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Inside C4

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Trump sets tariffs on \$50 billion in Chinese goods; Beijing strikes back



FILE PHOTO: Trump announces intellectual property tariffs on goods from China, at the White House in Washington

WASHINGTON/BEIJING (Reuters) - U.S. President Donald Trump said he was pushing ahead with hefty tariffs on \$50 billion of Chinese imports on Friday, and the smoldering trade war between the world's two largest economies showed signs of igniting as Beijing immediately vowed to respond in kind. Trump laid out a list of more than 800 strategically important imports from China that would be subject to a 25 percent tariff starting on July 6, including cars, the latest hardline stance on trade by a U.S. president who has already been wrangling with allies. China's Commerce Ministry said it would respond with tariffs "of the same scale and strength" and that any previous trade deals with Trump were "invalid." The official Xinhua news agency said China would impose 25 percent tariffs on 659 U.S. products, ranging from soybeans and autos to seafood. China's retaliation list was increased more than six-fold from a version released in April, but the value was kept at \$50 billion, as some high-value items such as commercial aircraft were deleted. Shares of Boeing Co (BA.N), the single largest U.S. exporter to China, closed down 1.3 percent after paring earlier losses. Caterpillar Inc (CAT.N), another big exporter to China, ended 2 percent lower. Trump said in a statement that the

United States would pursue additional tariffs if China retaliates. China announces anti-dumping measures on some chemical product imports. Washington and Beijing appeared increasingly headed toward open trade conflict after several rounds of negotiations failed to resolve U.S. complaints over Chinese industrial policies, lack of market access in China and a \$375 billion U.S. trade deficit. "These tariffs are essential to preventing further unfair transfers of American technology and intellectual property to China, which will protect American jobs," Trump said. Analysts, however, did not expect the U.S. tariffs to inflict a major wound to China's economy and said the trade dispute likely would continue to fester. U.S. Customs and Border Protection will begin collecting tariffs on 818 product categories valued at \$34 billion on July 6, the U.S. Trade Representative's office said. The list was slimmed down from a version unveiled in April, dropping Chinese flat-panel television sets, medical breathing devices and oxygen generators and air conditioning parts. The tariffs will still target autos, including those imported by General Motors Co (GM.N) and Volvo, owned by China's Geely Automobile Holdings (0175.HK), and electric cars.

And USTR added tariffs on another 284 product lines, valued at \$16 billion, targeting semiconductors, a broad range of electronics and plastics that it said benefited from China's industrial subsidy programs, including the "Made in China 2025" plan, aimed at making China more competitive in key technologies such as robotics and semiconductors. Tariffs on these products will go into effect after a public comment period. A senior Trump administration official told reporters that companies will be able to apply for exclusions for Chinese imports they cannot source elsewhere. Most semiconductor devices imported from China use chips produced in the United States, with low-level assembly and testing work done in China, prompting the Semiconductor Industry Association to call the new tariff list "counterproductive." While many business groups and lawmakers urged the two governments to negotiate instead, there was little sign talks would resume soon. Trump's tariffs did gain some support from an unlikely source, U.S. Senate Democratic leader Charles Schumer, who called them "right on target." "China is our real trade enemy,

and their theft of intellectual property and their refusal to let our companies compete fairly threatens millions of future American jobs," Schumer said in a statement. The USTR official said the tariffs were aimed at changing China's behavior on its technology transfer policies and massive subsidies to develop high-tech industries. The United States now dominates those industries, but Chinese government support could make it difficult for U.S. companies to compete. Washington has completed a second list of possible tariffs on another \$100 billion in Chinese goods, in the expectation that China will respond to the initial U.S. tariff list in kind, sources told Reuters. U.S. soybean futures plunged 1.5 percent to a one-year low on concerns that an escalating trade fight with China will threaten shipments to the biggest buyer of the oilseed, traders said. Beijing and Washington had held three rounds of high-level talks since early May but failed to reach a compromise. Trump was unmoved by a Chinese offer to buy an additional \$70 billion worth of U.S. farm and energy

'Intense' Sunday rain could flood Houston-area streets, briefly raise bayous, rivers



The Daily



A taxi drove into a crowd of pedestrians near Moscow's Red Square on Saturday, injuring eight people including two Mexicans in the city for the soccer World Cup which Russia



Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras survived a no-confidence motion in parliament on Saturday, setting the stage for the signing of a historic accord with neighboring Macedonia to settle a long dispute over its name.



