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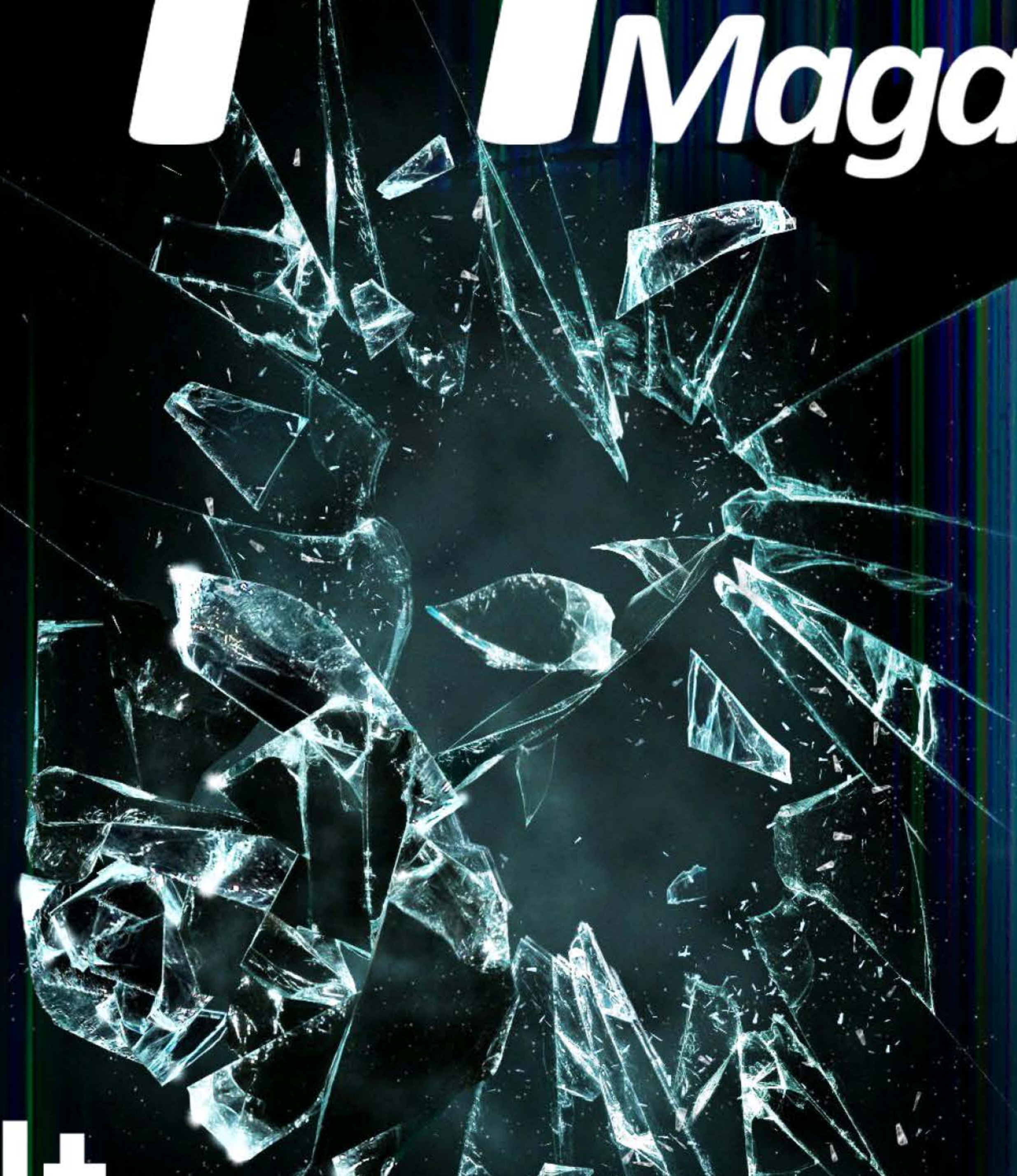
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DOORDASH
FIGHTING
HUNGER

