All Swell for Altran

Altran has acquired Swell, a provider of automotive engineering, development and testing services based in the Czech Republic. These core capabilities, which are complemented by prototyping skills and CAE know-how, will become part of Altran’s Body-in-White offer.

Swell provides services to the European automotive industry with a portfolio of premium clients in Germany and with long-lasting relations to key OEMs. Clients include Škoda, Robert Bosch, Continental, Magna and Honeywell. “With the acquisitions of Swell and Benteler Engineering, announced earlier this month, we have rebuilt our capacity and capabilities in the region,” said Dominique Cerutti, CEO of the Altran Group.

Founded in 1993, Swell was owned by Genesis Private Equity Fund II and has 100 employees. The acquisition is expected to be completed this year and is subject to customary closing conditions.

Dekra tests in Shanghai

Safety services company Dekra has opened a laboratory for testing automotive components and materials in Shanghai following the recent opening of an IoT lab in Taiwan.

The focus is the growing demand for safe wireless components for the Internet of Vehicles (IoV) and safety electromobility. “Thanks to strategic acquisitions, internal growth and professional services, Dekra has risen up to become one of the world’s leading testing, inspection and certification organisations,” said Stefan Kobli, chairman of Dekra. “In the last two years alone, we have commissioned 15 new laboratories around the world and created a substantial network, because safety is a basic human need all over the world.”

The laboratory is in the Jiading district of Shanghai and offers various high-tech testing services including chemical tests and material identification, safety tests and certification, tests of electromagnetic compatibility, reliability testing, and fault analysis.

Deep learning added to Netradyne fleet manager

Artificial intelligence company Netradyne has added three deep learning features to its Driveri fleet management platform. These are traffic light detection, relative speed determination and pedestrian identification.

Driveri has been developed to capture every moment and aspect of the driving experience, rather than a small sample of triggered data.

The platform’s detection, causality and reasoning capabilities are computed at the vehicle level where fleets can accurately recognize strong results or reinforce best practices to cultivate a more collaborative relationship between the driver and the fleet manager.

These features provide drivers and fleet managers with greater driving situational visibility. Through the accurate detection and recognition of traffic lights, fleets gain insight into their routes, capturing a more robust driving view in the absence of an inertial-based trigger.

It analyses every minute of every driving hour – computing the vehicles speed against the flow of traffic – providing visibility into potential unsafe speed variances based on road conditions.

The platform can now detect proximity of pedestrians to the vehicle, improving risk analysis.

The fleet safety management centre lets fleet managers instantly access video events that have been transmitted based on preconfigured parameters. In addition, Event Access gives fleet managers the ability to access remotely video events that are stored on the platform.

Fleets can respond to immediate inquiries regarding claims, inquiries and customer service requests. Fleet managers can query the Driveri dashboard and search video events by driver, vehicle, date, time and location.

“We are pleased that the Driveri platform continues to evolve and offer greater visibility and value to our customers,” said Aynesh Agrawal, Netradyne’s co-founder and CEO. “Through the application of deep learning, fleets are provided with a wider view into the driving environment, allowing for more complete context around the conditions that the fleet is operating under and ultimately making the fleet safer in those driving conditions.”

Genivi releases development platform

The Genivi Alliance has released a development platform. The GDP 11 Release Candidate 3 is for broad adoption and testing to prove stability before a full release.

Demonstrated last month at the Genivi All Member Meeting in California, it will serve as a tool allowing a broad base of developers to participate in open source software development that produces innovative and near product ready code; and provide an automotive context to assist with testing, prototyping, enhancing and deploying IVI and connected-car software.

The platform aims to enrich the user experience with a Genivi-branded GUI and configurable application launcher. It includes an improved software development environment, including SDK. And it should increase vehicle connectivity with remote vehicle interaction core and Sota client software.

Smart scooter takes selfies

This smart portable, foldable electric scooter has its own operating system with over-the-air software upgrade capability for future-proofing. Called Immotor Go, it also includes an interactive, safe and multi-functional battery and intelligent GPS, tracking, parental or cruise control, and back-end data system.

Built-in safety protocols and self-diagnostics intelligence link directly to customer service, ensuring it always connected and protected.

The operating system supports over-the-air firmware upgrades, developer involvement, customisation and user experience improvements. And it can be controlled by a smartphone, whether to power on, adjust headlight colour or brightness, or the volume and type of horn.

Integrated control buttons on the handle bar can be used for taking selfies or instant pictures of surroundings, broadcasting video or face-timing while riding.