



Waymo Launches New Chinese-Made Robotaxi Service

Description

Waymo has begun offering select passengers in Los Angeles, Phoenix, and San Francisco rides in its latest robotaxi, a modified electric minivan named Ojai. This development is significant as it represents the company's continued efforts to refine autonomous vehicle technology and enhance service accessibility for a larger number of passengers.

Currently, Waymo provides free rides in the Ojai to a limited number of customers in order to collect feedback and improve the overall experience. The vehicle, produced in partnership with Zeekr, aims to offer a cost-effective solution that can endure extensive usage from diverse riders.

The introduction of the Ojai follows extensive research and testing, focused on delivering a vehicle that is comfortable, user-friendly, and economical in terms of both production and operation costs. However, the launch coincides with a difficult period for Waymo, which recently ceased robotaxi services on freeways in several cities to address issues with its vehicles navigating construction zones. Additional services in Atlanta and San Antonio were also halted due to flooding concerns.

Despite these challenges, the Ojai offers a potential path to increasing scalability and profitability for Waymo. Using hardware and software developed by Waymo but based on Zeekr's platform, the vehicle represents nearly two years of rigorous testing, reflecting lessons learned from over 500,000 weekly paid robotaxi rides.

The Ojai features a range of enhancements designed to improve customer comfort, including spacious interiors and user-friendly technology interfaces. Waymo aims to expand its fleet capacity significantly, initially starting with the Ojai and later with the Hyundai Ioniq 5, potentially reaching tens of thousands of units annually.

Vocabulary List:

1. **autonomous** //ɔ:'tɒnəməs// (adjective): able to work or operate without human control
2. **accessibility** //æk,sɛsə'bɪləti// (noun): easy for people to use or reach
3. **refine** //rɪ'faɪn// (verb): make something better by small changes
4. **scalability** //,skeɪlə'bɪləti// (noun): ability to grow or handle more use
5. **profitability** //,prɒfɪ'tæbəlɪti// (noun): ability to make money or profit
6. **rigorous** //ˈrɪɡərəs// (adjective): very careful and thorough in testing



Comprehension Questions

Multiple Choice

1. What is the name of Waymo's latest robotaxi?
Option: Zeekr
Option: Ojai
Option: Ioniq 5
Option: Tesla
2. In which cities has Waymo begun offering rides in the Ojai?
Option: New York, Chicago, Miami
Option: Los Angeles, Phoenix, San Francisco
Option: Seattle, Denver, Austin
Option: Dallas, Houston, Orlando
3. What is the primary purpose of Waymo's free rides in the Ojai?
Option: To advertise the vehicle
Option: To collect feedback and improve the overall experience
Option: To increase subscription rates
Option: To compete with other companies
4. Which company did Waymo partner with to produce the Ojai?
Option: Hyundai
Option: Tesla
Option: Zeekr
Option: Ford
5. How many weekly paid robotaxi rides has Waymo conducted to date?
Option: 500,000
Option: 1 million
Option: 250,000
Option: 750,000
6. What future vehicle does Waymo plan to expand its fleet with?
Option: Tesla Model 3



- Option: Hyundai Ioniq 5
- Option: Ford Mustang
- Option: Chevrolet Bolt

True-False

- 7. Waymo's Ojai is a modified electric minivan.
- 8. Waymo has successfully implemented robotaxi services in all major cities without any issues.
- 9. The Ojai is designed to be difficult to use and uncomfortable for passengers.
- 10. Waymo's launch of the Ojai comes at a time of challenges for the company regarding robotaxi services.
- 11. Waymo is planning to limit its production capacity for the Ojai to improve service quality.
- 12. Waymo's enhancements to the Ojai include improvements in customer comfort.

Gap-Fill

- 13. Waymo offers rides in its latest robotaxi, the Ojai, to select passengers in _____.
- 14. The Ojai is produced in partnership with _____.
- 15. Waymo aims to expand its fleet capacity significantly with the Ojai and later with _____.
- 16. The introduction of the Ojai follows extensive research and _____.
- 17. Waymo suspended robotaxi services on freeways to address issues with _____ zones.
- 18. Waymo has conducted over 500,000 weekly paid _____ rides.

Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. Ojai 2. Los Angeles, Phoenix, San Francisco 3. To collect feedback and improve the overall experience



4. Zeekr 5. 500,000 6. Hyundai Ioniq 5

True-False: 7. True 8. False 9. False 10. True 11. False 12. True

Gap-Fill: 13. Los Angeles 14. Zeekr 15. Hyundai Ioniq 5 16. testing 17. construction 18. robotaxi

Vocabulary quizzes

Multiple Choice (Select the Correct answer for each question.)

1. What term describes the ability of a system to handle a growing amount of work?

Option: Sustainability

Option: Scalability

Option: Reliability

Option: Efficiency

2. Which of the following best defines a company's ability to generate profit?

Option: Profitability

Option: Market Share

Option: Revenue

Option: Liquidity

3. What term is used for systems that can operate independently without human intervention?

Option: Automatic

Option: Autonomous

Option: Assisted

Option: Manual

4. Which word refers to significant developments or improvements, especially in technology?

Option: Setbacks

Option: Advancements

Option: Declines

Option: Diminishing

5. What is formed when two or more parties work together on a project?

Option: Contracts

Option: Collaborations

Option: Competitions

Option: Conflicts

6. Which word best describes a process that is strict, demanding, and thorough?

Option: Flexible

Option: Rigorous



Option: Lenient

Option: Casual

7. What term is used to describe something handed down by predecessors?

Option: Heritage

Option: Legacy

Option: Reputation

Option: Trend

8. What term means to improve or revise something significantly?

Option: Deteriorated

Option: Revamped

Option: Neglected

Option: Maintained

9. What term refers to the act of temporarily stopping something?

Option: Termination

Option: Suspension

Option: Continuation

Option: Acceleration

10. What adjective describes processes that renew or restore something?

Option: Destructive

Option: Regenerative

Option: Complacent

Option: Stagnant

Gap-Fill (Fill in the blanks with the correct word from the vocabulary list.)

11. The new car model features _____ driving capabilities that allow it to navigate without human input.

12. The startup plans to enhance its platform's _____ to accommodate more users as demand grows.

13. Improving operational efficiency is crucial for increasing the company's _____ in the next fiscal year.

14. Her contributions to science left a lasting _____ that continues to inspire future



generations.

15. The research study underwent a _____ review process to ensure its validity and accuracy.

16. The restaurant has been _____ with a new menu and modern decor to attract more customers.

17. Strategic _____ with tech firms have helped advance our project significantly.

18. Recent _____ in AI technology have transformed the way industries operate.

19. The athlete faced a temporary _____ from competition due to a doping violation.

20. This new treatment is known for its _____ properties that help repair damaged tissues.

Matching Sentences (Match each definition to the correct word from the vocabulary list.)

21. The design of the building was praised for its unique aesthetics, blending modern and traditional styles.
22. The renovations will commence next month and are expected to last for six weeks.
23. The new system includes advanced monitors that track performance metrics in real-time.
24. The solar energy setup includes high-efficiency inverters to convert sunlight into usable electricity.
25. The engine generates high torque, providing exceptional acceleration and performance on the road.
26. His actions were seen as an attempt to undermine the team's efforts, creating division among members.
27. The consequences of ignoring climate change can be quite grave for future generations.
28. The company unveiled its latest product at the annual tech expo, attracting considerable attention.



29. After several discussions, the team concluded that the new project was not feasible within the given timeframe.

30. The author subsequently retracted the controversial statement made in their earlier publication.

Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. Scalability 2. Profitability 3. Autonomous 4. Advancements 5. Collaborations 6. Rigorous 7. Legacy 8. Revamped 9. Suspension 10. Regenerative

Gap-Fill: 11. autonomous 12. scalability 13. profitability 14. legacy 15. rigorous 16. revamped 17. collaborations 18. advancements 19. suspension 20. regenerative

Matching sentence: 1. aesthetics 2. commence 3. monitors 4. inverters 5. torque 6. undermine 7. grave 8. unveiled 9. feasible 10. retracted

CATEGORY

1. Business - LEVEL6

POST TAG

1. chinese-made
2. ESL learning
3. esl news
4. Level 6
5. robotaxi
6. waymo

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