OS X 10.7 or later, 64-bit processor



#09 – Fotor Photo Editor

By Chengdu Everimaging Science and Technology Co., Ltd
Category: Photography / Free
Compatibility: OS X 10.7 or later, 64-bit processor



#10 – The Unarchiver

By Dag Agren
Category: Utilities / Free
Compatibility: OS X 10.6.0 or later, 64-bit processor

TOP 10 APPS

mac OS X FREE APPS

TOP 10 APPS

iOS
PAID APPS



#01 – Minecraft: Pocket Edition

By Mojang

Category: Games / Price: \$6.99

Requires iOS 8.0 or later. Compatible with iPhone, iPad, and iPod touch.



#02 – Plague Inc.

By Ndemic Creations

Category: Games / Price: \$0.99

Requires iOS 6.0 or later. Compatible with iPhone, iPad, and iPod touch.



#03 – LightX

By Andor Communications Private Limited

Category: Photo & Video / Price: \$1.99

Requires iOS 8.1 or later. Compatible with iPhone, iPad, and iPod touch.



#04 – Bloons TD 5

By Ninja Kiwi

Category: Games / Price: \$2.99

Requires iOS 6.0 or later. Compatible with iPhone, iPad, and iPod touch.



#05 – HotSchedules

By HotSchedules

Category: Business / Price: \$2.99

Requires iOS 9.0 or later. Compatible with iPhone, iPad, and iPod touch.



#06 – Heads Up!

By Warner Bros.

Category: Games / Price: \$0.99

Requires iOS 8.0 or later. Compatible with iPhone, iPad, and iPod touch.



#07 – Facetune

By Lightricks Ltd.

Category: Photo & Video / Price: \$3.99

Requires iOS 7.0 or later. Compatible with iPhone, iPad, and iPod touch.



#08 – Geometry Dash

By RobTop Games AB

Category: Games / Price: \$1.99

Requires iOS 5.1.1 or later. Compatible with iPhone, iPad, and iPod touch.



#09 – Videoshop - Video Editor

By Appbsolute Inc.

Category: Photo & Video / Price: \$1.99

Requires iOS 8.0 or later. Compatible with iPhone, iPad, and iPod touch.



#10 – Tabs & Chords by Ultimate Guitar

By Ultimate Guitar

Category: Music / Price: \$2.99

Requires iOS 9.0 or later. Compatible with iPhone, iPad, and iPod touch.



#01 – Final Cut Pro

By Apple
Category: Video / Price: \$399.99
Compatibility: OS X 10.11.4 or later, 64-bit processor



#02 – Snapheal - Fix your photos.

By MacPhun LLC
Category: Photography / Price: \$6.99
OS X 10.9 or later, 64-bit processor



#03 – Magnet

By CrowdCafé
Category: Productivity / Price: \$1.39
Compatibility: OS X 10.9 or later, 64-bit processor



#04 – macOS Server

By Apple
Category: Utilities / Price: \$27.99
Compatibility: OS X 10.11.6 or later



#05 – Airmail 3

By Bloop S.R.L.
Category: Utilities / Price: \$13.99
Compatibility: OS X 10.10 or later, 64-bit processor



#06 – Logic Pro X

By Apple
Category: Music / Price: \$279.99
Compatibility: OS X 10.10 or later, 64-bit processor



#07 – MindNode 2 – Delightful Mind Mapping

By IdeasOnCanvas GmbH
Category: Productivity / Price: \$39.99
Compatibility: OS X 10.11 or later, 64-bit processor



#08 – PDFGenius 4

By RootRise Technologies Pvt. Ltd.
Category: Productivity / Price: \$2.79
Compatibility: OS X 10.8 or later, 64-bit processor



#09 – Grand Theft Auto: San Andreas

By Rockstar Games
Category: Games / Price: \$20.99
Compatibility: OS X 10.7.5 or later



#10 – The Sims™ 2: Super Collection

By Aspyr Media, Inc.
Category: Games / Price: \$39.99
Compatibility: OS X 10.9.2 or later

TOP 10 APPS

mac OSX PAID APPS

iTunes

Review



Trailer

Movies & TV Shows



FIFTY SHADES
DARKER

iTunes Preview



by James Foley
Genre: Romance
Released: 2017
Price: \$14.99



537 Ratings

Rotten Tomatoes



09%

Fifty Shades Darker

In the second installment of the Fifty Shades series, a wounded Christian Grey tries to entice Ana back into his life. Demanding a new arrangement, Ana lets him back into her life, but as they begin to build trust and stability in their relationship, shadowy figures from Christian's past come back to haunt him and destroy their hopes for the future.

FIVE FACTS:

1. When Ana says the line "I expect you to call me Ana. I don't expect you to fetch me coffee unless you're getting some for yourself, and um, the rest we'll just make up as we go along" is the same line said by Melanie Griffith (Dakota Johnson's mother) in *Working Girl* (1988)
2. Niall Leonard, the movie's screenwriter, is the husband of the book's author E.L. James.
3. After producers had received backlash that a clean shaven Jamie Dornan was not sexy enough as Christian Grey, it was decided that they would keep his stubble in *Fifty Shades Darker*.
4. The dress Ana wears to the art exhibition at the beginning of the movie is the same one she wears for negotiations with Christian in *Fifty Shades of Grey*.
5. For the role of Elena Lincoln aka "Mrs. Robinson", fans of the movie expressed an interest in actresses such as Kim Cattrall, Michelle Pfeiffer, and Charlize Theron.

See more in
iTunes



Fifty Shades Darker Trailer #2



Monster Trucks

In an attempt to get away from the small town he was born into, Tripp (Lucas Till), builds a monster truck from scrapped cars and when an accident at a nearby oiling site unearths a strange and subterranean creature, he finds the key to achieving his goal with an unlikely friend.

FIVE FACTS:

1. This is Chris Wedge's first live-action film.
2. The movie was filmed in Kamloops, British Columbia but according to the license plates seen in the trailers, the film is set in North Dakota.
3. Five green 1950's-era Dodge trucks were built for the movie.
4. Nearly every vehicle used in the movie is a Chrysler product.
5. The film features a Wilhelm Scream when an evil truck driver crashes into a large rock.



Rotten Tomatoes



32%



iTunes Preview



by Chris Wedge
Genre: Action & Adventure
Released: 2017
Price: \$9.99



95 Ratings



Trailer





I Touched His Eye (2017) - Lucas Till Movie

iTunes

Review



"Madness"

Music

ALL THAT REMAINS
MADNESS



iTunes Preview



Genre: Metal/Rock
Released: Apr 28, 2017
13 Songs
Price: \$7.99



120 Ratings

Madness

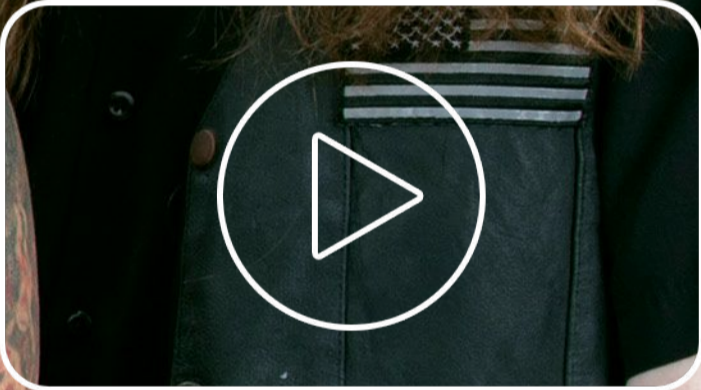
All That Remains

Madness is the eighth studio album by Massachusetts metallers All That Remains. As a band associated as being some of the pioneers of metalcore, once again, they push the boundaries of the genre. Starting with the heavy track 'Safe House' and showcasing their musical capabilities in the title-track 'Madness,' the album explores provocative themes and the current political climate.

FIVE FACTS:

- 1.** The band has cited their influences as In Flames, Metallica, Megadeth, Slayer and Iron Maiden amongst many others. §
- 2.** They are considered a notable act within the New Wave of American Heavy Metal.
- 3.** Before joining the band, Aaron Patrick played for Bury Your Dead, In Flames and Lamb of God.
- 4.** The band's song 'Six' was featured on Guitar Hero.
- 5.** Phil Labonte's lyrics focus on themes such as relationships, personal struggles, society, and hope.





