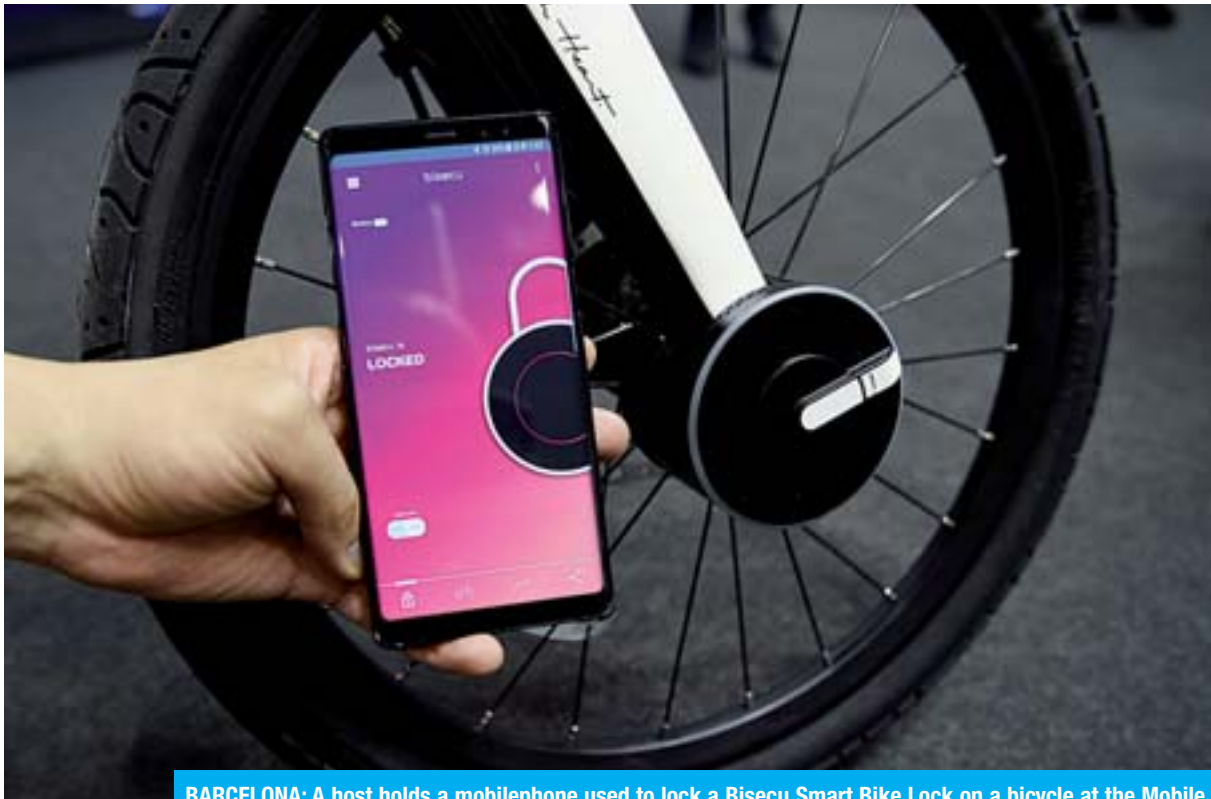


Technology

Top gadgets at Mobile World Congress



BARCELONA: A host holds a mobilephone used to lock a Bisecu Smart Bike Lock on a bicycle at the Mobile World Congress (MWC), the world's biggest mobile fair. —AFP photos

BARCELONA: From headsets that help you lose weight without dieting to a smart meat thermometer, here are five eye-catching devices on display at the Mobile World Congress, wireless industry's biggest conference which got underway Monday in Barcelona:

Smart bike lock

Tired of bending down to lock your bike? A team of South Korean engineers have developed a small circular device that is installed on the hub of the front wheel and is connected to the owner's smartphone via Bluetooth. When the bike owner stops riding and walks away, the device-dubbed Bisecu—automatically locks itself. When the rider returns, it detects that too and it will unlock. Any thief who tries to ride off with the bike would find the front wheel frozen in position—and a 100 decibel

alarm would also be triggered and the owner notified on their phone that the bike is being tampered with.

Weight loss headset

British startup Neurovalens presented a headset that generates a low-level electrical pulse which sends a signal to the brain to burn fat and lose weight. The company's head Jason McKeown said 80 percent of those who have used the Modius headset have lost weight. It comes with an app that allows you to track your progress.

Wireless meat thermometer

Knowing how long to cook meat can be tricky, and you often need to check the oven multiple times to make sure you don't overcook it. The Meater, a wireless meat thermometer about the width of a standard pen,



BARCELONA: A man wears the VUZIX M300 Augmented Reality Smart Glasses at the Mobile World Congress (MWC), the world's biggest mobile fair.

lets you monitor how your meat is doing from an app on your phone. It works like any other meat thermometer, except it communicates with your phone via Bluetooth or wi-fi. "The app has been designed to monitor the internal temperature of the oven or barbecue and the internal temperature of the meat," said Matt Blyden, Meater's marketing manager. "You chose on the app how you would like the meat cooked, whether it is rare, medium or well done, and the app tracks the temperature. When it nearly gets to that point it beeps on your phone."

