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Tesla's delivery team gutted in recent job cuts - sources



Inside C2

Southern DAILY

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More violence in Paris as 'yellow vests' keep marching

PARIS (Reuters) - Thousands of French "yellow vest" demonstrators marched on Saturday for their 13th weekend of action, with scuffles in Paris and a demonstrator's hand mangled by a small explosive.

There was also an overnight arson attack on the Brittany residence of the National Assembly head - though no immediate link was made to the actions against President Emmanuel Macron.

The "yellow vest" demonstrators, named for high-visibility car jackets, began in mid-November over fuel taxes then broadened into a more general revolt against a political class they view as out of touch with common people.

In Paris, several thousand marched on Saturday beside symbols of power such as the National Assembly and Senate.

Though mainly peaceful, some protesters threw objects at security forces, a scooter and a police van were set on fire, and some shop windows were smashed.

One participant's hand was severely injured when he tried to pick up a so-called "sting-ball grenade" used by police to disperse crowds with teargas, a police source told Reuters. Another man had blood streaming down his face in front of a line of riot police.

The Interior Ministry put the total number of protesters around France at 12,000, including 4,000 in Paris. The police source, however, said numbers were higher, with 21,000 demonstrators taking part in rallies outside Paris.

"We're not children, we're adults," said Hugues Salone, a computer engineer from Paris, among the chanting and placard-waving protesters. "We really want to assert our choices, and not the choices of the politicians who do not live up to them."

Leaders of the "yellow vest" movement have denounced the police for injuring protesters, but have also struggled to contain violence from their own lines.

On some previous weekends, Paris has been a battleground. Politicians from across the political spectrum condemned the arson attack on the home of Richard Ferrand, a close ally of Macron and president of parliament's lower house.

He published pictures on Twitter of a scorched living room, saying police found materials soaked in fuel. Ferrand said criminal intent was the likely cause, though the perpetrators' identity was unclear.

"Nothing justifies intimidations and violence towards an elected official of the Republic," Macron tweeted in relation to the incident.



An injured protester is given help during a demonstration by the "yellow vests" movement in Paris

Virginia governor appears at funeral as pressure grows on his No. 2

RICHMOND, Va. (Reuters) - Virginia Governor Ralph Northam made his first public appearance on Saturday since defying calls a week ago to step down over a racist yearbook photograph, as his potential successor, a fellow Democrat, faced growing pressure over sexual assault allegations. Lieutenant Governor Justin Fairfax, the state's second-highest elected official, faces the prospect of impeachment proceedings at the hands of another Democrat next week after two women separately accused him of sexual crimes, including rape. Fairfax has denied both claims and called them a "coordinated smear campaign." He has been as defiant as Northam in refusing to step down. Northam's own troubles began when a racist image from his medical school yearbook went public on Feb. 1. After staying out of sight since he faced the press on Feb. 2 to deny he was pictured in a blatantly racist photo on his yearbook page, but admitting that he had worn blackface on another occasion, Northam, 59, returned to the public eye to attend the funeral of a slain state trooper.

Before leaving for the service in Chilhowie, a small town in the state's rural southwest corner, Northam doubled down on his determination to stay in office, pledging to promote racial reconciliation in the remaining three years of his term.

"It's obvious from what happened this week that we still have a lot of work to do," he said in an interview with The Washington Post on Saturday. "There are still some very deep wounds in Virginia, and especially in the area of equity."

He told the Post that conversations this week with black state lawmakers, who are among those calling for him to resign, helped him better understand the history and hurtfulness of blackface, which he admitted using in 1984 to portray Michael Jackson at a dance contest.

The governor also said in the interview that he would take "a harder line" on moving the state's Confederate monuments, which have become lightning rods for racial division, from public property into museums.

The State Department said its statement, which referred to North Korea by the acronym for its official name, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, gave no indication of any progress in the talks.

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Tesla's delivery team gutted in recent job cuts - sources

SAN FRANCISCO (Reuters) - When Tesla Inc announced last month a second round of job cuts to rein in costs, one crucial department was particularly badly hit. The automaker more than halved the division that delivers its electric vehicles to North American customers, two of the laid-off workers said.

Some 150 employees out of a team of about 230 were let go in January at the Las Vegas facility that gets tens of thousands of Model 3s into the hands of U.S. and Canadian buyers, they said, in a sign the company expected the pace of deliveries to significantly slow in the near term.

The cuts, which have not been previously reported, could fuel investor worries that demand for the Model 3 in the United States has tailed off after a large tax break for consumers expired last year and the car remains too expensive for most consumers.

Tesla has said its focus this quarter is on supplying cars to customers waiting in China and Europe.

"There are not enough deliveries," one of the former employees told Reuters. "You don't need a team because there are not that many cars coming through."