"This Probably Won't End Well"

Places

Lea Michele

Glee star Lea Michele opens this album with the gentle "Love is Alive" which manages to adorn her powerful voice with little fuss, and the rest of the tracklist continues in the same vein, with little more than a piano or a string section to guide her through.

FIVE FACTS:

- 1.** Lea started her showbiz career aged eight when she took the role of a Young Cosette in *Les Misérables* on Broadway.
- 2.** In 2009 she received the Satellite Award for Best Actress in a Series, Comedy or Musical and then later went on to win a Screen Actors Guild Award.
- 3.** Glee creator Ryan Murphy wrote her part of Rachel Berry with her mind.
- 4.** She was in an on and off-screen relationship with her Glee co-star Cory Monteith until his death in 2013.
- 5.** Lea is writing a book titled 'Brunette Ambition.'



iTunes Preview



Genre: Pop
Released: Apr 28, 2017
11 Songs
Price: \$9.99

★★★★★
350 Ratings



"Love is Alive"





"Getaway Car"





BOX OFFICE TOP 20: 'FURIOUS' TAKES A VICTORY LAP

Before the arrival of "Guardians and the Galaxy Vol. 2," "The Fate of the Furious" took one more victory lap at the North American box office, leading all movies in ticket sales for the third straight week.

The film, which has passed \$1 billion globally, grossed \$19.9 million domestically over the weekend, according to final box office figures from comScore on Monday. The reign of the "Furious" sequel, however, is sure to end this weekend when "Guardians" kicks off the summer season.

In the lull between blockbusters, several smaller films did relatively strong business. The Eugenio Derbez comedy "How to Be a Latin Lover," opened in second with \$12.2 million. It drew an 89 percent Latino audience. And the South Indian film "Baahubali 2: The Conclusion" came in third with \$10.4 million despite playing on only 420 screens.

Both films bested the badly reviewed Emma Watson and Tom Hanks thriller “The Circle,” which debuted with \$9 million.

The top 20 movies at U.S. and Canadian theaters Friday through Sunday, followed by distribution studio, gross, number of theater locations, average receipts per location, total gross and number of weeks in release, as compiled Monday by comScore:

1. “The Fate Of The Furious,” Universal, \$19,936,540, 4,077 locations, \$4,890 average, \$193,268,115, 3 Weeks.
2. “How To Be A Latin Lover,” Lionsgate, \$12,252,439, 1,118 locations, \$10,959 average, \$12,252,439, 1 Week.
3. “Baahubali 2: The Conclusion,” Great India Films, \$10,354,532, 425 locations, \$24,364 average, \$10,354,532, 1 Week.
4. “The Boss Baby,” 20th Century Fox, \$9,372,386, 3,739 locations, \$2,507 average, \$148,787,970, 5 Weeks.
5. “The Circle,” STX Entertainment, \$9,034,148, 3,163 locations, \$2,856 average, \$9,034,148, 1 Week.





2



5



7



10



6. *"Beauty And The Beast,"* Disney,
\$6,825,595, 3,155 locations,
\$2,163 average, \$480,525,828, 7 Weeks.

7. *"Going In Style,"* Warner Bros.,
\$3,607,144, 2,761 locations,
\$1,306 average, \$37,346,914, 4 Weeks.

8. *"Smurfs: The Lost Village,"* Sony,
\$3,558,031, 2,554 locations,
\$1,393 average, \$37,977,532, 4 Weeks.

9. *"Gifted,"* Fox Searchlight, \$3,364,270,
2,215 locations, \$1,519 average,
\$15,894,295, 4 Weeks.

10. *"Unforgettable,"* Warner Bros.,
\$2,412,141, 2,417 locations,
\$998 average, \$8,950,960, 2 Weeks.



11



12





11. *"Born In China," Disney, \$2,385,812, 1,508 locations, \$1,582 average, \$8,819,843, 2 Weeks.*

12. *"Lost City Of Z, The," Bleecker Street, \$1,806,634, 866 locations, \$2,086 average, \$4,913,080, 3 Weeks.*

13. *"Get Out," Universal, \$1,710,240, 1,563 locations, \$1,094 average, \$172,534,250, 10 Weeks.*

14. *"Sleight," OTL Releasing, \$1,701,785, 565 locations, \$3,012 average, \$1,701,785, 1 Week.*

15. *"The Promise," Open Road, \$1,443,046, 2,251 locations, \$641 average, \$7,067,064, 2 Weeks.*

16



18





16. *“Kong: Skull Island,”* Warner Bros.,
\$1,121,735, 933 locations,
\$1,202 average, \$165,487,121, 8 Weeks.

17. *“The Zookeeper’s Wife,”* Focus
Features, \$991,805, 997 locations,
\$995 average, \$14,808,000, 5 Weeks.

18. *“The Case For Christ,”* Pure Flix,
\$989,072, 1,050 locations,
\$942 average, \$13,054,237, 4 Weeks.

19. *“Power Rangers,”* Lionsgate,
\$855,661, 889 locations,
\$962 average, \$84,234,169, 6 Weeks.

20. *“Logan,”* 20th Century Fox,
\$771,459, 614 locations,
\$1,256 average, \$224,508,170, 9 Weeks.

Universal and Focus are owned by NBC Universal, a unit of Comcast Corp.; Sony, Columbia, Sony Screen Gems and Sony Pictures Classics are units of Sony Corp.; Paramount is owned by Viacom Inc.; Disney, Pixar and Marvel are owned by The Walt Disney Co.; Miramax is owned by Filmyard Holdings LLC; 20th Century Fox and Fox Searchlight are owned by 21st Century Fox; Warner Bros. and New Line are units of Time Warner Inc.; MGM is owned by a group of former creditors including Highland Capital, Anchorage Advisors and Carl Icahn; Lionsgate is owned by Lions Gate Entertainment Corp.; IFC is owned by AMC Networks Inc.; Rogue is owned by Relativity Media LLC.





THE HEART BEHIND THE VISION OF 'GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY 2'

"Guardians of the Galaxy" was just the warm-up.

Two years ago, writer and director James Gunn and his cranky, lovable band of multihued misfits in space seemed like a sort of gamble for the Earth-bound Marvel Studios and its ever-growing plans for total multiplex domination. Star Lord wasn't exactly a household name, and neither was Chris Pratt.

Now as "Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2" prepares for launch in North American theaters today, the story is quite different. "Guardians of the Galaxy" was a huge critical and financial success, grossing over \$773 million worldwide, Pratt became an international star, and Gunn was given the greenlight to do what he wanted once more - making "Vol. 2" as weird and wild and idiosyncratic as his imagination would allow. Many reviewers have already called "Vol. 2" better than the first, the monosyllabic Baby Groot is already a breakout star, and it's headed for a possible \$140 million to \$150 million opening weekend.

“So many sequels are not good,” Gunn said. “We really tried to let these characters grow and change. ... I didn’t want it to be a rehash of the first movie.”

Gunn likes to say that “Vol. 2” is an adventure film, a comedy and a space opera tied up into one brightly colored package, but that at its core, it’s a family melodrama. A lot of big action and sci-fi films claim to be about family - whether it’s the people you’re tied to by blood or the ones you choose - but it’s often a lot of talk. “Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2” might have a talking tree and a wise-cracking, machine gun-toting raccoon and an unparalleled glee for the art of teasing, but it’s also got a big, beating heart that actually hit quite close to home for both Pratt and Gunn.

Pratt’s Star Lord/Peter Quill meets his father Ego (Kurt Russell) for the first time in “Guardians 2” after a lifetime of explaining away his absence telling people that his father was David Hasselhoff, while being raised by the scoundrel Ravager, Yondu (Michael Rooker).

A lot of the story, which also includes a sisterly rivalry that has veered into the murderous zone, is drawn from Gunn’s relationship with his father, a recovering alcoholic who has been sober for 20 years, and what he calls his big, lovingly dysfunctional Irish Catholic family. And even though it’s his life on the page, there was one person he needed to get to sign off from first: Pratt.

Pratt’s father died in 2014 after battling multiple sclerosis for years - a condition the once hard-working, tough love, man’s man Dan Pratt refused to treat. In 2015, Pratt told GQ magazine





that it eventually led to him splitting up with his mother and living out the rest of his days in front of the television in assisted living.