Austria called on Germany to fully clarify allegations that German intelligence agents systematically spied on politicians, international organizations and companies on Austrian territory, as reported by two newspapers on Saturday.

products and other goods, according to people familiar with the matter. Analysts at Capital Economics said the impact of the tariffs on China's economy would be small. Even if the U.S. duties reach the full \$150 billion, they estimated it would shave well under a half-percentage point off China's annual growth rate, which could be offset by fiscal and monetary policy actions. "Neither side will be brought to its knees - which is one reason to think the trade dispute could drag on," Capital Economics said. "For China's part, its leaders will be determined not to be seen to back down to foreign pressure." Although shares of some tariff-sensitive companies fell on Wall Street, the stock market overall fell only modestly.

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‘Intense’ Sunday rain could flood Houston-area streets, briefly raise bayous, rivers

By Robert Downen

“Intense” rainfall could flood Houston-region streets beginning Sunday afternoon, the National Weather Service in Houston/Galveston said Saturday morning.

NWS forecasters say a tropical wave moving northwestward from the Yucatan Peninsula could bring downpours to southeast Texas through Monday evening, and between two and four inches of rain could accumulate in areas along the Interstate 10 corridor, which is expected to be hit the heaviest.

“The shower is going to be moving around pretty fast through the area,” NWS meteorologist Josh Lichter said.

The National Hurricane Center also has given the storm a 10 percent chance of developing through Wednesday.

Other forecasters have said the storm is not too worrisome, however.

“The overall story remains the same: heavy rain potential increases on Sunday and Monday, with the biggest threat some localized high rainfall rates,” meteorologist Matt Lanza wrote on the SpaceCityWeather blog Saturday morning. “As Houston floods go, this is not likely to be a memorable one.”

“The bigger concern remains moisture, as the tropical system pumps it into the coast,” he continued. “However, over the last couple of days we’ve been downplaying the threat of flooding, and we continue to think that will be the case, as the greater amounts of moisture will likely be going into south Texas.”

Here’s the NWS forecast through Friday:

Saturday: A 40 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms, mainly after 10 a.m. Partly sunny, with a high near 91. Southeast wind 5 to 10 mph.

Saturday Night: A 20 percent chance of showers. Partly cloudy, with a low around 78. Southeast wind 5 to 15 mph.

Sunday: Showers and thunderstorms likely. Some of the storms could produce heavy rain. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 87. East wind 5 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph. Chance of precipitation is 70 percent. New rainfall amounts between a quarter and half of an inch possible.

Sunday Night: Showers and thunderstorms likely. Some of the storms could produce heavy rain. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 77. Southeast wind 10 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph. Chance of precipitation is 60 percent.

Monday: Showers and thunderstorms. Some of the storms could produce heavy rain. High near 86. Southeast wind 5 to 10 mph. Chance of precipitation is 80 percent.

Monday Night: A 50 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 76.

Tuesday: Showers and thunderstorms likely. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 86. Chance of precipitation is 70 percent.

Tuesday Night: A 40 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 76.