Delivery of the Model 3 was the company's key priority in the latter half of 2018, as Tesla tried to supply all buyers wanting the full benefit of the \$7,500 U.S. tax credit before it was cut in half at year's end.

The Model 3 is crucial to Tesla's plans for long-term profitability. The company aims to post a profit in each quarter this year, based on the expectation that it will sell more Model 3s and continue to cut costs.

Tesla declined to comment on the job reductions in the delivery team. The company still has an undisclosed number of delivery personnel attached to other locations.

'EVERY BEING ON THE PLANET'

Even before the paring back of the delivery team, investors questioned the level of demand for the Model 3 remaining

after Tesla's all-out push to supply buyers ahead of the tax credit cut.

"Given the need for revenue to cover costs and generate cash, the financial community should be focused on the level of demand for Tesla vehicles - in particular the Model 3," wrote Barclays analyst Brian Johnson in January.

The two former delivery workers said the 2018 sales push has left Tesla's reservations list plucked clean of North American buyers willing to pay current prices of over \$40,000 to get their hands on a Model 3.

Chief Executive Elon Musk initially said in 2016 the car would start at \$35,000 - which sparked a rush of reservations - but Tesla has yet to actually sell any cars at that price, despite two price cuts already this year.

"We sold through just about every car we had on the ground and we called almost every being on the planet who had ever expressed desire to own a Tesla to let them know the tax credit was expiring," said the other ex-employee.

Tesla workers around the company were reassigned to pitch in, that source said.

"They said, 'Your job is off the table now, we have to get these cars delivered. Because if we don't get these cars delivered, you don't have a job tomorrow,'" the former employee said.

HALF A MILLION BUYERS



At the Model 3 launch in July 2017, Musk said over half a million buyers had put down deposits on the new car. That helped send Tesla shares up almost 15 percent over the following six weeks.

Staff wanted: pensioners welcome, but anyone, really

The company delivered 145,610 Model 3s in 2018, but all of them at prices far above \$35,000. Musk said last week a \$35,000 version that could be sold profitably was perhaps six months away. Even with two price cuts this year, the lowest price tag on a Model 3 is now \$42,900.

Musk maintains that Model 3 demand is "insanely high," but his company has not released any figures to demonstrate that. Asked about the reservations list last week by analysts, outgoing Chief Financial Officer Deepak Ahuja declined to disclose how many people remained, calling it "not

relevant."

Musk has said Tesla has multiple ways of stoking demand, if it chose to, such as offering leases or boosting marketing efforts. The Model 3s now rolling out of Tesla's Fremont, California, factory are going to Chinese and European buyers, Tesla says.

The two laid-off employees said delivery targets for North America - made up of mostly U.S. buyers - this quarter would be 55 percent to 60 percent of what they were in the last quarter of 2018.

If Tesla does not cut prices soon, it risks losing potential customers - and ones already on its reservation list - to a slew of German and Asian competitors whose electric vehicles will hit the U.S. market this year. Each of the new entrant's first 200,000 buyers will be eligible for a full federal subsidy.

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Editor's Choice



Friends of Marco Pimentel, who was murdered by suspected gang members along with his mother and three other relatives of Omar Pimentel, a member of the coaching staff of first division soccer team Sonsonate, attend at their funeral in Chalchuapa, El Salvador, February 9, 2019. REUTERS/Jose Cabezas



Socks are seen for sale at the Meet the Breeds event ahead of the 143rd Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show in New York



Justin Fairfax, the Lieutenant Governor of Virginia, opens the state's Senate meeting during a session of the General Assembly in Richmond



Don Smith reacts as Cap'n Crunch the Great Dane yawns during the Meet the Breeds event ahead of the 143rd Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show in New York



Potential 2020 Democratic presidential candidate and U.S. Senator Sherrod Brown (D-OH) talks with Marie Opie Williams of Goffstown, New Hampshire, during a meet and greet on his "Dignity of Work" tour in Concord



A man sells cookies and treats at the Simon Bolivar international bridge in Cucuta



People cross into Venezuela over the Simon Bolivar international bridge in Cucuta

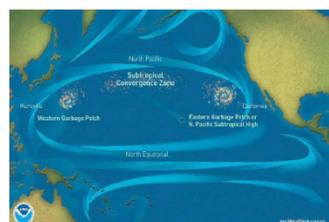


A man holds a white flag at the Simon Bolivar international bridge in Cucuta

Ambitious dreams have now become a reality as the Ocean Cleanup deploys its \$20 million system designed to clean up the 1.8 trillion pieces of trash floating in the Great Pacific Garbage Patch.

The floating boom system was deployed on Saturday from San Francisco Bay and will undergo several weeks of testing before being hauled into action.

The floating boom system, with the help of dozens of more booms, is estimated to clean up half of the Great Pacific Garbage Patch within the first five years.