“(Chris) was the first person I told it to, that’s for sure. When I came up with the story, Chris came over to my house and I said, ‘OK, here’s what I’m thinking about,’” Gunn said. “I wanted to make sure he was onboard with it because, I mean, there’s a lot of personal stuff there. I wanted to make sure he was cool with it.”

Pratt said he related to the story a lot. His dad, he said, was not dissimilar to Yondu in the way he showed love. Cat Stevens’ “Fathers and Sons” even plays at a pivotal moment.

“All of it is completely honest and true even though it’s about aliens,” Gunn said. “It is honest and true stuff about human beings and the way we interact and how we have a hard time accepting love from other human beings.”

This little cobbled-together family is not disbanding yet, either. Gunn, who has done nothing else but work with these characters for the past five years of his life, will continue stewarding the Guardians through their trials in “Avengers: Infinity War,” where he says they are “supporting characters but not small roles.” He’s also signed on for “Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 3,” which will close out that series and launch Marvel into its next decade.

“With the first movie, James earned Disney’s trust,” Pratt said recently. “On the second movie he was like, ‘I’m going to do whatever I want with all of your money.’ And they said, ‘OK.’ And he made the craziest movie.”

Gunn even said he was a little timid on the first film, but not anymore.





"I'm a little punk rock kid who likes edgy stuff. I thought what I liked might not be what the entire world likes," Gunn said. "But I've come to trust that what I like works."

5 THINGS YOU DON'T KNOW ABOUT BABY GROOT OF 'GUARDIANS'

Baby Groot was "born" at the end of the first "Guardians of the Galaxy" film, and the extraterrestrial, treelike creature is a tiny, scene-stealing superhero in "Vol. 2."

Voiced by Vin Diesel, the computer-generated character usually says just one thing - "I am Groot" - but it means everything, and his intergalactic comrades always seem to understand his (often foul-mouthed) message.

Groot - regenerated from the massive tree-like character in the first film - can grow his arms and legs into twisted branches that can open doors and drawers and pull him into and out of tight spots, but here are five things you don't know about the woody humanoid:

1. Groot apparently took on various duties behind the camera. Stay tuned through the closing credits of "Guardians, Vol. 2" to spot Groot's "contributions" throughout. Groot's name appears throughout the credits - in graphics, special effects and various other departments - which are worth sitting through for the inevitable Marvel movie-ending "Easter eggs" that hint at future action.

2. Baby Groot is an unofficial Earth Day ambassador. Marvel, which considers Groot to be "the galaxy's top tree," joined with the Disney Conservation Fund and the Nature Conservancy to plant a tree every time the hashtag









#GrootDanceBomb shows up on social media. Marvel aims to donate \$250,000 by the time the film opens Friday.

3. Baby Groot's sweet appearance belies his terrible temper. "He's completely adorable, but has a lot more anger issues than adult Groot did," says writer-director James Gunn.

4. Co-starring alongside actors Dave Bautista and Chris Pratt, who both stand over 6 feet, Baby Groot proved to be a challenge for the cinematographers framing the shots. They used a sculpture of the 10-inch diminutive character, which was created entirely in CGI for the film, and special camera rigging to capture Baby Groot's perspective amid the other superheroes.

5. Franchise star Pratt, who plays Guardians leader Star-Lord, knew early on in the filming that he could be upstaged by his tiny co-star. During the opening sequence, while the Guardians battle a massive, multi-jawed space slug, the camera stays focused on a dancing Baby Groot in the foreground. Gunn recalled Pratt looking over at the sculpture of Groot in the scene and saying, "Damn it, he's going to steal the whole movie."



Microsoft



MICROSOFT TAKES AIM AT GOOGLE WITH LAPTOP, SLIM WINDOWS

Microsoft is taking aim at Google as it introduced a Surface device for students and slimmed down Windows for the classroom.

The new Surface Laptop is the first Surface device without a detachable keyboard. Microsoft says the new laptop will have up to 14.5 hours of battery life, compared with 12 hours for the MacBook Air. The Surface Laptop will come out on June 15.

The laptop runs Windows 10 S, a streamlined version of the ubiquitous operating system. It will run only software downloaded from the

Windows Store, a limitation that Microsoft touts as a security benefit. Microsoft's previous effort at a slimmed-down Windows, Windows RT, wasn't popular because it wouldn't run older programs unavailable in the Windows Store.

The laptop comes at a rough time for the Surface line, which Microsoft blamed for the small revenue shortfall in its latest quarterly report. And it's a clear effort by Microsoft to step up competition with Google and its inexpensive Chromebooks in the classroom, where the latter has made major inroads .

Microsoft said new education PCs running Windows 10 S will start at \$189, a bit more than the cheapest Chromebooks. The Surface Laptop, though, will start at \$999, the same as the MacBook Air.

Among Microsoft's other education announcements:

- Microsoft is adding a coding feature to Minecraft Education, the offshoot of its wildly popular creator game. Called "Code Builder," the feature combines Minecraft with learn-to-code tools such as Tynker and a new one from Microsoft called MakeCode.
- A classroom version of Microsoft Teams will let students (supervised by their teacher) chat and work together online. In classroom group chats, students can listen to guest speakers, interact and even send emojis and GIF images. If it gets too rowdy, teachers can mute individual students or the whole class, or delete individual comments. Microsoft hopes the tool will serve as a digital hub for classrooms, where teachers can personalize learning and communicate with students and their parents.

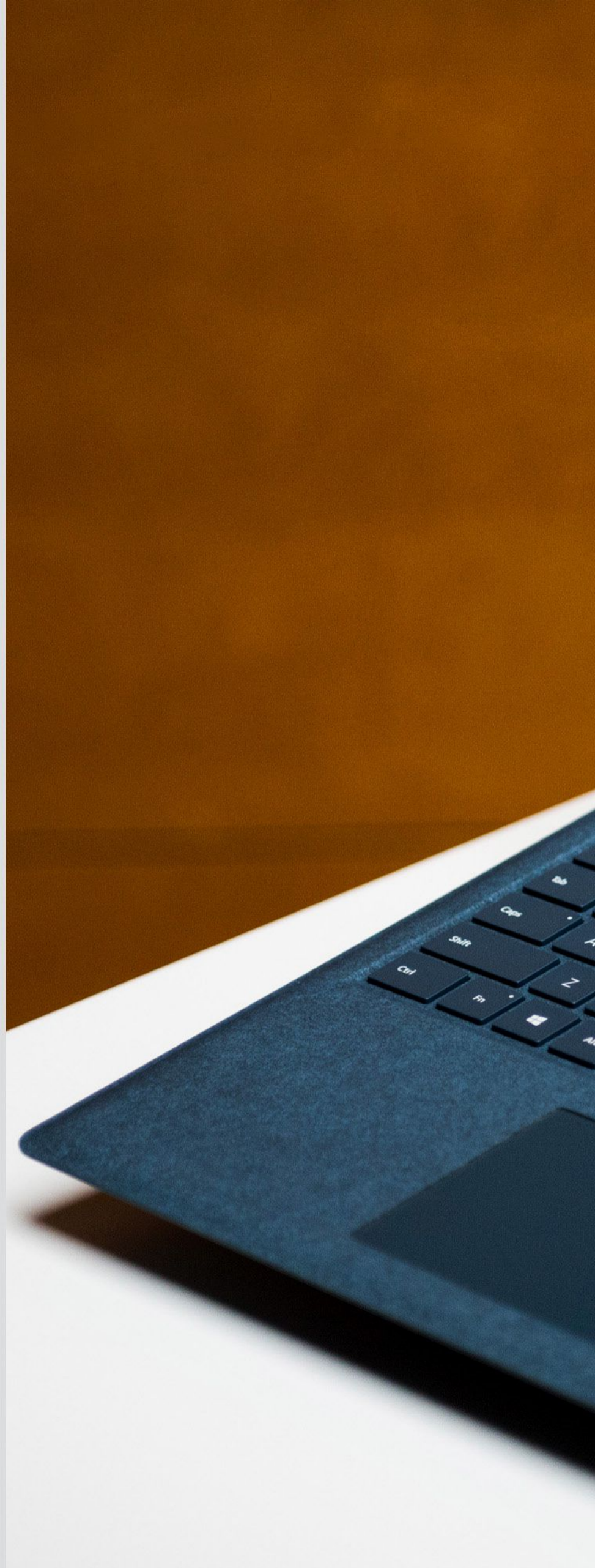


Image: Mark Kauzlarich







OLD CAR, NEW TRICKS: ADDING SAFETY TECH TO AN OLDER CAR

Old cars can learn new tricks.

