



Sunshine superstar

Our tech guy Jon Mamonski was at the recent Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas for the launch of the world's first solar car – and it's Australian. He also takes a look at what else stole the show

It's been a long time coming. Australia's own World Solar Race has sun-powered vehicles competing over the 3022km journey from Darwin to Adelaide since 1987 – that's the past 33 years.

Still, it has taken Lightyear – a Dutch solar car company – 10 years to bring a car called the Lightyear One to full production this year.

Picture this, being untied from the electricity grid and driving on free, clean solar power alone.

The Lightyear One is a five-seat solar-powered car that can be charged using both solar power and traditional charging methods with solar panels on the bonnet and the roof – charging anytime it's in the sun.

The car has a range of more than 800 kilometres and can be recharged to 80 per cent in an hour using a fast charger.

That means more freedom to travel unanchored by charging infrastructure.

The Lightyear One stole the Consumer



Electronics Show because rather than being a prototype, it's in production and Lightyear 2 will sell in Australia for around \$63,000 and is due to start building in 2025.

Like me, you can join the wait list.

Lightyear 2 needs three times fewer charges than a conventional EV because this aerodynamic car does a lot with its energy.

As well as the sun, any power outlet in the world becomes a charging station – even a regular home socket.

Lightyear 2 has the smallest energy footprint of any electric vehicle on the market. Its lifetime emissions are half than that of conventional EVs – for a truly sustainable way to explore the world – without taxing it. The clever design is aerodynamic and puts a motor inside each wheel and thus runs on a smaller battery.

Depending on your driving habits and by parking the Lightyear in the sun, you may go for several months between charges – imagine that.

Lightyear already has orders for more than 30,000 from ride-share and commercial companies.

The cost of fuel and electricity is rising but your daily commutes don't have to drain your battery or your wallet. You could power your drives entirely with free, clean energy.

To join the 2025 wait list go to [www.https://lightyear.one/lightyear-2](https://lightyear.one/lightyear-2)

I'm number 317 on the Australian waiting list.

LG receives 28 CES 2023 Innovation Awards

Of the 28 honours LG received at CES 2023, 10 went to LG OLED TVs, marking the 11th consecutive year that the company's self-lit TVs have received CES Innovation Awards. LG OLED TVs are prized by consumers worldwide for their exceptional picture quality, which deliver vibrant, accurate colours, deep blacks and infinite contrast. At the show, LG introduced its awarded 97-inch LG SIGNATURE OLED M (model M3), the world's first consumer TV with Zero Connect1 technology with all cables and players (save power) going to a black box you can place anywhere in the room leaving the screen, wall and cabinet clear of messy cables and devices.



Withings U-Scan will read your pee

Ever imagine you could get on-the-spot health data at home – just by going to the loo? You soon can with the Withings U-Scan pee sensor. The device sits at the front of your toilet and when you pee – it's best to sit when you do so to get an accurate sample – it collects the urine, analyses it and then sends the results to your phone or your doctor via Wi-Fi. What type of results may you ask? It can monitor daily ketones and vitamin C levels and test your urine's pH level, which can indicate overall kidney health. Use a different cartridge, women can use it to track their menstrual cycles. The fact that you can do this testing daily without even really thinking about it and get results sent to you right away is what truly sets the U-Scan apart.



Samsung release the new Galaxy S23 phone series

You want great photos and videos from your phone and Samsung delivers with the new Galaxy S23 series phones. Samsung Galaxy's S23 cameras give you freedom to explore your creativity, like capturing cinematic 'Nightography' videos with transformative AI. The Snapdragon 8 Gen 2 Mobile Platform unleashes mobile gaming features and powerfully-sustained game play with the fastest mobile graphics. The Galaxy S23 Ultra boasts a new 200MP Adaptive Pixel sensor that captures epic moments with incredible precision using 'pixel binning' to support multiple levels of high-resolution processing at once with ultra-fast autofocus, Super HDR and twice the image stabilising than previous models for noticeably better images and videos.

It does matter

The emerging common smart-home standard, Matter, launched at the end of last year so there was a wave of devices at CES 2023 built for the new platform. Matter – which is backed by all the big names in the smart-home industry – promises seamless inter-operability between your many different smart-home devices, even if they're all built by different companies. Of the Matter-ready gadgets I saw at this year's show, Mui Labs' Mui Board is a clear winner with a calming wood-covered, touch-sensitive display that hangs on your wall, broadcasting weather, clocks and alarms, audio controls or whatever data streams you desire. It can be controlled from any device, voice assistant or connected gadget.