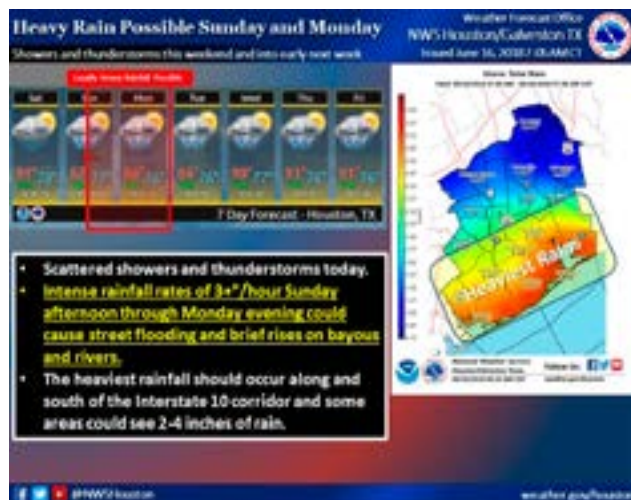
Wednesday: A 50 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 90.

Wednesday Night: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 77.

Thursday: A 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly sunny, with a high near 91.

Thursday Night: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, with a low around 76.

Friday: A 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly sunny, with a high near 91. ai Spirit, break waves and embark on a new voyage.” Enditem



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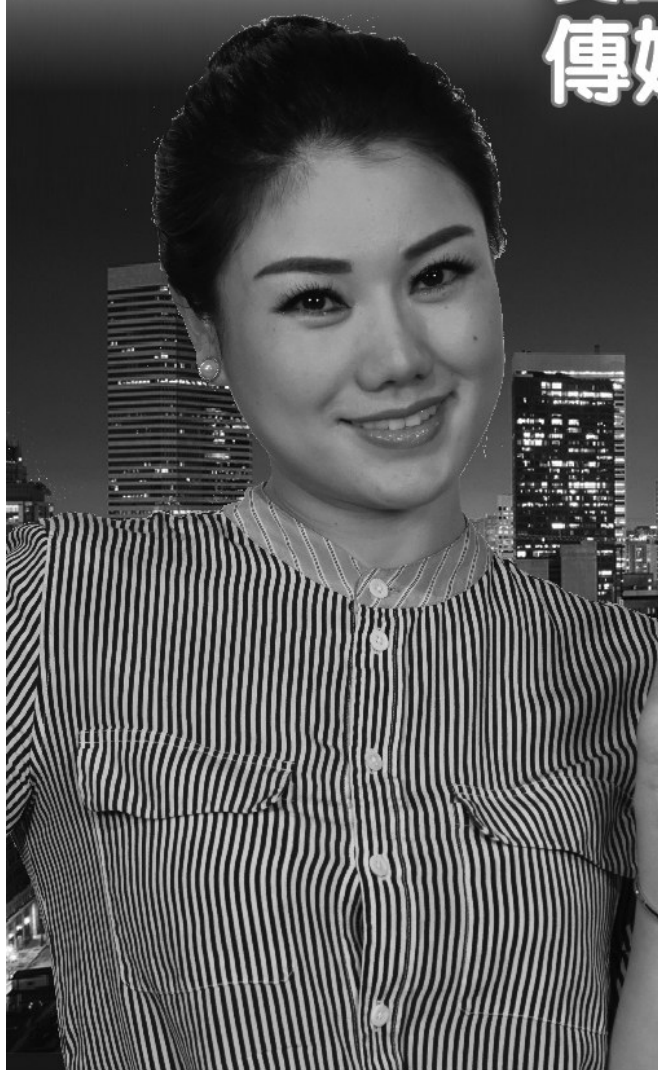


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Editor's Choice



Soccer Football - World Cup - Group D - Croatia vs Nigeria - Kaliningrad Stadium, Kaliningrad, Russia - June 16, 2018 Croatia fan inside the stadium before the match REUTERS/Fabrizio Bensch



Soccer Football - World Cup - Group C - Peru vs Denmark - Mordovia Arena, Saransk, Russia - June 16, 2018 Denmark fans celebrate at the end of the match REUTERS/Max Rossi



World Cup - Group D - Croatia vs Nigeria



Soccer Football - World Cup - Group C - Peru vs Denmark - Mordovia Arena, Saransk, Russia - June 16, 2018 Denmark's Jens Stryger Larsen and team mates applaud the fans at the end of the match REUTERS/Max Rossi