TECH KNOW-HOW OFFERS
HELP TO FOOD BANKS

NASA
NUCLEAR
REACTOR

SEEKS IDEAS FOR
MOON POWER PLANT



Do It Yourself

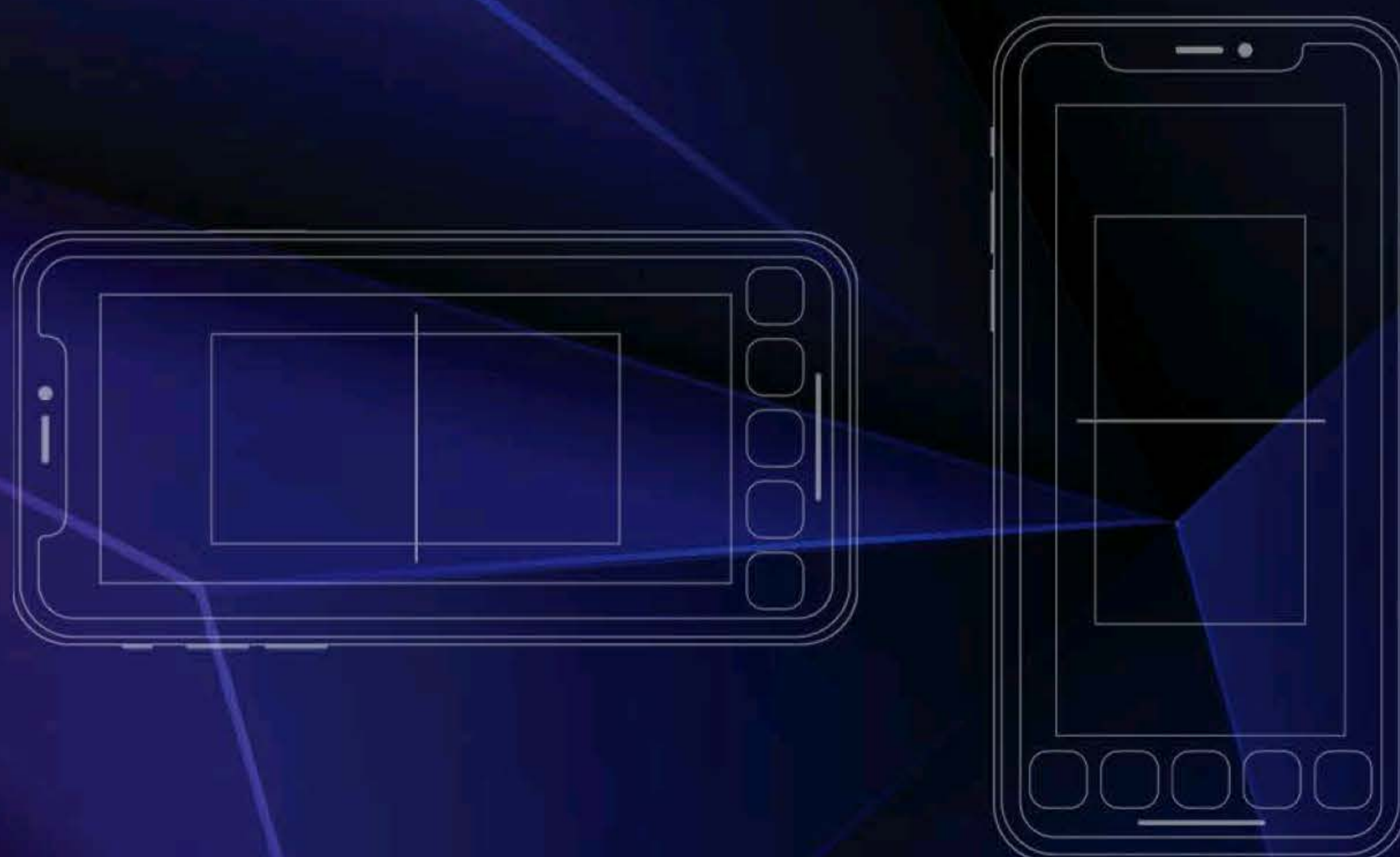
APPLE OPENS A NEW ERA FOR DEVICE REPAIRS