For a few hundred dollars, drivers can add new safety technology - like forward collision warning systems or backup cameras - to older cars.

Cars are lasting longer than ever thanks to improving quality. The average U.S. vehicle is now 11.6 years old, according to the consulting firm IHS Markit.

But that means millions of car owners are missing out on technology that could potentially save their lives. Forward collision warning systems, for example, can reduce the risk of a crash by 27 percent, according to the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety.

Consumers have to do the math to decide whether it's better to add aftermarket systems to an older car or save up for a new one. Balance the cost of new safety - which can be hefty - with the increased maintenance older cars usually need. If you don't want an extra camera

cluttering up your dashboard, you may want to save up for a new car with built-in systems.

To get blind spot monitoring, forward collision warning and lane departure warning on a new, 2017 Altima SL, you have to spend \$28,570 for the car and add \$3,000 in options.

For a fraction of that amount - \$500 - you could add an aftermarket forward collision system, backup camera and blind spot detection monitors to an older car. You could also consider a late-model used car. A 2015 Nissan Altima SL with blind spot monitoring, a rearview camera and lane departure warning can be found for less than \$20,000, for example.

Buyers may want to wait on a new car because the cost of safety tech is coming down. Toyota is now offering a \$300 package on some vehicles that includes forward collision warning and lane departure warning. Starting with the 2018 model year, all vehicles sold in the U.S. will be required to have backup cameras. And most new cars will have standard automatic emergency braking by 2022.

Shawn Sinclair, an automotive engineer with Consumer Reports magazine, says forward collision warning is the most important feature to consider if you're thinking about adding tech to your car. Even though it won't stop the car from hitting an obstacle - automatic braking isn't available as an aftermarket option - it will warn drivers so they can slow down or maneuver away. Blind spot detection and rear cameras are two others she considers critical.

"But at the same time, you have to say, 'Hey I have this 10-year-old car, maybe it's time to turn it in,'" she said.





Warning



Recording



Arrival
11:08



The quality of aftermarket systems varies considerably. Read reviews or ask a trusted mechanic for recommendations.

Here are four safety features to consider:

FORWARD COLLISION WARNING/LANE DEPARTURE WARNING: Sinclair suggests a system from Mobileye, a tech company that also supplies most major automakers. Mobileye's cameras and software can recognize other vehicles, pedestrians, cyclists and even speed limit signs. The system alerts drivers when they leave a lane and when a collision is up to 2.7 seconds away. Sinclair says it costs around \$1,000 to buy the system and have it installed by a Mobileye technician.

There are many less expensive and easy-to-install dashboard cameras that double as collision warning systems. Garmin's Dash Cam 35 monitors up to 130 feet in front of the vehicle; if the driver is going 30 mph or faster, it will issue audio and visual alerts of impending collisions. The Dash Cam 35 costs \$130 on **Amazon.com**.


BLIND SPOT DETECTION: Blind spot systems use sensors to monitor the sides of the vehicle and flash an icon to the driver if something is in the way. Sinclair recommends Goshers Blind Spot Detection System, which costs \$239. It monitors within 10 feet of the vehicle. Sinclair recommends having a professional install the system; it took her mechanic four hours to do it.

BACKUP CAMERA: According to government statistics, roughly 250 people are killed each year in backover accidents, many of them children. China's Yada brand makes a weather-proof camera with night vision that attaches to the rear of the car. When the car is in reverse, it sends





126ft

NE 
354
MILES TO
DESTINATION



34mpg 29avg

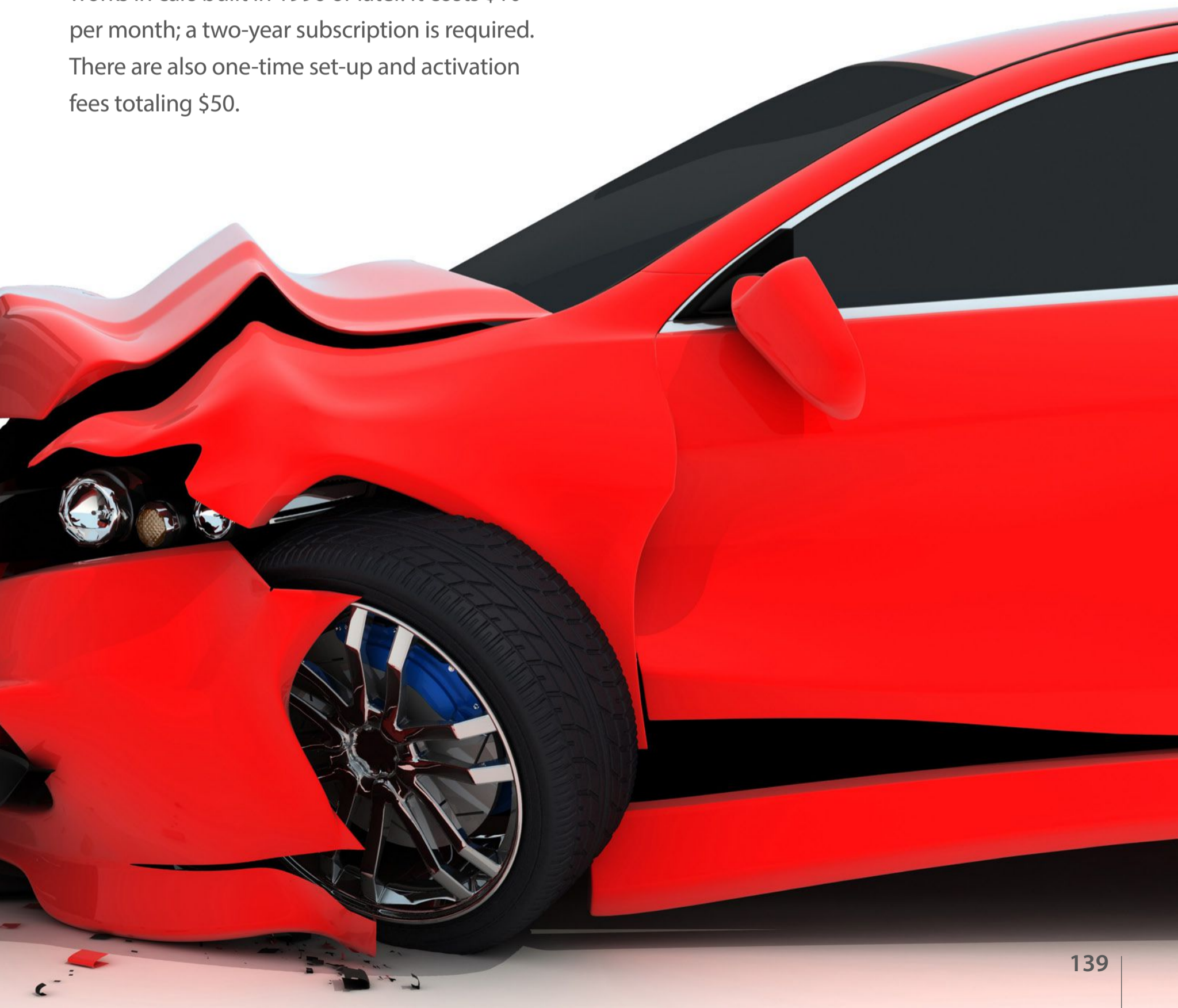


x1000 RPM



images wirelessly to a 4.3-inch monitor. Pep Boys sells the system for \$129. If you don't want a monitor in your car, Auto Vox has one that displays the image in your rear-view mirror. It's \$139 on **Amazon.com**.

EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE: Hum, developed by Verizon, works like General Motors' OnStar system. It will automatically call emergency services if the car has been in an accident. It sends alerts to drivers' phones if there's a mechanical problem and lets drivers press a button if they need roadside assistance. Hum works in cars built in 1996 or later. It costs \$10 per month; a two-year subscription is required. There are also one-time set-up and activation fees totaling \$50.