Participants are seen at the 2018 Coney Island Mermaid Parade in the Brooklyn borough of New York



Participants are seen at the 2018 Coney Island Mermaid Parade in the Brooklyn borough of New York



Second Test International - South Africa v England



Britain's opposition Labour Party leader Jeremy Corbyn delivers a speech at 'Labour Live', a day of musical performances, speeches and political events, in London, Britain



Jun 16, 2018; Southampton, NY, USA; Course worker Wayne Wunschel of Beverly Hills, Florida, wears a Santa Claus hat as he greets fans at the second tee grandstand during the third round of the U.S. Open golf tournament at Shinnecock Hills



The Denton A. Cooley, MD and Ralph C. Cooley, DDS University Life Center serves as a multi-purpose venue for UTHealth faculty, students, and staff, the institutions of the Texas Medical Center, and the Houston community at large. The center is available for university gatherings, professional conferences, continuing education courses, distance learning programs, and other special events related to the university's mission. The Cooley Center is located in the Texas Medical Center in UTHealth's South Campus Research Park Complex, adjacent to the Behavioral and Biomedical Sciences Building and the UTHealth School of Dentistry. The 14,000-square-foot center has a modular design that allows for a variety of events and audiences. In its largest configuration, the center can serve as a standing reception area for 600, a seated auditorium for 400, or a banquet hall for 220. The center can also be configured into a range of smaller spaces to accommodate seminars, lectures, and other meetings.

The Cooley Center offers state-of-the-art technology, including wireless connectivity, advanced video and sound systems, teleconferencing and distance learning capabilities, and on-site technology support. Other features include a warming kitchen for catering services, convenient parking, a covered outdoor patio and an open landscaped courtyard.

The conference center is named in honor of the renowned heart surgeon Denton A. Cooley, MD, surgeon-in-chief, founder and president emeritus of the Texas Heart Institute at St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital, and his father, Ralph C. Cooley, DDS, who was a 1908 alumnus of the Dental School. In keeping with the vision and generosity of the Cooley family, UTHealth is committed to utilizing this space to support the enrichment of university life, facilitate collaboration within the Texas Medical Center, and promote the health sciences.

Related

The Life Of Denton A. Cooley, MD
World-Famous Heart Surgeon



Denton Arthur Cooley, MD, a pioneering heart surgeon, died November 18, 2016, at age 96. He was born in Houston, TX, on August 22, 1920, to Ralph Clarkson Cooley and Mary Fraley Cooley. From the beginning, Cooley's career in medicine and his contributions to humanity seem to have been foreshadowed. His father was a prominent Houston dentist, and the attending obstetrician at his birth was Dr Ernst William Berner. Berner would be part of the team that developed the renowned Texas Medical Center where Denton Cooley later established the now world-acclaimed Texas Heart Institute (THI). In the early 1890s, Cooley's paternal grandfather, Daniel Denton Cooley, helped found the Houston Heights, a major suburb of the growing city of Houston. Denton A. Cooley's pioneering career spanned the history of modern cardiovascular surgery. Beginning in the late 1940s, he developed many of today's commonly used cardiovascular procedures and devices. Nevertheless, he is probably best

Honoring The Medical Contributions Of The Cooley Family
The Denton A. Cooley, MD and Ralph C. Cooley, DDS University Life Center
In Houston Serves The Community

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

known for performing the first successful human heart transplant in the United States (1968) and the world's first human implantation of an artificial heart (1969).

Many of Cooley's other contributions, however, are equally important: the first repair of an aortic aneurysm (1949); the first repair of a ruptured abdominal aortic aneurysm (1954); the first repair of a ventricular septal defect that developed after a heart attack (1956); the first successful carotid endarterectomy (1956); new techniques for repairing diseased heart valves and congenital heart defects...the list goes on to include >30 such firsts.



President Bill Clinton awarding Dr. Denton A. Cooley with the National Medal of Technology.

