Amazon acquires Zoox at $1.2 billion for autonomous ride-hailing capabilities

“This acquisition solidifies Zoox’s impact on the autonomous driving industry”

FOSTER CITY, CA — Amazon has signed an agreement to acquire Zoox, a California-based company working to design autonomous ride-hailing vehicles from the ground up. Aicha Evans, Zoox CEO (left photo), and Jesse Levinson, Zoox co-founder and CTO, will continue to lead the team as they innovate and drive towards their mission.

Zoox is a forward-thinking team that is pioneering the future of ride-hailing by designing autonomous technology from the ground up with passengers front-of-mind. Aicha Evans, Zoox CEO, and Jesse Levinson, Zoox co-founder and CTO, will continue to lead Zoox as a standalone business as they innovate and drive towards their mission.

Zoox started in 2014 with the vision of purpose-built, zero-emissions vehicles designed for autonomous ride-hailing, along with an end-to-end autonomy software stack. Zoox’s ground-up vehicle focuses on the ride-hailing customer, with tightly integrated features designed to provide a revolutionary passenger experience. Zoox’s approach to invention provides flexibility and the means to iterate rapidly to continuously deliver a superior experience for customers.

Completion of this transaction is subject to review and customary closing conditions.

— Sources and photo: Zoox/The SiliconReview

FTC Sends Refunds to People who lost Money to a Work-From-Home Scheme

WASHINGTON — The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) is sending full refunds totaling more than $284,000 to people who lost money to a scheme that used misleading spam emails to lure consumers into buying work-from-home (WFH) services.

The emails linked to websites displaying fake news stories and false celebrity endorsements, according to the complaint. Consumers who clicked on the links were routed to websites pitching the Effen Ads’ work-from-home schemes.

The schemes operated under numerous brand names such as Secure Home Profits, Paydays At Home, Home Cashflow Club, Home Cash Code, Home Payday Center, Snap Web Profits, Complete Profit Code, Global Cashflow Center, Global Payday System, Your Income Gateway, Home Payday Club, Web Payday Center, and Home Payday Vault.

As part of their settlement with the FTC, the owners of Effen Ads and W4 LLC agreed to pay more than $1.4 million. Current distributions provide refunds to those who were deceived as part of Effen Ads’ work-from-home scheme. The remaining funds will be used to provide refunds to people whose personal information was sold by Effen Ads to Vision Solution Marketing, a telemarketing firm that peddled allegedly bogus business opportunities and agreed to a separate settlement with the FTC. Read more at bdpatoday.com.

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