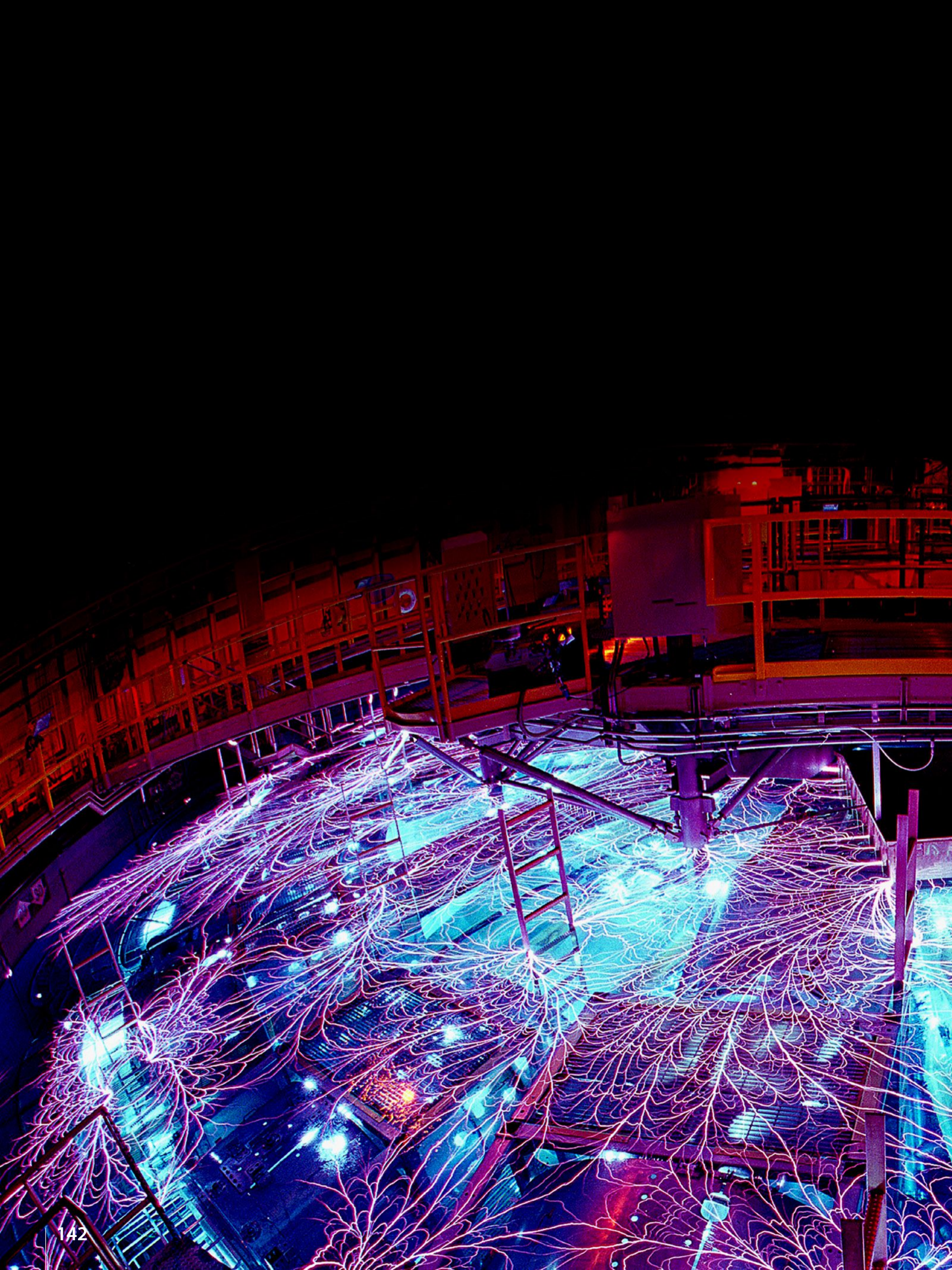




US NUCLEAR WEAPONS LAB TO KEEP FOCUS ON NATIONAL SECURITY

Scientists and researchers at the federal government's largest national laboratory are pushing ahead with work related to national security and the proliferation of nuclear weapons as new managers take over New Mexico-based Sandia National Laboratories for the first time in decades, officials said Monday.

Director Stephen Younger discussed the lab's future during a news conference that marked the start of a new contract with National Technology and Engineering Solutions of Sandia, a subsidiary of Honeywell International.