In some way, Cooley participated in every major development in cardiovascular surgery. With characteristic humility, he always said, "My good fortune professionally came from the fact that I began my career when heart surgery was in its infancy, when surgeons were free to discover and innovate. I've been a participant in so many breakthroughs primarily because I was there when they occurred. With the advent of the heart-lung machine, for example, we surgeons had the key to a door that had previously been locked. Once we had the key, then we could venture out into unexplored territory."

In the early days of open heart surgery, when few heart surgeons operated on >2 patients per day, Cooley routinely operated on 12 patients each day. He used a sugar solution rather than blood to prime the heart-lung machine, so patients were spared unnecessary exposure to blood products. More operations could be performed because less blood was needed. Cooley popularized this bloodless surgery technique, proving that open heart surgery could be done efficiently and for large numbers of patients, including Jehovah Witnesses.

He felt this technique might have been his most important contribution to open heart surgery. He and his team performed over 120,000 open heart operations—more than any other surgical group in the world.

Cooley's innovations were not limited to the operating room or the laboratory. For example, he founded a managed healthcare plan that was the first to bundle cardiovascular service billing into 1 fixed fee. It saved millions of healthcare dollars and convinced others, including the Center for Medicare & Medicaid Services, to adopt this approach.



Dr. Cooley was also a member of a musical group at the Texas Medical Center made up of medical professionals—the group was called "The Heartbeats."

Cooley believed his most import-

ant contribution to the field of cardiac care was his founding, in 1962, of THI, in the Texas Medical Center. Under his leadership, the nonprofit Institute quickly became a world leader in research, education, and patient care. It is now recognized nationally and internationally for its many significant contributions to the prevention and treatment of heart disease.

Cooley always said he learned the importance of working together for the greater good in his youthful athletic activities. At San Jacinto High School, he overcame severe shyness and developed self-confidence by participating in tennis and basketball, at which he excelled. He was also an avid golfer. After enrolling at The University of Texas (UT) in 1937, he became a star of the Longhorn basketball team which won the Southwest Conference Championship in 1939. He was also a member of the Texas Cowboys, an honorary service organization.

Cooley graduated with the highest honors from UT in 1941. He had originally enrolled there in the premedical program, planning to enter his father's dental practice on graduation. However, a fortuitous trip to San Antonio altered his career plans. There, Cooley visited a friend who was interning in the emergency room at Santa Rosa Hospital. Many of the patients had been badly cut in knife fights and automobile accidents. Because of the large number of patients with cuts that night, Cooley's friend handed him a needle and thread and asked if he could sew. He could, and he liked it. Enthused by this experience, Cooley changed his major to premedical immediately on his return to Austin.

After 2 years at The UT Medical Branch in Galveston, Cooley transferred to Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. In 1944, he graduated at the head of his medical school class. Also in 1944, as an intern under noted surgeon Dr Alfred Blalock, Cooley assisted in the first blue baby operation to correct a complicated congenital heart malformation. That operation, which was often referred to as the dawn of modern heart surgery, convinced Cooley he made the correct decision about becoming a heart surgeon.

Also at Johns Hopkins, Cooley met the love of his life, Louise Goldsborough Thomas, a registered nurse in the famed Halsted Surgical Clinic. In 1949, after 2 years of serving in the US Medical Corps as chief of surgery at the 124th Station Hospital in Linz, Austria, Cooley walked Louise down the aisle.

After working for a year with Lord Russell Brock in London, Cooley returned to his native Houston as a full-time faculty member at Baylor College of Medicine. He was there for 18 years as a professor of surgery. He resigned in 1969 to lead THI, where he was already surgeon-in-chief.

In addition, Cooley served as chief of cardiovascular surgery at St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital, a consultant in cardiovascular surgery at Texas Children's Hospital, a clinical professor of surgery at The UT Medical School at Houston, and, most recently, a distinguished emeritus professor at Baylor College of Medicine.



Louise Cooley, left, and her husband, Dr. Denton Cooley.