See through walls

Can I really pierce this wall or is there a pipe behind it? Israeli 3D imaging company Vayyar has developed a sensor that uses radio waves to "see" through materials.

Stick the sensor on your mobile and when you place your handset on the wall, what is behind it appears on the screen. "It is almost like a new kind of camera that opens up capabilities that were not there before," said Vayyar director of marketing Malcolm Berman.

Smart glasses

US firm Vuzix presented its latest augmented reality glasses which connect to your smartphone, allowing text messages to appear before your eyes as you walk through the streets. The glasses can also give you directions via GPS on the screen and if you want to take a picture you don't need to take out your phone. Just tap the side to open the photo app, look at what you want to photograph and the glasses take the snapshot. —AFP

British astronaut hails 'groundbreaking' Airbus satellite

PORTSMOUTH: British astronaut Tim Peake on Monday hailed a "groundbreaking" satellite being built by Airbus which its developers say will bring an unprecedented level of flexibility to space telecommunications. The Eutelsat Quantum satellite is being put together by the multinational company in Portsmouth, on the south coast of England, where it was unveiled Monday ahead of transfer to France for testing later this year.

When launched in 2019 it will for the first time allow a commercial satellite to be fully reconfigurable while in orbit, with operators able to change key elements in real time, such as its frequency and which parts of the earth it covers. "What is really new is the level of flexibility that the satellite will provide and so this will be thanks to a combination of technologies that we will put on board the satellite," said Yohann Leroy, deputy CEO of French satellite operator Eutelsat.

Leroy said the new technology also allows operators to adapt to different regulatory constraints around the world and adjust to changing market conditions in the 15-year life span of the satellite. "There can be much faster change in market demand, seasonal demand or even daily demand," he told AFP. Allowing passengers to connect to the internet while flying over the Pacific Ocean is just one example of innovative satellite use, with demand changing according to flight schedules, Leroy added.

Visiting the Airbus site astronaut Peake—who in 2015 became the first British European Space Agency (ESA) astronaut to visit the International Space Station—said the enterprise was an example of British innovation in space. "It's a European Space Agency-led program but being built here in the UK," said Peake, noting the antenna array is coming from Spain. "So there's international partnership from small satellites to major space stations, and I think the UK will continue to do well to look globally for those partnerships."

Cooperation on such pioneering projects will continue beyond Britain's upcoming departure from the European Union, predicted Peake, adding that membership of the ESA is not dependent on being part of the block. Graham Turnock, chief executive of the UK Space Agency, said Britain needed to "be at the forefront of innovation" in order to retain a leading position in the space industry. "So this new satellite... I think is really exciting and it gives us the ability to be at that particular part of the leading edge," he said. —AFP

Amazon buys video doorbell startup Ring

SAN FRANCISCO: Amazon confirmed Tuesday that it bought video doorbell startup Ring, in a move that could help the internet giant's delivery arm reach into people's homes. Financial terms of the acquisition were not disclosed, but online reports valued the deal at more than a billion dollars. "We're excited to work with this talented team and help them in their mission to keep homes safe and secure," an Amazon spokesperson said.

California-based Ring first caught the spotlight with a failed quest for funding about five years ago on reality television show Shark Tank. Ring went on to win backing from the likes of billionaire Richard Branson and Amazon's Alexa Fund. "Ring is committed to our mission to reduce crime in neighborhoods by providing effective yet affordable home security tools to our neighbors that make a positive impact on our homes, our communities and the world," Ring said in a statement. —AFP

Cosmonaut, astronauts return to Earth from ISS

DZHEZKAZGAN, Kazakhstan: Two NASA astronauts and a Russian cosmonaut returned to Earth yesterday, rounding off a mission of more than five months aboard the International Space Station. Alexander Misurkin of Russia's Roscosmos space agency and NASA's Mark Vande Hei and Joe Acaba touched down on steppe land southeast of the town of Dzhezkazgan in central Kazakhstan at the expected time of 0231 GMT.

"All descent and landing operations went according to plan. The crew members that have returned to Earth are feeling well," Roscosmos said in a statement. Misurkin, 40, who handed over command of the International Space Station to compatriot Anton Shkaplerov Tuesday and took charge of the Soyuz descent module carrying the trio down to Earth has spent 334 days in space over two flights.

He was in buoyant mood on the way down, telling Russian Mission control he felt "better than anyone", and was the first crew member to emerge out of the spacecraft onto the snow-covered steppe. Following him out of the craft that landed upright were Acaba, 50, who has now

racked up some 10 months in orbit over three missions and his 51-year-old colleague Vande Hei, who was in space for the first time.

Both NASA astronauts were active on Twitter while aboard the ISS, while Misurkin eschewed the micro-blogging platform. Puerto Rican native Acaba on Sunday tweeted a photo of his hands framing the Earth as viewed from the ISS's famous "Cupola" observation module. "The future of our home is in all of our hands. May we all care for #Earth and practice good stewardship," he wrote. Ex-military man Vande Hei took to the micro-blogging platform to share his love of sports, taking in both the American football Superbowl and the Pyeongchang Winter Olympics while aboard the orbital lab.