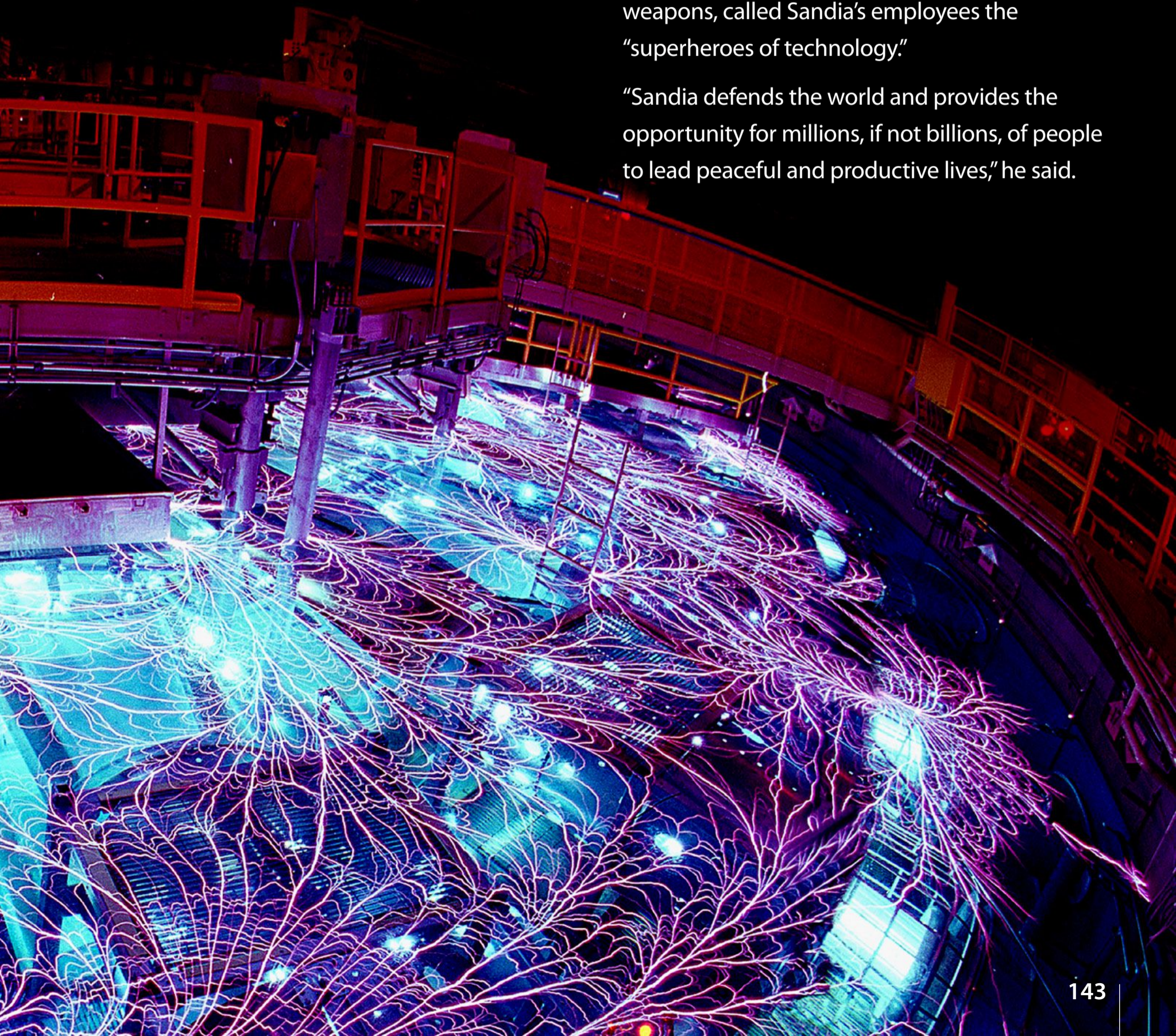


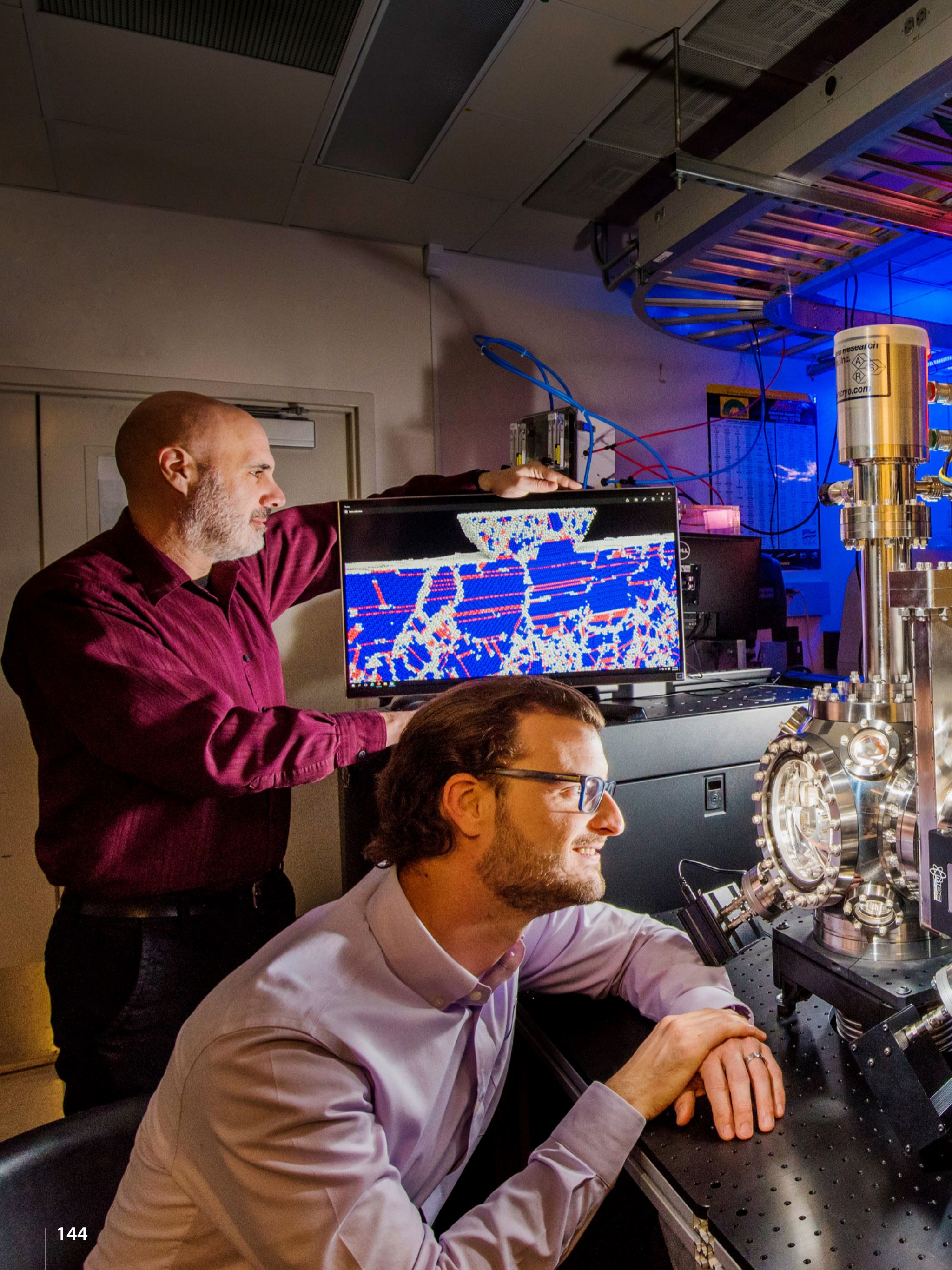
The U.S. Energy Department's National Nuclear Security Administration announced the \$2.6 billion management contract in December. Officials have spent the last few months working on a smooth transition for the lab's thousands of employees and operations.

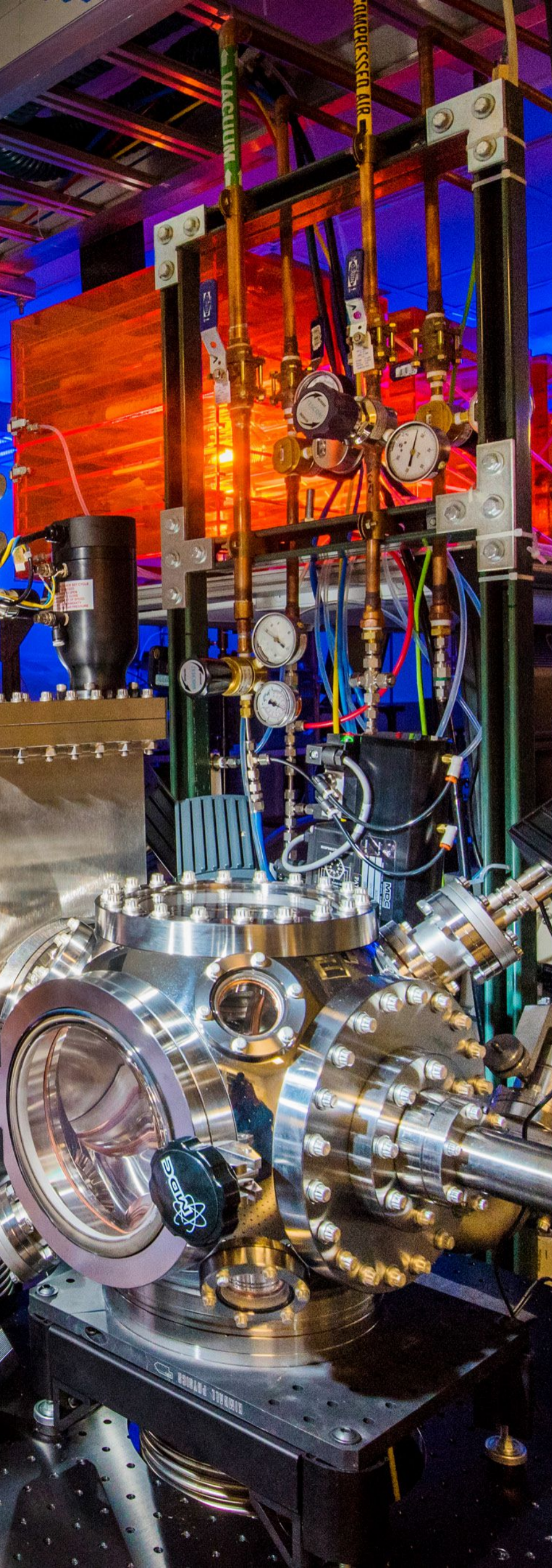
The bulk of work at Sandia centers on the research, development and maintenance of nuclear weapons, but scientists there also have worked on energy and climate projects.

Younger, who has a background in nuclear weapons, called Sandia's employees the "superheroes of technology."

"Sandia defends the world and provides the opportunity for millions, if not billions, of people to lead peaceful and productive lives," he said.







Younger said his team has centuries of combined experience when it comes to national security issues and while the core mission of Sandia will not change, Honeywell, Northrup Grumman and other partners will be looking for ways to do more work and do it faster. The new lab leadership acknowledged current global conflicts, including nuclear threats by North Korea.

“The government understands the importance of these institutions, and the institutions understand they have to be accountable for the money and the information they’re providing. It’s a different world today,” Younger said.

Lockheed Martin had operated Sandia, located in Albuquerque, for the past two decades and was among bidders that lost out to the Honeywell team.

With an annual budget of close to \$3 billion, Sandia is one of the Albuquerque area’s largest employers with more than 10,500 workers. Most are based in Albuquerque, but Sandia also operates sites at Lawrence Livermore lab in California and testing facilities in Nevada and Hawaii.

Its Albuquerque campus spans more than 21 square miles. A recent report by a coalition of local governments found that Sandia’s partnership with private organizations through a science and technology park has generated more than \$315 million in economic impact across the state over two years.