During his career, Cooley authored or coauthored >1400 scientific papers and 12 books, as well as 100,000 Hearts: A Surgeon's Memoir (University of Texas Press, 2012). He was a member or honorary member of >70 professional societies, including the Denton A. Cooley Cardiovascular Surgical Society, founded by THI surgical trainees in his honor. He was also president of the Society of Thoracic Surgeons. Over his lifetime, he received >120 honors and awards. He was especially proud of being the first non-Russian to receive the Bakoulev Premium, Russia's highest award for cardiovascular surgery, presented by the Russian Academy of Medical Science. He held honorary degrees from 8 universities and honorary fellowships in 5 Royal Colleges of Surgery—a nearly impossible feat. He also received various awards for his athletic activities, including the Theodore Roosevelt Award, given by the National Collegiate Athletic Association to a varsity athlete who has achieved national recognition in his profession.

Of all his awards, Cooley was probably most proud of his 2 presidential medals. In awarding him the Presidential Medal of Freedom (1984), the highest US civilian award, President Ronald Reagan acknowledged Cooley's contributions by remarking that he had charted new territory in his search for ways to prolong and enrich human life.



In 1999, Cooley received his second presidential medal, the National Medal of Technology, from President William Bill Clinton for his inspirational skill, leadership, and technological accomplishments during 6 decades practicing cardiovascular surgery... and for having founded the THI, which has served more heart patients than any other institution in the world. Cooley's contributions to technology include >100 surgical products that have helped save the lives of hundreds of thousands of people.

Cooley attributed much of his success to his family, who instilled in him a strong sense of family pride, respect for playing by the rules and dedication to hard work. He liked being called a workaholic. It is "a term to which I have no objection," he said. "I enjoy my work and consider it a highly valued privilege."

Novelist Arthur Hailey was a patient of Cooley's and considered himself one of Cooley's living monuments. In writing the foreword to Cooley's 1984 book of essays, Hailey set forth his impression of the surgeon: "What happens there (in Cooley's surgical suite) and elsewhere in the Texas Heart Institute reflects not only the exceptional

skills of Denton Cooley, which are world famous and acknowledged, but also his warm humanity and that rarest of human qualities—inspired leadership, which leaves its hallmark everywhere." Throughout his life, Cooley made generous charitable donations to support biomedical science programs, medical schools, museums, sports centers, and other civic and humanitarian causes. Facilities that bear his name include the Denton A. Cooley Student Center at Johns Hopkins; the Houston Zoo—Denton A. Cooley Animal Hospital; The UT (Austin) Alumni Center; the UT Denton A. Cooley Basketball Pavilion; the Denton A. Cooley, MD, and Ralph C. Cooley, DDS University Life Center, School of Dentistry, UT Health Science Center in Houston; and the Denton A. Cooley, M. D. Hall at the Texas Medical Center Library.

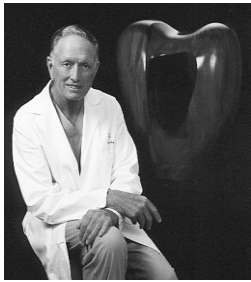


Cooley's articles and the video library of his surgical procedures have been donated to the Texas Medical Center Library, where they are being archived and will be available for study by future generations of medical trainees and historians.

In 2002, the Denton A. Cooley Building was dedicated at THI. The building stands as testimony to Dr. Cooley's many successes and to advances yet to come. Inside the front door is a poem called A Bag of Tools, written by R.L. Sharpe. The poem was his favorite and exemplifies his life:

"Isn't it strange That princes and kings, And clowns that caper In sawdust rings, And common people Like you and me Are builders for eternity? Each is given a bag of tools, A shapeless mass A book of rules; And each must make Ere life has flown A stumbling block Or a stepping stone."