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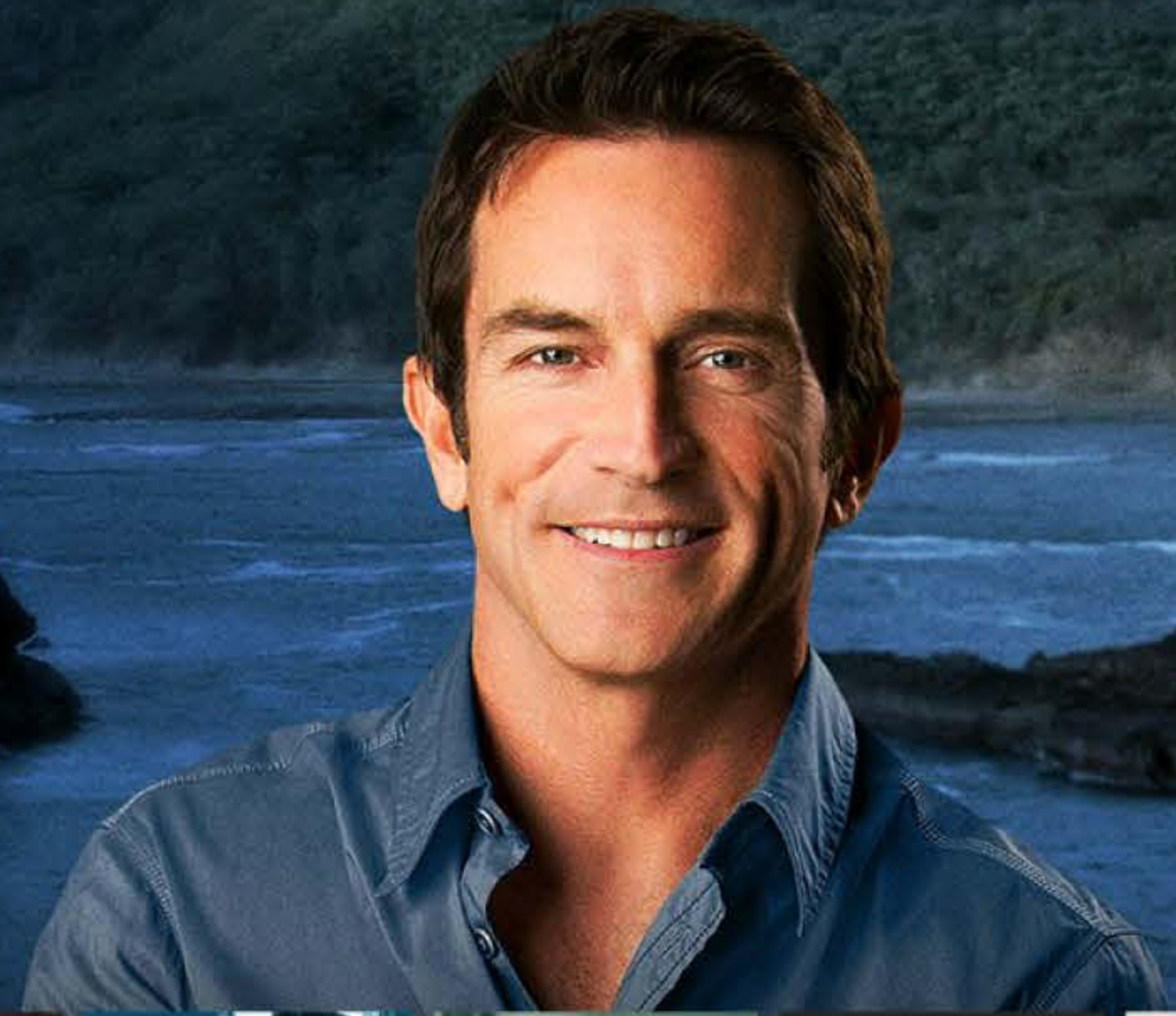
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DOORDASH'S TECHNOLOGICAL KNOW-HOW OFFERS HELP TO FOOD BANKS

Susan Goodell needed help.

In the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic, Goodell, CEO of the El Pasoans Fighting Hunger Food Bank, would look out the window at the long line of clients picking up the food available that day, while she and others answered calls from others who couldn't travel to a distribution point.

"We were getting just horrible phone calls from our seniors, from people with disabilities, people who were COVID-positive and couldn't leave their homes to get food," Goodell said. "We were distributing food here at the site









and other sites from about 6 a.m. till about 7 at night. Then, at the end of the day, the staff would pack up food and deliver it to people’s homes.”

So, earlier this year, when the food delivery service DoorDash approached the food bank, offering help, Goodell was elated by the support, and demand quickly ramped up. The program, in El Paso, Texas, now delivers 2,100 orders of food banks supplies each week, and there’s a waiting list to join.

It’s just the result that DoorDash had intended. By offering its delivery platform technology to food banks for free, DoorDash, like a growing number of companies, is providing something that many nonprofits say is even more valuable than cash — know-how.

