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Article 1: Amazon Pitches Paying by Hand Scan – January 21, 2020

The first article I thought was interesting talks about Amazon’s plan to create checkout terminals that can read a customer’s palm and let them pay without needing to use a card or phone. These were planned to be used in businesses that people revisit often, like fast-food restaurants. If these terminals were to be successful, Amazon’s access to consumer data would be extended further while other products like Apple’s credit cards and Google’s checking accounts would fall behind. While the project has been in its early stages, Amazon has discussed this project with card issuers like Wells Fargo & Co., which have been interested in allowing consumers’ accounts to work with the terminals. Some concerns for these terminals include the detection of fraud and convincing customers to provide more personal information. I feel that this is important because companies have found ways to make paying simpler over time, narrowing it down to cards. The other important part is how companies like Amazon can handle issues like properly detecting peoples’ hands and making sure terminals do not confuse palms with other peoples’ palms.

Article 2: Mitsubishi Motors Faces Emissions Probe in Germany – January 22, 2020

Another article talks about an interesting topic happening in Germany, where German authorities raided facilities related to Mitsubishi Motors Corp. due to an issue involving possible illegal emissions-management software that could have been installed on certain vehicles. This investigation can be connected to a previous investigation on an emissions scandal, which involved Volkswagen AG being charged with using illegal software to cheat on emissions tests. So far, Mitsubishi has not been charged with any crime, and Daniel Narcass, the spokesperson for Mitsubishi Motors Europe BV, stated that they had just recently learned about the investigation on Tuesday when police raided two facilities in Europe, and was not sure what the investigation was about. It is said by Nadja Niesen, the German prosecutor in Frankfurt, that the investigation was launched after the motor vehicle authority in Germany notified the prosecutor about Mitsubishi vehicles that showed signs of the illegal software during routine tests. I feel that this is important because the use of emissions-management software could be evident in many other vehicle brands. Also, if vehicles would continue to let off the same amount of emissions without being stopped, it can continue to negatively affect the atmosphere while authorities would not be aware of the issue until they check the vehicles themselves.

Article 3: Tesla’s Market Cap Surges – January 23, 2020

The last article is about Tesla’s market value, which reached $100 billion Wednesday. This also means Tesla overtakes Volkswagen as the world’s number 2 auto maker in terms of value, only behind Toyota. Tesla’s shares have risen by 4.1% to $569.56, which allowed its market cap to reach $102.7 billion, all while Volkswagen’s shares fell by 1.2% to put their market cap at $99.6 billion. Around 2 years ago, shareholders for Tesla agreed on giving Elon Musk an incentive package, which would be valued at $346 million if sold today. However, in order for Elon to receive the package, Tesla must maintain its market value for another six-month period along with 30 business days. I found this topic to be important because investors a year ago questioned the company on whether or not interest for electric vehicles would actually keep the company going, and as of now, Tesla has gained very high popularity and has been rising in value. The increase in Tesla’s success also means the possibility of electric vehicles being more popular overall.