

# All-electric Formula E unveiled in Las Vegas

This year's Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas, one of the biggest of its kind in the world, has attracted more than 3,000 exhibitors and some 150,000 visitors



Visitors at the exhibition in Las Vegas

One of the big-buzz events at this year's Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas is the move from high definition TV to 4KTV. A 4K display has roughly four times the pixels of an HD display, which means much sharper images. As content is not yet available, Sharp launched its interim solution: the Aquos Quattron Plus, a non-4K TV capable of playing Ultra high definition 4K content, at an affordable price for consumers.

"They're going to see a noticeably sharper picture and that's because we have 10 million more sub

pixels on this set than a conventional HD TV, so a sharper picture is the first thing that they will notice," said James Sanduski, Vice-President of Strategic Product Marketing at Sharp. Meanwhile, Samsung showed off its latest bendable TV, including an 85-inch prototype that allows the curvature of the screen to be adjusted by remote control. LG also launched its own flexible TV — the selling argument being that a curved screen will enhance the viewing experience.

Former Formula One driver Lu-

cas di Grassi showed off Spark-Renault's eagerly awaited electric race car, the SRT 01E. In addition to its environmentally-friendly credentials, it is capable of reaching speeds of more than 240km per hour, going from 0 to 95 km per hour in under 3 seconds, all barely making a sound.

"The difference here: this is a racing car. So you need a battery that can get the energy out in a very short period of time. That's very challenging, technology-wise. We were able to produce this battery, and advancing batteries will be the

ones that will then trickle down to road cars," said Alejandro Agag, Formula E Chief Executive.

The 47th annual Consumer Electronics Fair in Las Vegas, one of the biggest of its kind, is expected to attract more than 150,000 visitors. Among the more unusual items on display was a new, improved version of the Yellow Jacket stun-gun case. As its name indicates, this controversial mobile phone case has a built-in 650K volt stun gun, designed not only to protect the phone but also its user.

## Eurotunnel expands mobile and internet access

There will soon be no respite for rail travellers

in one of the last places where they could escape fellow passengers shouting 'I'm on the train' into their phones

The north tunnel — which runs from Britain to France — under the Channel is to have a mobile connection from March. Travellers have been able to use their phones in the south tunnel — which carries trains from France to the UK — since June 2012 through French networks.

Eurotunnel has now signed a 10-year contract with British operators Vodafone and EE. Eurostar passengers and those taking cars on Le Shuttle will be able to make calls and access the Internet.



## Video game console makers still face hurdles after China lifts ban

It is not clear exactly how video game console makers will benefit from China temporarily lifting a ban on selling them

It was imposed 14 years ago by the government to protect young people from corrupting influences. It did not work, instead they play online and personal computer games, making China the world's third-largest gaming market in terms of revenue.



Frozen Niagara Falls

## Big freeze at the Niagara Falls delights tourists

It is one of the most breathtaking consequences of the Arctic chill that has been gripping North America

Parts of the iconic Niagara Falls have frozen over, creating a winter wonderland for tourists on the US-Canadian border. "We come here in the summer, not that often in the winter," said one visitor, taking in the extraordinary sight. "But

when we knew the ice was here, we thought we had better come and take a look. It is a beautiful day." "Beautiful, beautiful sight," another sightseer added. "So we had to come and see it today before it melted."

Like much of North America, temperatures locally have plummeted. Taking into account the wind chill factor, temperatures as low as -33 Celsius have been reported.

## Luxury sells as Rolls Royce powers ahead with another record year

Car maker Rolls Royce has reported another year of record sales

It also plans to add 100 jobs at its British manufacturing plant in Goodwood, Sussex, to help meet demand. The German-owned UK-based company delivered 3,630 cars to customers in 2013.

It was the fourth consecutive record year for sales and the highest in its history. Rolls sold 17 percent more cars in the Middle East and 11 percent more in China. Germany, Japan and Canada were also bumper regions.

Recovery in the US and other key markets means the outlook is bright for luxury car-makers, however sales growth looks set to slow in China — the top market for Rolls Royce. For

the future Rolls Royce's chief executive Torsten Muller Oetvos said they are considering making an SUV4x4 vehicle.

"We are looking into that. We have started some first ideas — sketching some first ideas. What can a Rolls Royce be in that segment? How would it look like? A Rolls Royce by nature is not sport, is not utility, but we are thinking about it. Let's wait and see," he said. Rolls Royce's rival Bentley — which just enjoyed its best-ever year after a 19 percent jump in sales — has plans for an SUV.



But it did mean a whole generation grew up without a Wii, PlayStation or Xbox. Imports remain banned, but China's ruling State Council said it might allow consoles to be made in the Shanghai free-trade zone. Nintendo, Sony and Microsoft would have to partner with Chinese firms in joint ventures.

But even if they can make consoles in China, they face the additional problem that many young Chinese gamers do not earn enough to buy the consoles that are popular elsewhere in Asia and around the world. More than 70 percent of Chinese gamers earn less than 4,000 Yuan (486 Euros) a month, according to Hong Kong-based brokerage CLSA, less than the price of a new Xbox One in Europe.