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Qualcomm shows off wireless charging for electric vehicles

Qualcomm used two Renault Kangoo vehicles driving over embedded pads that transferred a wireless charge to the cars' batteries at up to 20 kilowatts at highway speeds

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Qualcomm said a so-called 'dynamic charging' test took place on a test track in Versailles, France. Photo: Mike Blake/Reuters

San Francisco: Qualcomm Inc said on Thursday it had demonstrated how electric vehicles could be charged wirelessly while driving, a technology some believe will help accelerate the adoption of self-driving cars.

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The smartphone chipmaker said a so-called “dynamic charging” test took place on a test track in Versailles, France. It used two Renault Kangoo vehicles driving over embedded pads in the road that transferred a charge to the cars’ batteries at up to 20 kilowatts at highway speeds.

Experts believe that self-driving cars of tomorrow will be electric and require a way to charge themselves without human intervention.

Wireless charging is an important area of research for carmakers, their suppliers and start-ups like xChargepoint, WiTricity and HEVO Power.

Qualcomm, which supplies chips to Android phone makers and Apple Inc, is on track to become the leading supplier to the fast-growing automotive chips market given its pending \$38 billion takeover of NXP Semiconductors.

European Union regulators are to rule by 9 June on the deal, which would be the semiconductor industry’s biggest to date.

Electric vehicle charging is one area where Qualcomm could grow as it strives to reduce its dependence on a cooling smartphone market.

Qualcomm chief executive Steven Mollenkopf has called automotive technology and Internet of Things—in which household objects like cars and refrigerators communicate—a “tremendous opportunity” for the company. **Reuters**

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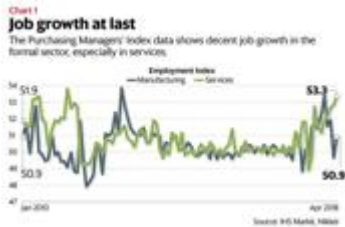
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