Corporate donations of “non-cash” — which includes a company’s own products, services and technology — grew to 22% of all community investments in 2020, according to the Chief Executives for Corporate Purpose, a coalition of business leaders. Over the past five years, the coalition says, non-cash is the fastest-growing segment of corporate giving.

How DoorDash is helping food banks deliver food to homebound people who need it.

Corporations “know that they have unique ways to leverage some of their value,” said Kari Niedfeldt-Thomas, a managing director of the group.

During 2020, food banks distributed 6 billion meals in America. In 2021, they are serving about 55% more people than they did in 2020 before the pandemic, according to Feeding America. The

increased demand is straining many food banks, a problem that is worsening as supply chain disruptions, diminished inventories and labor shortages magnify food costs.

“Food banks have really had to rise to the occasion with innovating and definitely changing the way that they’re engaging with their clients and the way that they’re distributing food,” said Brittany Graunke, DoorDash’s general manager of government and nonprofit. The company modified one of its existing programs, Project DASH, to help them out.

Project DASH had emerged in 2017 from an idea that originated with employees, who proposed it as a way to pick up excess food from restaurants and distribute it to community organizations.

When COVID-19 hit, Graunke said, DoorDash saw how much demand food banks across the country were facing and realized that Project DASH could be modified to help. DoorDash began reaching out to food banks across the country through Feeding America and was surprised by the intensity and ingenuity of the responses.

Julie Yurko, Northern Illinois Food Bank’s CEO, said she recognized how DoorDash’s technology could enhance its programs. DoorDash brought its technological expertise and platform for last-mile delivery. Her food bank brought its online communication skills and the networks to connect people with the food they need.

“Just like that,” Yurko said, “the world changes for us.”





Image: Charles Rex Arbogast

Previously, Northern Illinois Food Bank's My Pantry Express program was unavailable to its homebound clients because someone had to go to a collection point to pick up the food. But with DoorDash's technology, homebound clients can go to the My Pantry Express website and choose from the available food — including macaroni and cheese, cereals, potatoes and apples, on a recent day — just as shoppers do on Amazon Fresh or a local supermarket site and then schedule a time for delivery.

"There's so much dignity in not just being able to say yes to what I want, but also to say no to what I don't want," Yurko said. "I can't tell you how many neighbors say, 'I don't want anything I can't use. There's somebody else who needs it.'"

At this point, DoorDash provides the technology as well as the delivery people.

"The only cost that we incur is the cost of running the program, which is what we do anyway," Yurko said.

That support is also making an impact nationally. DoorDash says Project DASH has made more than a million deliveries, the equivalent of about 21 million meals, in more than 900 cities across the United States and Canada.

Iskeisha Stuckey, executive coordinator for the Food Bank of Delaware, said she reached out to DoorDash after reading about its program and was pleasantly surprised when the company responded with help. Her food bank had managed to deliver to homebound clients only once a week. Project DASH enabled her to get food out to emergency cases.

"I was getting a lot of phone calls from people saying, 'I need food today. I'm hungry today,'"





Image: Charles Rex Arbogast

Stuckey said. "Nobody should have to wait a week just to get food delivery."

Stuckey was heartened by her ability to use the system to help an older woman who had called the food bank after returning home from spinal surgery. She was unable to go to the store and didn't know how to use the Internet to order groceries to her home. Stuckey checked the woman's address and found she was eligible for the food bank's program.

"I was like, 'We can get you delivery in about an hour,'" Stuckey said. "She was really excited. And she got her delivery."

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NYC AIMS TO BE FIRST TO REIN IN AI HIRING TOOLS

Job candidates rarely know when hidden artificial intelligence tools are rejecting their resumes or analyzing their video interviews. But New York City residents could soon get more say over the computers making behind-the-scenes decisions about their careers.

A bill passed by the city council in early November would ban employers from using automated hiring tools unless a yearly bias audit can show they won't discriminate based on an applicant's race or gender. It would also force makers of those AI tools to disclose more about their opaque workings and give candidates the option of choosing an alternative process — such as a human — to review their application.

Proponents liken it to another pioneering New York City rule that became a national standard-bearer earlier this century — one that required chain restaurants to slap a calorie count on their menu items.

Instead of measuring hamburger health, though, this measure aims to open a window into the complex algorithms that rank the skills and personalities of job applicants based on how they speak or what they write. More employers, from fast food chains to Wall Street banks, are relying on such tools to speed up recruitment, hiring and workplace evaluations.