Location of the Great Pacific Garbage Patch and the subtropical convergence zone. (Graphic-NOAA)

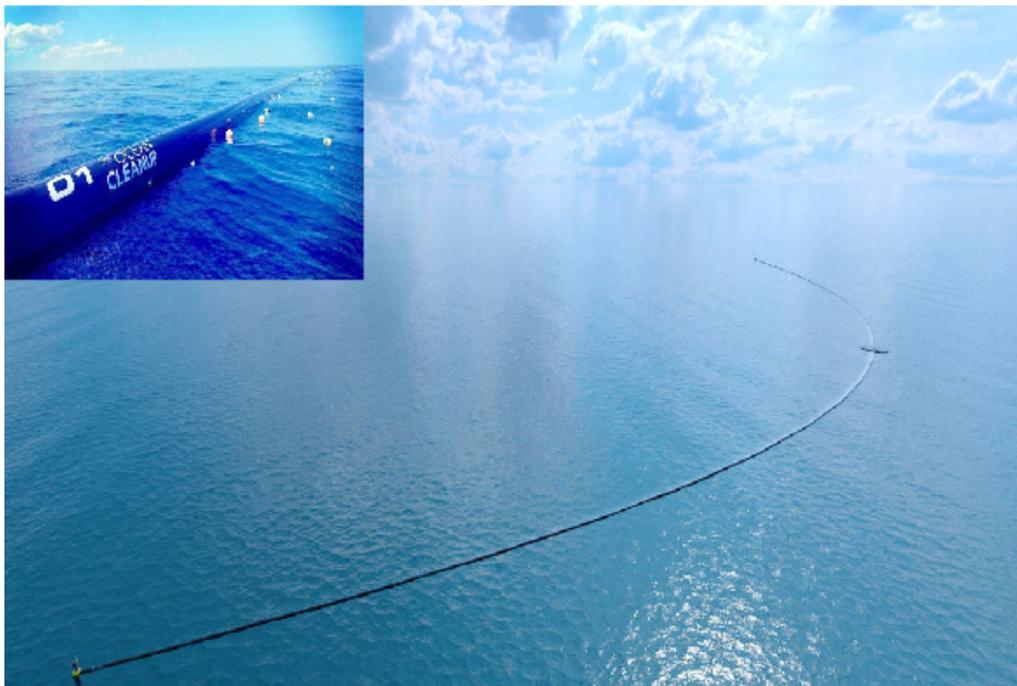
The garbage patch is so large, it is easily detectable from space via satellites and covers roughly 1.6 million square kilometers and 1.8 trillion pieces of debris.

The floating boom system, after undergoing testing, will be towed out 1,400 miles to the garbage patch around mid-October and begin collecting trash.

The idea is that the 10 feet of netting is not deep enough that fish can't swim below it,

The World's Largest Ocean Cleanup Has Officially Begun

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor



with the hope that the boom will collect trash and not fish. However, this is something that remains to be seen in the open ocean.

While the organization has ambitious plans and the technology still remains unproven in the open ocean, they are the closest to a solution to cleaning up the garbage patch we have.

The company is backed by some heavy hitters in the tech industry, including Peter Thiel, co-founder of PayPal and Marc Benioff, the chief executive of Salesforce.com

Continued testing and deployment of additional boom systems will help further refine the systems to be more efficient and less disruptive to ocean ecosystems.

Related Ocean Cleanup History Ocean Garbage Patches Are Vast And

Dispersed Ocean currents concentrate plastic in five areas in the world: the subtropical gyres, also known as the world's "ocean garbage patches".



MILESTONE / 2016 FIRST NORTH SEA PROTOTYPE

Making modifications on a small scale structure 10 miles offshore is relatively easy. In contrast, making corrections on a large scale structure 1000 miles offshore would be an entirely different challenge.

Our passive cleanup system uses the natural ocean currents to collect and concentrate plastic. By placing long, floating cleanup system in the Great Pacific Garbage Patch between Hawaii and California, we can clean up the accumulated plastic and prevent it from breaking down into even more harmful microplastic over time.

kind, we believe the best way to move forward is to test often and fast and make iterative improvements based on these tests.



OBJECTIVE AND SET-UP

To investigate the durability of our design, we deployed a system segment in the North Sea. At this test site, conditions are more severe than those in the Pacific Ocean.

The objective of the North Sea prototype was twofold;

- Test the boom design on a small-scale for survivability in extreme conditions
• Gaining experience as an organization in the ocean deployment of a cleanup array



FINDINGS

During an inspection of the North Sea prototype in August, we noticed the two outermost air chambers were bent out of shape. Thanks to underwater footage we were quickly able to pinpoint the cause.

ITERATING TOWARDS EXECUTION The data gathered is used to help engineers develop a system fully resistant to severe conditions of the ocean once deployed in the North Pacific.