Sandia will continue to work with local and small businesses, Deputy Director Dave Douglass said Monday.

IMAGINE DRAGONS



BELIEVER

TOP 10 SONGS

DESPACITO (FEAT. JUSTIN BIEBER) [REMIX]
LUIS FONSI & DADDY YANKEE

**SOMEWHERE IN MY BROKEN HEART
(THE VOICE PERFORMANCE)**
LAUREN DUSKI

THAT'S WHAT I LIKE
BRUNO MARS

SOMETHING JUST LIKE THIS
THE CHAINSMOKERS

BELIEVER
IMAGINE DRAGONS

BODY LIKE A BACK ROAD
SAM HUNT

ISSUES
JULIA MICHAELS

ALL I WANT (THE VOICE PERFORMANCE)
HUNTER PLAKE

IT AIN'T ME
KYGO & SELENA GOMEZ

SHAPE OF YOU
ED SHEERAN



TOP 10 ALBUMS

**GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY VOL. 2:
AWESOME MIX, VOL. 2
(ORIGINAL MOTION PICTURE SOUNDTRACK)**
VARIOUS ARTISTS

TWO BIRDS
TRIXIE MATTEL

÷ (DELUXE)
ED SHEERAN

GOD'S PROBLEM CHILD
WILLIE NELSON

24K MAGIC
BRUNO MARS

LOVE AND WAR
BRAD PAISLEY

**MOANA (ORIGINAL MOTION
PICTURE SOUNDTRACK) [DELUXE EDITION]**
VARIOUS ARTISTS

**FIFTY SHADES DARKER
(ORIGINAL MOTION PICTURE SOUNDTRACK)**
VARIOUS ARTISTS

GHOST STORIES (LIVE)
WELCOME TO NIGHT VALE

**LA LA LAND
(ORIGINAL MOTION PICTURE SOUNDTRACK)**
VARIOUS ARTISTS





TOP 10 MUSIC VIDEOS

DESPACITO (FEAT. DADDY YANKEE)

LUIS FONSI

THE FIGHTER (FEAT. CARRIE UNDERWOOD)

KEITH URBAN

WHILE MY GUITAR GENTLY WEEPS (LIVE)

DHANI HARRISON, JEFF LYNNE, PRINCE, STEVE WINWOOD & TOM PETTY

SHAPE OF YOU

ED SHEERAN

DIE WITH YOU

BEYONCÉ

RICH AND MISERABLE

KENNY CHESNEY

24K MAGIC

BRUNO MARS

**BAD MAN (FEAT. ROBIN THICKE,
JOE PERRY & TRAVIS BARKER)**

PITBULL

WOMEN

DEF LEPPARD

RIGHT NOW

HAIM





TOP 10 TV SHOWS

GUILT TRIP

KEEPING UP WITH THE KARDASHIANS, SEASON 13

SNATCH GAME

RUPAUL'S DRAG RACE, SEASON 9 (UNCENSORED)

EXTRAORDINARY HAZARD

MADAM SECRETARY, SEASON 3

REUNION, PT. 3

THE REAL HOUSEWIVES OF ATLANTA, SEASON 9

SOMEBODY'S DEAD

BIG LITTLE LIES

THIN ICE

DOCTOR WHO, SEASON 10

SABROSITO

BETTER CALL SAUL, SEASON 3

DON'T STOP ME NOW

GREY'S ANATOMY, SEASON 13

MERCY

SCANDAL, SEASON 6

BLACK HEART, WHITE MOUNTAIN

INTO THE BADLANDS, SEASON 2





ALLO **TOP 10** BOOKS

INTO THE WATER

PAULA HAWKINS

16TH SEDUCTION

JAMES PATTERSON & MAXINE PAETRO

A COURT OF WINGS AND RUIN

SARAH J. MAAS

THE FIX

DAVID BALDACCI

BLACK PLATINUM

P.T. MICHELLE

**THE TRIALS OF APOLLO, BOOK TWO:
DARK PROPHECY**

RICK RIORDAN

THE HANDMAID'S TALE

MARGARET ATWOOD

HERE COMES TROUBLE

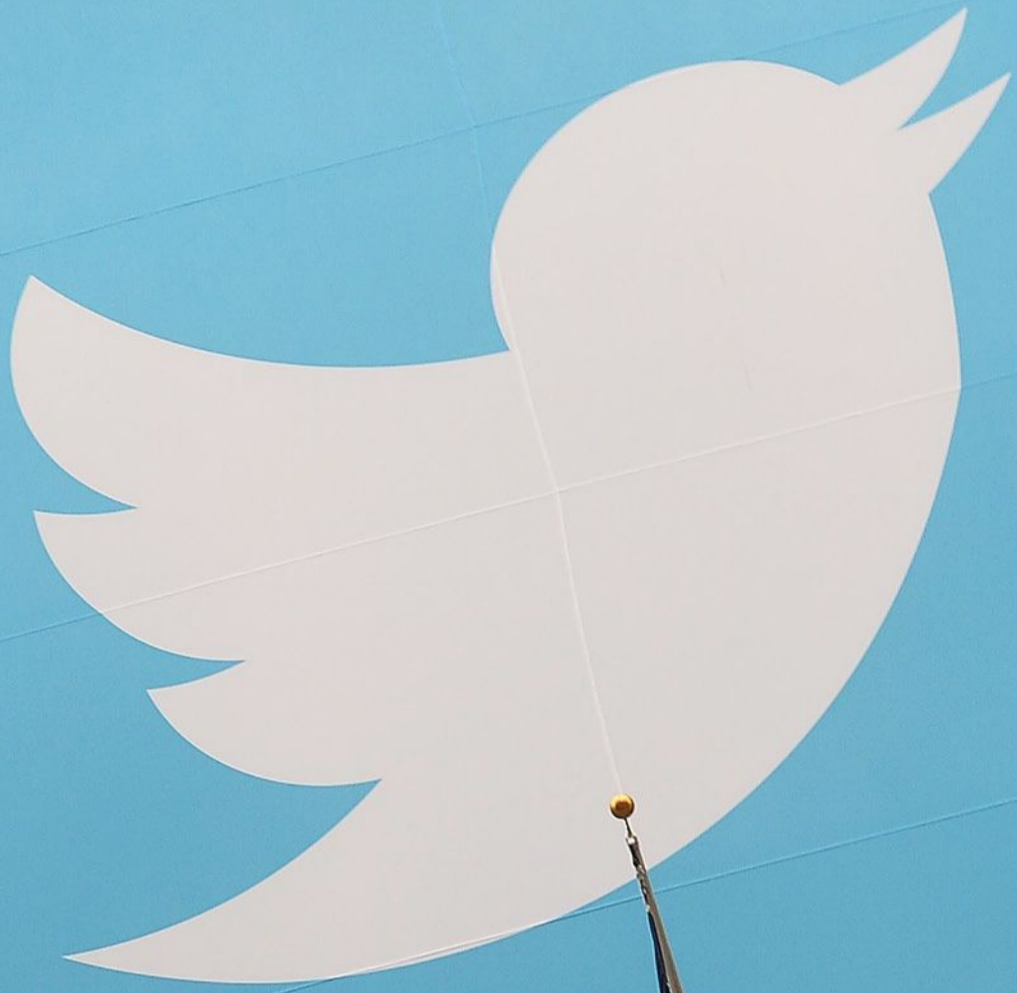
DEBBIE MACOMBER

JOY RIDE

LAUREN BLAKELY

ASTROPHYSICS FOR PEOPLE IN A HURRY

NEIL DE GRASSE TYSON



@twitter



WNBA SET TO STREAM 20 GAMES A SEASON ON TWITTER

The WNBA will stream 20 games a year over the next few seasons on Twitter in a deal announced Monday night.

“We are thrilled to bring live WNBA games to Twitter, which will allow us to further showcase our league to a global audience,” WNBA President Lisa Borders said. “This partnership displays Twitter’s extraordinary commitment to women’s sports and the rising popularity of our athletes and our game.”



Image: Phil Ellsworth



It's the first women's sport to be live-streamed on Twitter. The inaugural game will be the Dallas Wings against the Phoenix Mercury on May 14.

"We are thrilled to be a part of the WNBA's first live stream on Twitter," Dallas Wings president and chief executive officer Greg Bibb said.