Denton Cooley was a founder, surgical innovator, mentor, leader, counselor, and teacher. He made stepping stones wherever he went—a true builder for eternity. He was also a family man: a husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather—and an avid sportsman, especially enjoying golf in his later years. He always said his family gave him the most joy, and his office was filled with their photos. He always proudly pointed out the newest great-grand to anyone who happened in. He loved spending time with his family at his ranch, Cool Acres, and at his Galveston beach home.



He will live on through his family, through THI, and through the work of his trainees and their trainees. He was a surgeon like no other. He will be missed by all who knew him and by all whose lives he touched.

Cooley died in Houston on November 18, 2016. He was preceded in death by his wife of 67 years, Louise Thomas Cooley, and their daughter Florence Talbot Cooley. He is survived by 4 daughters, Mary Cooley Craddock (husband, John Craddock Jr, MD), Dr Susan M. Cooley, Louise Cooley Davis, MD (husband, Richard Davis), and Helen Cooley Fraser (husband, Charles D. Fraser Jr, MD); 16 grandchildren; and 17 great-grandchildren. (Courtesy <http://cicrcs.abajournals.org/content/120/1/17>)

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Speaking during the Q1 2018 earnings call, Elon Musk announced that Tesla's next Gigafactory would be built in China. What's more, Musk stated that all future Gigafactories would support the manufacture of the company's vehicles.

Musk's update on its factory plans in China came as a response to a question from CNBC's Phil LeBeau, who asked for more details about Tesla's plans regarding the Model Y, the Tesla Semi, and company's future vehicles. Musk's response to the question was direct, stating that the next Gigafactory will be established in China. "It has to be later this year. Maybe next quarter, but not later than fourth quarter for Model Y. We also expect to announce the location of a Tesla Gigafactory in China soon. In the future, all Gigafactories will include vehicle production. So, right now, vehicle production and battery production, like battery production and motor and power electronics and charger production are at Giga, and then, we have our Fremont car factory. But future Gigafactories will all incorporate vehicle production."

Musk also extended Tesla's gratitude to the Chinese government over its decision to lift ownership restrictions for factories operated by foreign car manufacturers. When Chinese President Xi Jinping announced the country's intention to reduce import tariffs and remove ownership restrictions for foreign-operated facilities, Musk stated on Twitter that China's decision will "benefit all countries."

"We're very appreciative of the fact that the government of China has announced that they will be allowing full ownership of manufacturing facilities in China. We'd like to express our appreciation to the Chinese government in that regard."



Even before Musk's announcement of its next Gigafactory, expectations were high that the facility Tesla's China facility would be tasked with the manufacture of the company's two mass-market electric cars — the Model Y and the Model 3. During Tesla's Q3 2017 earnings call

Elon Musk Confirms Next Tesla Gigafactory Will Be In China

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



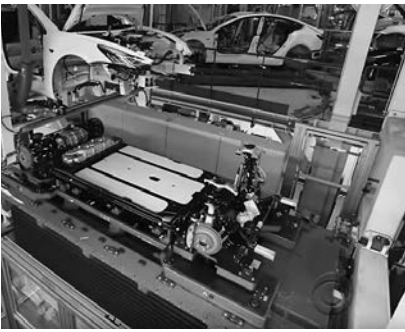
last November, Musk stated that having a factory in China is "really the only way to make cars affordable" in the country. Musk also noted that the upcoming facility "won't be making Model S and Model X, but probably Model 3, probably Model Y primarily for the local Chinese market."

Musk's update on Tesla's next Gigafactory in China was in line with his statements back in February during the Q4 2017 earnings call. During the Q&A session, Musk teased that Tesla will begin investing in the Model Y sometime later this year. "We are going to make some capital investments towards the end of this year related to Model Y. I don't want to jump the gun on those, but I think we've got a good plan. I'm pretty excited about how we're designing Model Y. It's really taking a lot of lessons learned from Model 3 and saying how do we design something to be easy to manufacture instead of how to manufacture or difficult, really," Musk said. (Courtesy <https://www.teslarati.com>)

Related Tesla Streamlined Model 3 Battery Pack Production Time By 96%, Says Elon Musk

Tesla CEO Elon Musk stated during Wednesday's Q1 2018 earnings call that the company has managed to reduce the time it takes to produce a Model 3 battery

pack by 94%, from 7 hours to under 17 minutes. According to Musk, addressing the over-generalization of the Model 3's design, as well as the excessive automation in Gigafactory, proved beneficial to the improvement in the manufacturing rate of the car's battery packs.