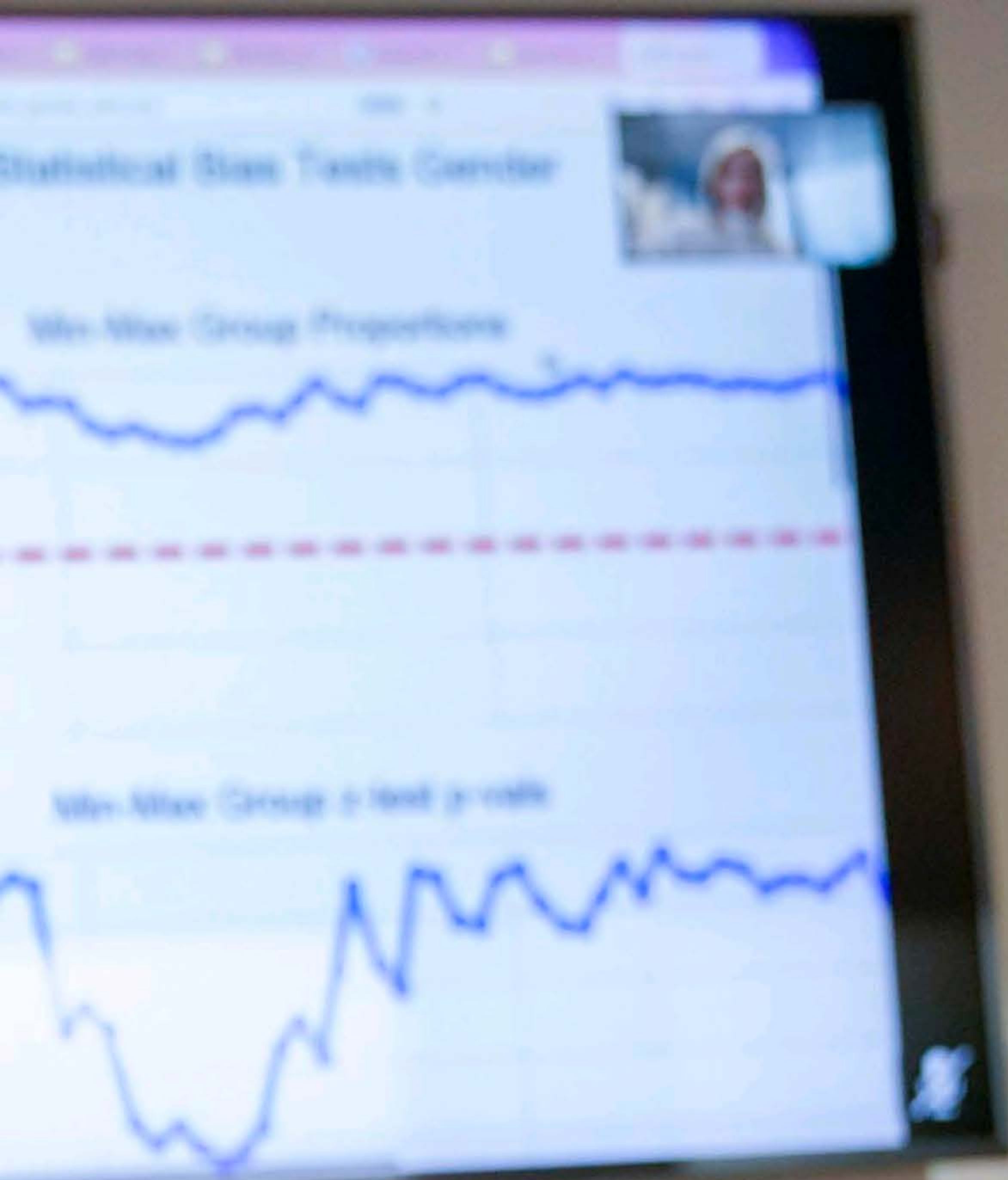
“I believe this technology is incredibly positive but it can produce a lot of harms if there isn’t more transparency,” said Frida Polli, co-founder and CEO of New York startup Pymetrics, which uses AI to assess job skills through game-like online assessments. Her company lobbied for the legislation, which favors firms like Pymetrics that already publish fairness audits.

But some AI experts and digital rights activists are concerned that it doesn’t go far enough to curb bias, and say it could set a weak standard for federal regulators and lawmakers to ponder as they examine ways to rein in harmful AI applications that exacerbate inequities in society.