Both NASA men will board a plane from Kazakhstan to Houston to continue post-mission testing while Misurkin is bound for Star City, just outside Moscow. Remaining ISS crew members Shkaplerov of Roscosmos, Scott Tingle of NASA and Norishige Kanai of the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency are set to be joined by Americans Ricky Arnold and Andrew Feustel and Russian Oleg Artemyev following a launch from the Baikonur cosmodrome in Kazakhstan later this month. NASA stopped its own manned launches to the ISS in 2011 but recently moved to increase its crew complement aboard the ISS as the Russians cut theirs in a cost-saving measure.

Roscosmos will replenish its crew once a new, multi-purpose space module called Nauka docks at the ISS, but the



Ground personnel help NASA astronaut Joe Acaba get out of the Soyuz MS-06 space capsule after landing in a remote area outside the town of Dzhezkazgan (Zhezkazgan), Kazakhstan. —AFP

launch of the module has been delayed several times and is now not expected to take place before 2019. The ISS laboratory, a rare example of American and Russian international cooperation, has been orbiting Earth at about 28,000 kilometers per hour since 1998. —AFP

Huawei revolutionizes smartphone photography: A world of firsts

In today's world, armed with a mobile device, anyone can become a photographer, recording their life and capturing every worthy moment. And the age of social networks, where hundreds of millions of photographs are uploaded and shared across the world, mobile phone photography is replacing portable digital cameras as one of the most effective mediums of communicating information.

Camera is indeed one of the influential element that defines a premium smartphone and it is one of the most significant key selling points for consumers. We have seen that innovations in smartphone photography were focused on clarity and speed of the pictures. Consumer preference has now shifted beyond the usual megapixel count where higher quality of focus, better perspective, and more visible depth of field is not just 'nice-to-have', but a prerequisite.

Reinventing Smartphone Photography

Redefining the limits between professional and amateur photography, Huawei's partnership with premium camera manufacturer Leica offers new and improved dual-lens camera technology that sets a new standard in smartphone photography. By leveraging the unrivaled capabilities of Leica, the leader in the world of imaging for more than 100 years, users of the Huawei smartphones can now enjoy more accurate colors, more refined interaction between light and shadow, and more life-like pictures. Huawei has taken dual camera technology to the next level.

During the past couple of years, HUAWEI has built a strong competitive advantage in smartphone photography through the core technology, improvements in image quality thanks to its exceptional partnership with the photography giant Leica, and the adoption of AI technology, substantially enhancing its overall photography experience.

Leica's Film Style, which depicts the visual sense of an oil painting, first came true on a smartphone with the model P9. "The Leica Style" brings high color saturation



but a natural look with no overflow effect. The overall hue makes the photo look like an oil painting. The transition of the color is natural, the image is sharp and the details of the lowlights part are well taken care of.

Breakthrough in smartphone portrait photography

The P10, focuses on portrait photography, creating portrait mode, introducing precise 3D facial detection, dynamic illumination and natural portrait enhancements to produce stunning artistic portrait shots. It's been a revolutionary step in the field of portrait photography, making smartphone photography more humanistic.

The HUAWEI P series has always been committed to the pursuit of excellence in artistic expression. P10 made a breakthrough by bringing Leica's portrait mode, which continues to build a system of skills including blurring, monochrome, color and zoom to deliver the best portrait. These skills give each portrait photo rich expression and emotion. Through 3D detection technology we can fully understand basic feature information of faces, calculate the face contour information and implement intelligent additional light, so that the nose looks to have real depth and the forehead and cheekbone look more realistic and rounded. A skin enhancement solution designed by HUAWEI Aesthetics Research Center in France is also applied to improve the skin tones of different ethnicities.

From smart photography to intelligent photography

The latest HUAWEI product co-engineered with Leica is the Mate 10 series. Built with the world's first AI processor for smartphones, the Kirin 970 chipset, the Mate 10 series delivers the ultimate intelligent experience in smartphone photography. It features an AI-powered Real-Time Scene and Object Recognition and Real-Time Auto Settings allow the camera to automatically adjust and choose settings to help users capture better photographs in a range of different environments. It also features AI-powered Bokeh Effect for a more natural and detailed transition between the background and subject and AI-powered Digital Zoom brings far-off text into clearer focus.

Combining a 12-megapixel RGB sensor with a 20-megapixel monochrome sensor, the HUAWEI Mate 10 new dual cameras co-engineered with Leica features 2x lossless zoom, optical image stabilization, and lenses boasting the "world's largest aperture" of f/1.6. The Mate 10 series also has 4K video recording. This is the first intelligent photography smartphone that truly turns every shot into a perfect memory. The collaboration of the fastest growing smartphone company, Huawei and most legendary brand in the history of photography, Leica is providing smartphones with not only professionalism, but opening doors for more possibilities into the future.