"This still remains to be fixed, but in any case, overgeneralizing the design. For example, the current battery pack has a port for front drive units, which we then put a steel blanking plate on. So essentially, we punched a hole in it and put a blanking plate at the hole. And (we had to) do that for all rear drive unit cars, which is kinda crazy."

"It would have added cost, it would have added a manufacturing step, it would have added a failure mode; and four ports was unnecessary... That's changed. So, the result was we had a rapid improvement in

battery pack production, from taking 7 hrs to make a pack 3 weeks ago to under 17 minutes now. We're able to also achieve a sustained rate of 3,000 vehicles a week, so we're actually slightly ahead in battery module and pack production than expected."

With the optimizations to the line in place, Musk revealed that Tesla is now producing 3,000 battery packs per week at the Nevada Gigafactory, with peak hours of production hitting a rate of 5,000 per week.

"In the last 24 hours at the Gigafactory, we managed to keep a sustained rate of over 3,000 packs per week. We actually reached a peak hour, extrapolated outward would be a rate of over 5,000 cars per week... Every hour is as good as its peak. If you can achieve it even once in an hour, then with continued refinement of the system, and improved operational time of the machinery, you can achieve that sustained rate with more refinement."

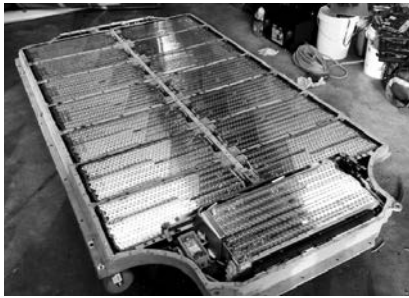


Tesla Model 3

Musk reiterated his previous statement about the company automating too much of its production line. According to Musk, Tesla "went too far and automated some pretty silly things," including an incredibly complex "fluff machine" that ended up making production complicated. "One of the things we've found is that there are some things that are very well suited to manual operations, and there are some things that are very well suited to automated operations. The two should not be confused. We did go too far in the automation front, and automated some pretty silly things."

"One example would be, we have these fiberglass mats on top of the battery pack. They're basically fluff. We tried to automate the placement and bonding of fluff to the top of the battery pack, which was ridiculous. 'Flufferbot,' which was really an incredibly difficult machine to make work. Machines are not good at picking up pieces of fluff. Hands are way better at doing that."

"So we had this super-complicated machine, using a vision system to try and put a piece of fluff on a battery pack. The line kept breaking down because Flufferbot would frequently fail to pick up the fluff, or put it in a random location. So, that was one of the silliest things we've found." The revelations about the improvements in the pace of Model 3 battery pack production are in line with Elon Musk's recent statements about relying too much on automation. Musk mentioned this in an interview with Gayle King of CBS This Morning, and later in a tweet, where he coyly stated that humans are "underrated."



Tesla battery pack.

Nevertheless, Tesla pointed to strategic automation as key in its Q1 Update Letter. The company, for one, credits the quality improvements in the Model 3 line to the automation that is involved in manufacturing the vehicles. Tesla expects the Model 3 line to be optimized once more after a planned 10-day shutdown in production during the second quarter. With a hiring ramp underway, Tesla is aiming to adjust overtime hours and staffing levels to meet its production goals even further. Tesla's first-quarter earnings for 2018 saw the electric car maker posting \$3.4 billion in revenue and beating earnings estimates with a loss of \$568 million. Losses per share was listed at -\$3.35 per share, lower than Wall Street estimates of -\$3.58 per share. (Courtesy <https://www.teslarati.com>)



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