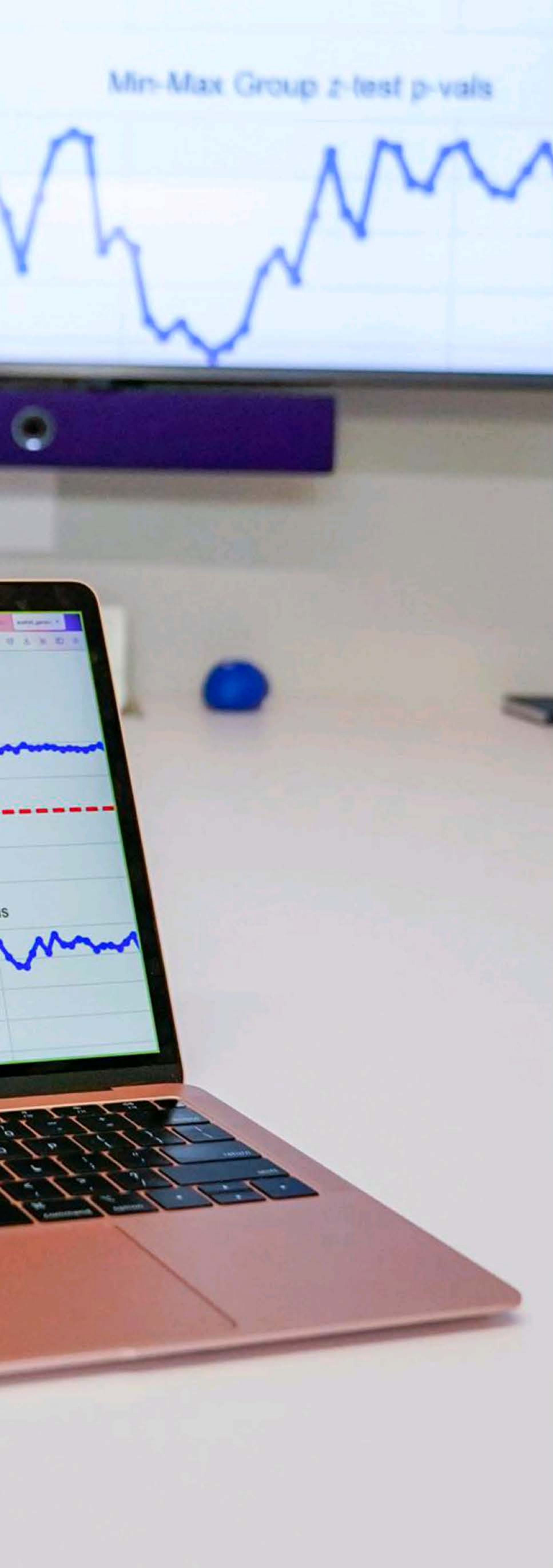
“The approach of auditing for bias is a good one. The problem is New York City took a very weak and vague standard for what that looks like,” said Alexandra Givens, president of the Center for Democracy & Technology. She said the audits could end up giving AI vendors a “fig leaf” for building risky products with the city’s imprimatur.

Givens said it’s also a problem that the proposal only aims to protect against racial or gender bias, leaving out the trickier-to-detect bias against disabilities or age. She said the bill was recently watered down so that it effectively just asks employers to meet existing requirements under U.S. civil rights laws prohibiting hiring practices









that have a disparate impact based on race, ethnicity or gender. The legislation would impose fines on employers or employment agencies of up to \$1,500 per violation — though it will be left up to the vendors to conduct the audits and show employers that their tools meet the city’s requirements.

The City Council voted 38-4 to pass the bill on Nov. 10, giving a month for outgoing Mayor Bill De Blasio to sign or veto it or let it go into law unsigned. De Blasio’s office says he supports the bill but hasn’t said if he will sign it. If enacted, it would take effect in 2023 under the administration of Mayor-elect Eric Adams.

Julia Stoyanovich, an associate professor of computer science who directs New York University’s Center for Responsible AI, said the best parts of the proposal are its disclosure requirements to let people know they’re being evaluated by a computer and where their data is going.

“This will shine a light on the features that these tools are using,” she said.

But Stoyanovich said she was also concerned about the effectiveness of bias audits of high-risk AI tools — a concept that’s also being examined by the White House, federal agencies such as the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and lawmakers in Congress and the European Parliament.