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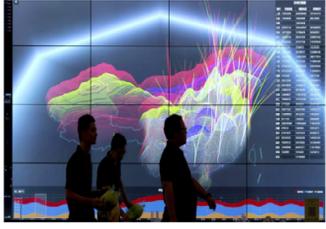
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SPECIAL REPORT

China's Governance Of Cyberspace Still Evolving One Year After Crucial CSL Law Took Effect

Progress, Pauses, and Power Shifts in China's Cybersecurity Law Regime

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor

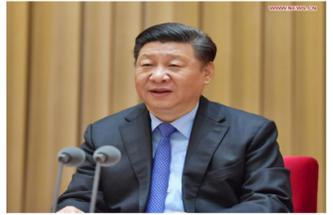


China's Cybersecurity Law (CSL) has a remarkably wide reach in Chinese society...

In policy areas including data localization, 'critical information infrastructure' (CII) protection...

Passage of the CSL in November 2016 should therefore be seen not as an end result but as a major milestone...

Amidst delays, top leaders appear to be demanding progress. In April, Xi personally chaired a national work conference...



Last April, China's President Xi personally chaired a national work conference on cybersecurity and informatization...

Moreover, the international circumstances China

faces have changed considerably. The events surrounding the Chinese telecommunications equipment supplier ZTE...

As regulatory and standards-setting efforts unfold with renewed vigor, several key areas of regulation have reached significant milestones...

Data Localization Rules Stall After U.S.- and Japanese-Led Pressure Campaign The CSL explicitly requires certain types of data to be stored within mainland China...

Beginning in October 2017, the United States and Japan led a multilateral campaign against these draft rules at the WTO Council for Trade in Services...



The WTO Council for Trade in Services meeting in October 2017.

Though the final resolution is uncertain, and the

reviews for outbound data transfer are not slated to go into effect until the end of 2018, there are signs that restrictions may tighten rather than loosen compared with earlier drafts.

Once the review regime for outbound data transfers is complete, companies will have a process to follow to move data in an approved way...

Review Regimes Head Toward Greater Coordination

The CSL establishes requirements for a regime to review 'critical network equipment and specialized cybersecurity products' for security. In June, China's top certification organization...

EN Certification and Accreditation Administration of the People's Republic of China

newly renamed China Cybersecurity Review Technology and Certification Center (CCRTCC), whose director Wei Hao has played a public role in explaining the review process.

ty and government cloud services, big data, etc.' Wei described the issuing of a catalog of 'critical network equipment and specialized cybersecurity products' last year as the beginning of implementation of a national cybersecurity review system...

'Critical Information Infrastructure' (CII) Rules Vague in Early Drafts, but More Details Expected

Under the CSL, operators of information systems in a broad and only partially defined array of sectors designated as 'critical information infrastructure' (CII) may only purchase network products and services that have passed national security reviews...

What sectors are to be covered by these rules remains unclear. In July 2017, the CAC published draft CII Security Protection Regulations for comment. That draft suggested a broad definition of CII, covering many sectors...

Advantage CAC in Jurisdiction Overlap with Ministry of Public Security

Even six months after CSL implementation, major questions remained regarding overlapping jurisdiction. (See DigiChina's earlier outline of six emerging systems.) The law set forth a new system for protecting CII...

According to industry sources, MPS has been advocating that CAC repurpose the MLPS' cybersecurity requirements, rather than establishing a parallel regime for CII. CAC has insisted that its new system would not 'conflict with, duplicate, modify, or lower the requirements set forth by the MLPS Baseline Requirements Standard.'

designated a 'competent authority.' This proposed language suggests CAC will have the upper hand in settling divergent views regarding the boundary between rules for CII and the evolving MLPS. Substantively, the draft MLPS 2.0 document would potentially cover companies that did not previously fall under the scope of MLPS by expanding the scheme to cover all network operators...



Protecting Personal Data a Particular Priority

There has been an increasing emphasis on how personal information (PI) is managed in the year since the CSL took effect. The government has issued its first standard with granular rules for how personal data is collected, used, processed, and shared—the Personal Information Security Specification.

The banking industry became the rare sector to issue its own guidelines for data governance in March. A statement by the China Banking Regulatory Commission linked the need for such measures to the massive amounts of client data now involved in core functions of financial institutions.

Together these developments underscore a growing recognition that China needs some framework for personal data as part of the broader effort to govern China's digital economy and address citizen concerns about privacy.

Yet, implementation and enforcement of new PI rules is likely to be somewhat ad hoc and subject to political jockeying, because there is still much debate around data ownership, privacy, and the development of emerging technologies like AI.

(Editor's Note: These and other developments in Chinese cyberspace and digital economy regulation represent a broad effort to manage the challenges and opportunities posed by digital technologies, a task that will never be fully complete.)

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