"This historic partnership between the league and Twitter will allow our fans to engage with our brand in a new, exciting way and we look forward to our four games on this dynamic and interactive platform as well as all WNBA contests featured this season and beyond."

The agreement also includes the WNBA joining Twitter's Amplify program, which will include 40 highlight packages per week being featured across Twitter.

Streaming games on Twitter isn't the only growth the WNBA is seeing this season. More games will be televised locally than last year.

"We are excited to help extend the reach of women's sports around the world by collaborating further with the NBA to be the home of weekly live WNBA games for the next three seasons," Twitter chief operating officer Anthony Noto said.

"The growing women's basketball fanbase will be able to turn to Twitter to watch free games side by side with the real-time conversation."

The games on Twitter are exclusive to the social media platform and aren't on local or national TV. Twitter is paying the WNBA an undisclosed amount to stream the games.

The WNBA regular season tips off May 13.





1ST US OFFSHORE WIND FARM POWERING MORE OF RHODE ISLAND

The nation's first offshore wind farm is powering more of Rhode Island.

The Block Island Power Company says it shut down its diesel generators and transferred the island's electrical grid Monday, a savings of nearly 1 million gallons of diesel fuel annually.

Deepwater Wind's five turbines began generating power for the mainland grid in December. Block Island had to be connected with a new cable.

The power company says the early morning transfer was the final step in a process that began more than a decade ago, when the cost of fuel for the generators drove electrical costs to more than 60 cents per kilowatt hour.

It says Block Island's 2,000 electric customers now have access to cheaper and cleaner energy at stable prices.

TURKISH COURT FORMALLY BLOCKS ACCESS TO WIKIPEDIA

In a move that social media users called censorship, a Turkish court blocked access to Wikipedia, the free online encyclopedia, enforcing an earlier restriction by Turkey's telecommunications watchdog.

The Information and Communication Technologies Authority (BTK) said an Ankara court ordered last weekend that a "protection measure" related to suspected internet crimes be applied to Wikipedia. Such measures are used to block access to pages or entire websites to protect "national security and public order."


In response, Wikipedia founder Jimmy Wales tweeted his support for those who labeled the decision censorship: "Access to information is a fundamental human right. Turkish people I will always stand with you to fight for this right."







Image: Lane Hartwell



Turkey Blocks, an internet censorship monitor, said users in Turkey have been unable to access all language editions of Wikipedia since 8 a.m. Saturday 29.

“The loss of availability is consistent with internet filters used to censor content in the country,” the monitor said.

The site had initially been blocked by BTK under a provisional administration measure.

The exact reason for the ban remains unclear. But Turkey’s official news agency, quoting the Ministry of Transport, Maritime Affairs and Communications, said Saturday the site was blocked for “becoming an information source acting with groups conducting a smear campaign against Turkey in the international arena.”

The state-run Anadolu Agency said officials had warned Wikipedia to remove content likening Turkey to terror groups but the site “persistently” did not.

Turkey had demanded that Wikipedia open an office in the country, act in line with international law and abide by court decisions and not be part of “blackout operation against Turkey,” according to the agency.



Main Page Talk Read View source View history Search

Please note: In less than 11 hours, the English Wikipedia will be blacked out globally to protest SOPA and PIPA.

[Learn more](#)

- Main page
- Contents
- Featured content
- Current events
- Random article
- Donate to Wikipedia
- Interaction
 - Help
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 - Recent changes
 - Contact Wikipedia

Welcome to Wikipedia,
the free encyclopedia that anyone can edit.
3,849,004 articles in English

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- Society
- Technology
- All portals

Today's featured article

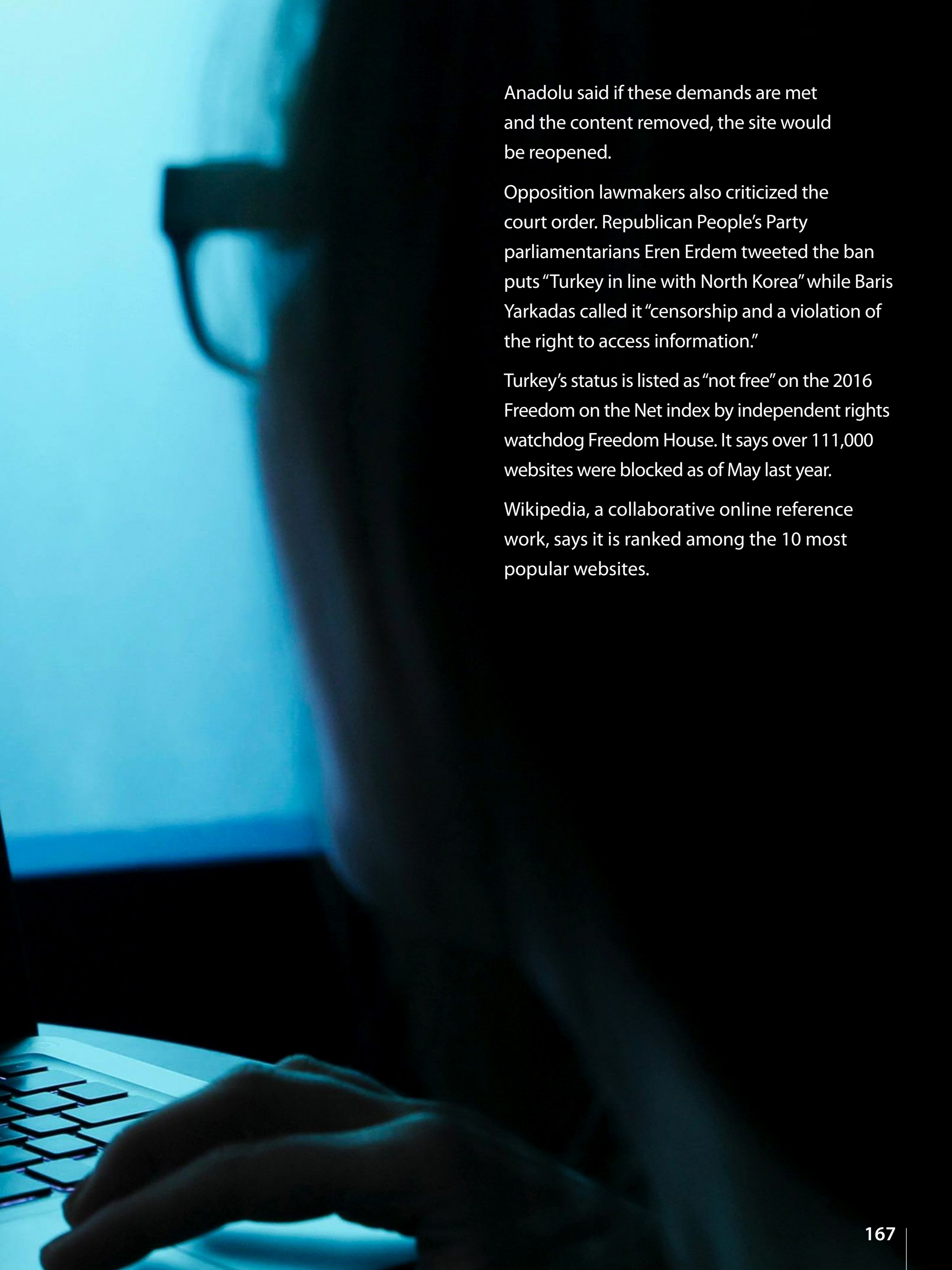


Mauna Kea is a volcano on the island of Hawaii. Standing 4,205 m (13,796 ft) above sea level, its peak

In the news

- In the Republic of China (Taiwan), Ma Ying-jeou (pictured) is re-elected as president of the





Anadolu said if these demands are met and the content removed, the site would be reopened.

Opposition lawmakers also criticized the court order. Republican People's Party parliamentarians Eren Erdem tweeted the ban puts "Turkey in line with North Korea" while Baris Yarkadas called it "censorship and a violation of the right to access information."

Turkey's status is listed as "not free" on the 2016 Freedom on the Net index by independent rights watchdog Freedom House. It says over 111,000 websites were blocked as of May last year.

Wikipedia, a collaborative online reference work, says it is ranked among the 10 most popular websites.

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