“The burden of these audits falls on the vendors of the tools to show that they comply with some rudimentary set of requirements that are very easy to meet,” she said.

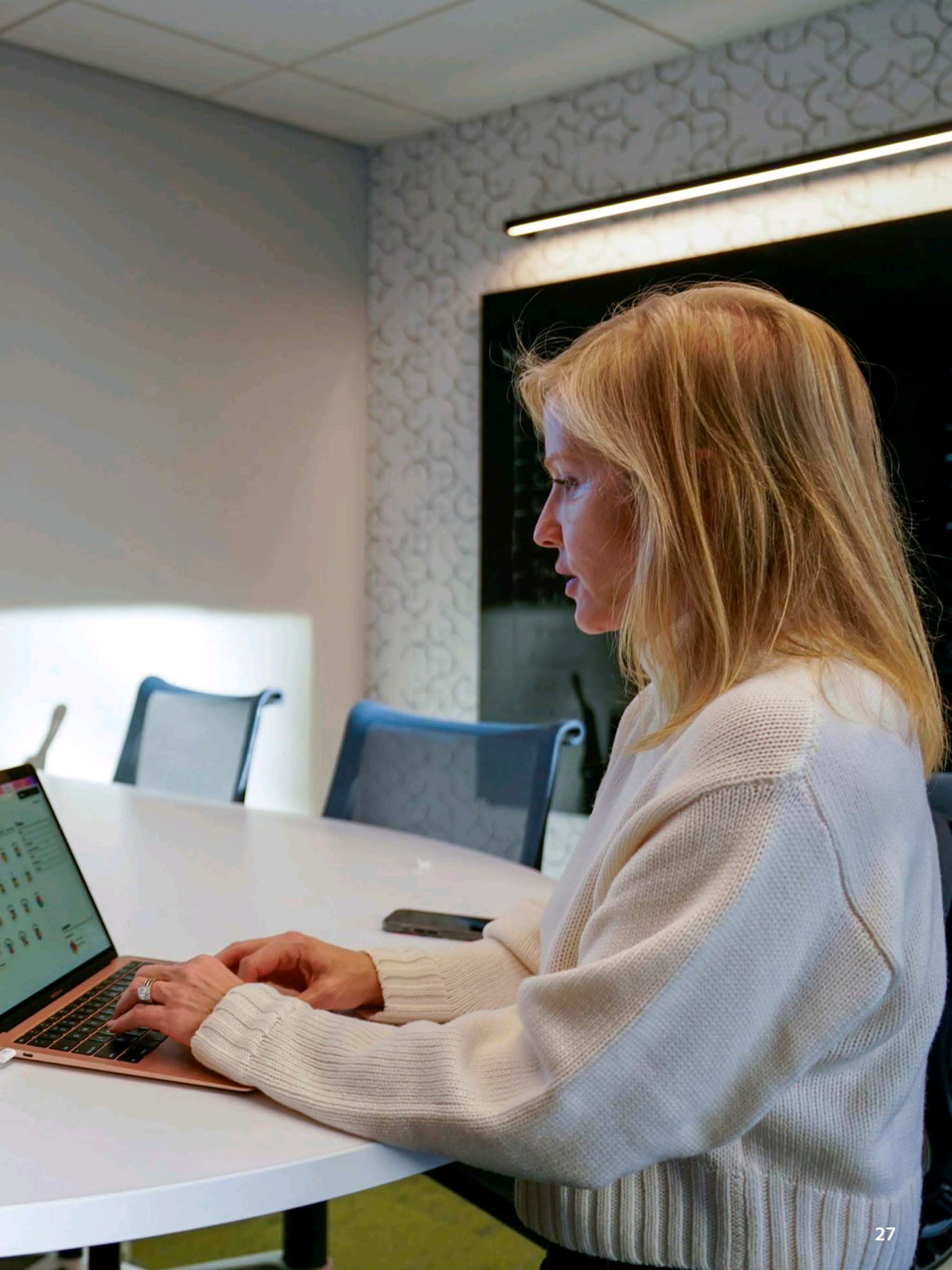
The audits won't likely affect in-house hiring tools used by tech giants like Amazon. The company several years ago abandoned its use of a resume-scanning tool after finding it favored men for technical roles — in part because it was comparing job candidates against the company's own male-dominated tech workforce.

