

FUTURE TRAVEL **MOBILITY**

Imagine no more

When Jean-Baptiste Alphonse Karr, a French journalist and critic, said that “the more things change, the more they stay the same,” he surely could not have been referring to the future of travel mobility in this contemporary day of rapid advancements. Future travel mobility has not just reinvented the wheel, but is unwrapping groundbreaking, previously unfathomable possibilities within our lifetime - and travellers are invited to get on board.



Where it comes to travel in the 21st century, the days of waiting for new and exotic technologies to arrive have already passed. Change is upon us, and, within our lifetime, we will see new mobility solutions arise. Expect faster, greener and more thrilling ways to travel, soon.

Fly Me to the Moon

The future of travel mobility has made it possible to live out phrases like “I love you to the moon and back.” This is true for Yusaku Maezawa, a Japanese billionaire and fashion mogul, who made an international appeal for help in finding a female “life partner” to join him on Space X’s maiden tourist voyage to the moon. SpaceX is the company owned by Elon

South African-born billionaire, Elon Musk.

Maezawa, also a former drummer in a famous punk band, is scheduled to be the first civilian passenger to journey around the moon on Musk’s Starship. The trip is set to take place in 2023 and will be the first lunar journey undertaken by humans since 1972.

Visit www.spacex.com/starship for more information on SpaceX’s Starship spacecraft and Super Heavy rocket.



QUICKER THAN A BULLET [TRAIN]

China has positioned itself as a thought-leader in the field of high-speed ground travel, particularly with its high-speed passenger bullet trains clocking speeds over 400 km/h. It is envisioned that by 2021, approximately 80% of the nation’s major cities could be linked to this advanced network.

In as much as the bullet train is revered in high-speed travel, the Hyperloop could soon rise to be the unrivalled new kid on the block. This ambitious system is based on pods that

move along tubes in a vacuum. The lack of air resistance enables the pods to reach speeds of over 1,000 km/h. Virgin forecasts that it could potentially deliver a fully operational Hyperloop system by the mid-2020s.

For more information on the Hyperloop, visit www.hyperloop-one.com.

A RETURN TO SUPERSONIC

Not only are rapid advancements in interstellar and ground travel on the cards, but air travel is ready to be disrupted as well, with industry players calling for an



overhaul of what traditional airlines have to offer. One thing is certain, with leading supersonic jet makers vowing to cut down on travel times, it cannot be business as usual in the airline industry.

It is not just a far-fetched ambition, but one that is being actively pursued. For example, Arion has made its intentions known to luxuriously ferry 12 passengers at 1.4-times the speed of sound. This roughly translates to about 60% faster than the current average aircraft. Also contending for dominion in this airspace sector, rival

Boom has announced its intention to fly a supersonic airliner commercially by 2023. It is envisioned to carry 55 passengers at up to 2.2 times the speed of sound.

Visit www.boomsupersonic.com for more information.

FLYING CARS, ROBOTAXIS AND PASSENGER DRONES

With the world rapidly advancing more sustainable means to lessen carbon emission; sharing journeys is becoming the norm. Against this backdrop, there is a call to

change air traffic control policies and systems to accommodate the progress in the personal air mobility sector. One such advancement is the Volocopter air taxi – a German optionally-piloted, multi-rotor, electric helicopter. Its intentions to pioneer the urban air taxi revolution is quite ambitious and worth keeping a close eye on to see how they fare in previously uncharted waters.

Explore Volocopter at www.volocopter.com. 

by *phindiwe nkosi* /
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