You deserve better bike brakes

If you have made the switch to an electric bike, then you want – no, need and deserve – a bike that's as safe to stop as your car. At CES 2023, Bosch introduced a new line up of antilock braking systems for e-bikes outfitted with the company's electric drivetrains. The new system uses speed sensors built into the hydraulic brake hardware that measure how fast the specially-enhanced brake rotors are spinning and then determine what amount of stopping force needs to be applied to bring you and your cargo safely to a halt. Like ABS systems on cars, these antilock brakes are more effective than traditional braking systems – especially in adverse weather conditions. Bosch will produce different systems tuned for mountain biking, city commuting and cargo hauling. Right now, Bosch's two-wheeled ABS is available only in parts of Europe but we expect them here by year's end.

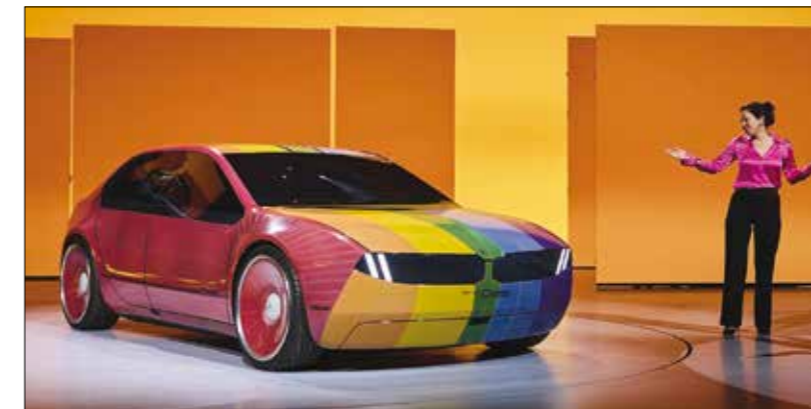
Your fridge as the family hub

Samsung has released the Bespoke four-door Flex refrigerator with Family Hub Plus, their top model combining an all-in-one communication and entertainment hub with a 32-inch touch screen display that can transmit more than 190 free channels while Google Photos integration transforms the screen into a digital photo frame to share and display photos. The larger screen space and Samsung TV Plus's new picture-in-picture (PIP) feature allows you to catch up on TV shows while checking and monitoring the status of other kitchen appliances while keeping an eye on what they are cooking.



Rideshare safety

There's only one thing scarier than getting in a car driven by a stranger and that's pulling up to a curb and having a stranger climb into the backseat behind you. Bosch's RideCare is a smart camera system designed specifically as a safety device for rideshare drivers. The system is powered by the car's cigarette lighter and has both front- and rear-facing cameras. The interior camera uses infrared lighting to see inside the car when it's dark. If something seems amiss, the driver can punch a discreet wireless SOS button to contact Bosch's emergency services. The emergency responders can access a video feed from inside the car – along with location information and a time stamp – to decide whether the driver needs them to call for help.



Mood change colour for your car

This is the BMW i Vision Dee – which stands for 'Digital Emotional Experience'. It is one of BMW's most radical – yet in some ways plausible – concept cars as an EV that leans hard into digital features like a 32-colour changeable skin, augmented reality and voice-driven virtual assistants. The concept also offers the ability to create a driver avatar profile which can even be projected onto the side window. The headlights and the closed BMW kidney grille also form a common phygital – a fusion of physical and digital – icon on the surface, allowing the vehicle to produce different facial expressions.

ASUS foldable OLED tablet laptop

With seven CES 2023 Awards, ASUS went all out to create an OLED 17.3-inch tablet that folds down instantly to a compact 12.5-inch powerfully-featured laptop, keyboard and quality Harman Kardon Dolby Atmos sound included. The 75Wh battery will last up to 9.5 hours with an innovative camera system including a 5 MP AI webcam, an HD IR camera for fast face login and a colour sensor for automatic brightness and colour temperature control. All for \$6499.



Leave your earbuds in

An annoying thing about wireless earbuds is having to pull out your phone to check battery levels or change settings. The JBL Tour Pro 2 Wireless earbuds case has a clear 3.7cm screen that allows you to check the charge of each earbud, turn noise cancelling and ambient sound on and off and adjust other features. As you'd expect from JBL, quality is all there with six microphones for calls and noise cancelling, an IPX5 water resistance rating and eight hours of battery life (with ANC on) between trips to a 24-hour charging case. Now available for \$330.



Cinema quality sound in your living room

One display that turned heads more than most was the Nakamichi Dragon Surround Sound with 21 speakers housed in five enclosures. It sounded incredible – like being in a Dolby Atmos cinema. It is the world's first 21-channel surround system with 15 digital amplifiers delivering 3000 watts, quad subwoofers, six up-firing speakers, seven air motion tweeters and two Omni-Motion Reference Surrounds. Simple set-up includes the system checking your room acoustics to deliver the best possible sound. Expect to pay \$3950 when it becomes available later this year.