Engineering Update #8: Glasses-free 3D and a near replacement for Knight Rider

This week's Engineering Update from ECN is brought to you by Mouser Electronics, the electronic components distributor with the widest selection of the newest products. In this week's headlines:

• Mobile 3-D, without the glasses: A new screen protector from Nanovue, called the EyeFly, gives mobile devices a glasses-free 3D display. Made out of a thin, transparent film, the nano-engineered EyeFly is essentially a piece of plastic film with thousands of finite lenses on the surface that use nano-imprinting technology.

• Capturing energy from waste heat: A new process for thermoelectrics has been discovered by the Fraunhofer Institute. Through the use of a technology similar to inkjet printing, scientists created flexible, thin sheets of thermoelectric generators, called TEGs.
• New Lightweight Electric Car: Detroit Electric has reportedly created their first purely electric sports car. The SP.01 is an open-topped roadster with a mid-mounted motor and lightweight battery pack ... but it's still no Knight Rider.

• Longer-lasting batteries: Researchers have reported significant progress in the development of longer-lasting batteries. Scientists at the Institute for Material and Beam Technology in Dresden have reported the production of a long-lasting, cost-efficient lithium-sulfur battery that was shown to increase the lifespan of button cells by up to 1,400 cycles.

• Charging phones without electricity: A new concept has been developed for charging your cell-phone battery when there is no source of electricity. With a soon-to-be funded project on Kickstarter, the SOSCharger works through the use of a crank that generates power manually when there is a lack of a traditional power source. It can also help avoid potentially deadly Spaghetti Western-like showdowns when hunting for outlets.

View the full transcript here. **[1]**

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