

Unique Robot Product – Hype or Useful?

Product Comments for CES 2020

NO.1 Charmin's Toilet Paper Robot



Charmin developed this two-wheel robot to deliver toilet paper at home. There are some intuitive doubts about the product. If you are at home, why would you need a robot to bring you toilet paper? You could let your mother send you some or run through the house half-naked if there is no one at home. The application is so limited given the assumption most of the public space offer toilet paper. Meanwhile, the technology behind the product is still complicated as a sweeping robot.

NO.2 Ford becomes first customer to incorporate Agility Robotics into factory



Agility developed the legged robot to help with “efficient” and “affordable” warehouse service. And it's claimed that Ford will be the first customer to buy “two” robots from Agility.

It's easy to demonstrate that a legged robot certainly isn't the best choice for warehouse service as the solution shown in the following picture that AGV has a better performance no matter for efficiency or cost. Then comes the question of why Ford wants to buy the robot, and only two of them?



NO.3 BlackBerry and AWS combine forces to create edge-to-cloud platform for automakers

BlackBerry's QNX embedded operation system has been the oldest player in autonomous driving development while facing a strong competitor like Intel Eyesight and NVIDIA DRIVE operation system. There is an urgent need for BlackBerry to demonstrate their ability in AI computing for autonomous driving. However, cooperating with a cloud computing supplier isn't a good idea. The last relative word with the self-driving car is "cloud". As we know, high edge computing force is the core of self-driving computing. There is no doubt that the company will use AWS service more or less. However, is this that important to be claimed in CES news?

NO.4 Hyundai Motor and Uber release full-scale air taxi model at CES



Air taxi is in the near future as long as you believe. Are the big fans and the design is eye-catching enough that the two company even don't need to demonstrate the technology and feasibility behind it? Maybe the company should put more emphasis on its self-driving technology instead of looking forward to the far future.

NO.5 Samsung shows the Demo of the domestic robot Ballie



Domestic and companion robot are not popular in the real market unless they can solve some strong need for users like sweeping robots or pet cameras do. The concept of the robot is just so universal that it will confuse the customer why I need it. But it creates great buzz for Samsung that they have a focus on AI and robotics industry, which may be their final goal.