There's been little vocal opposition to the bill from the AI hiring vendors most commonly used by employers. One of those, HireVue, a platform for video-based job interviews, said in a statement that it welcomed legislation that "demands that all vendors meet the high standards that HireVue has supported since the beginning."

The Greater New York Chamber of Commerce said the city's employers are also unlikely to see the new rules as a burden.

"It's all about transparency and employers should know that hiring firms are using these algorithms and software, and employees should also be aware of it," said Helana Natt, the chamber's executive director.





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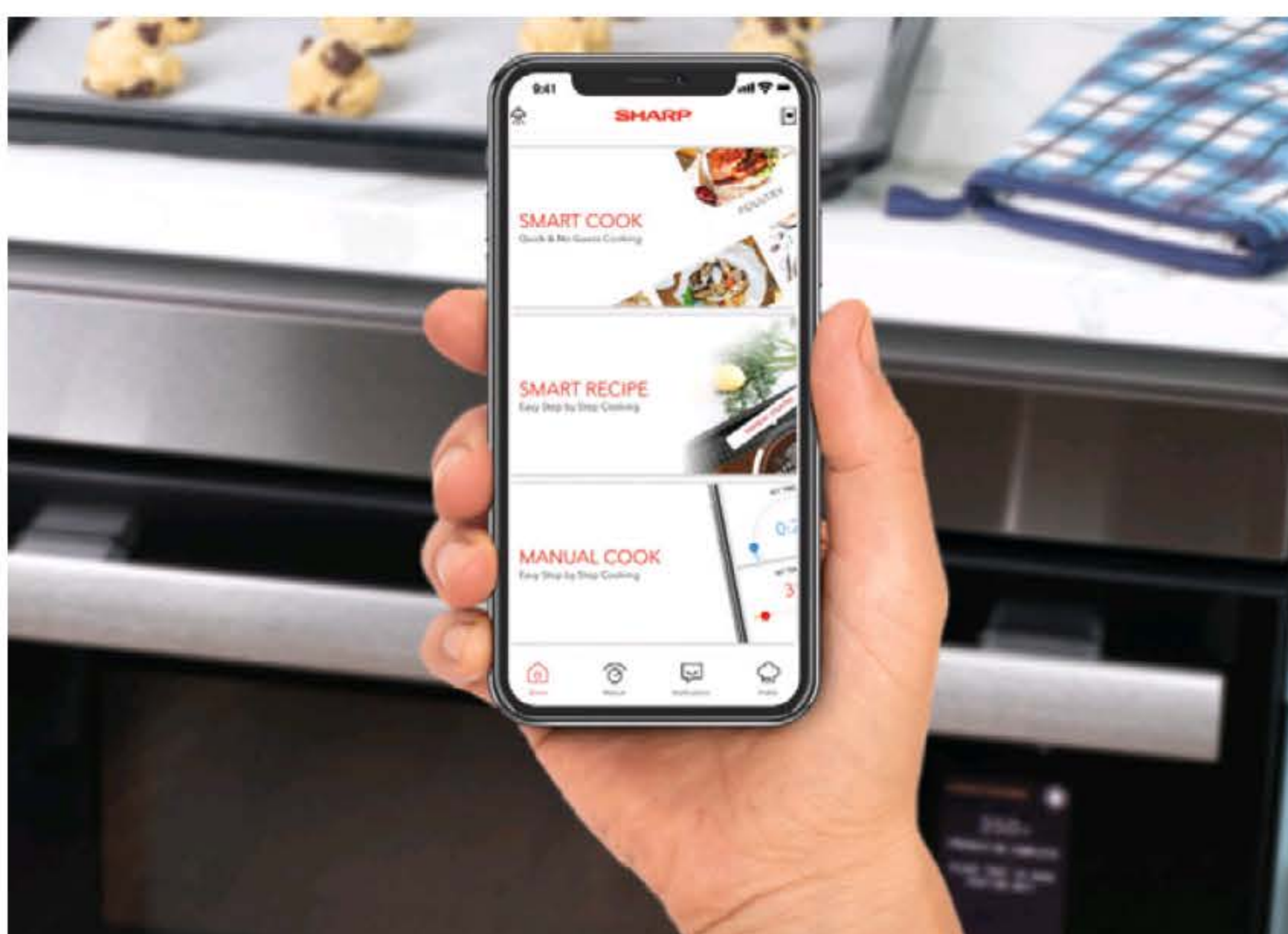
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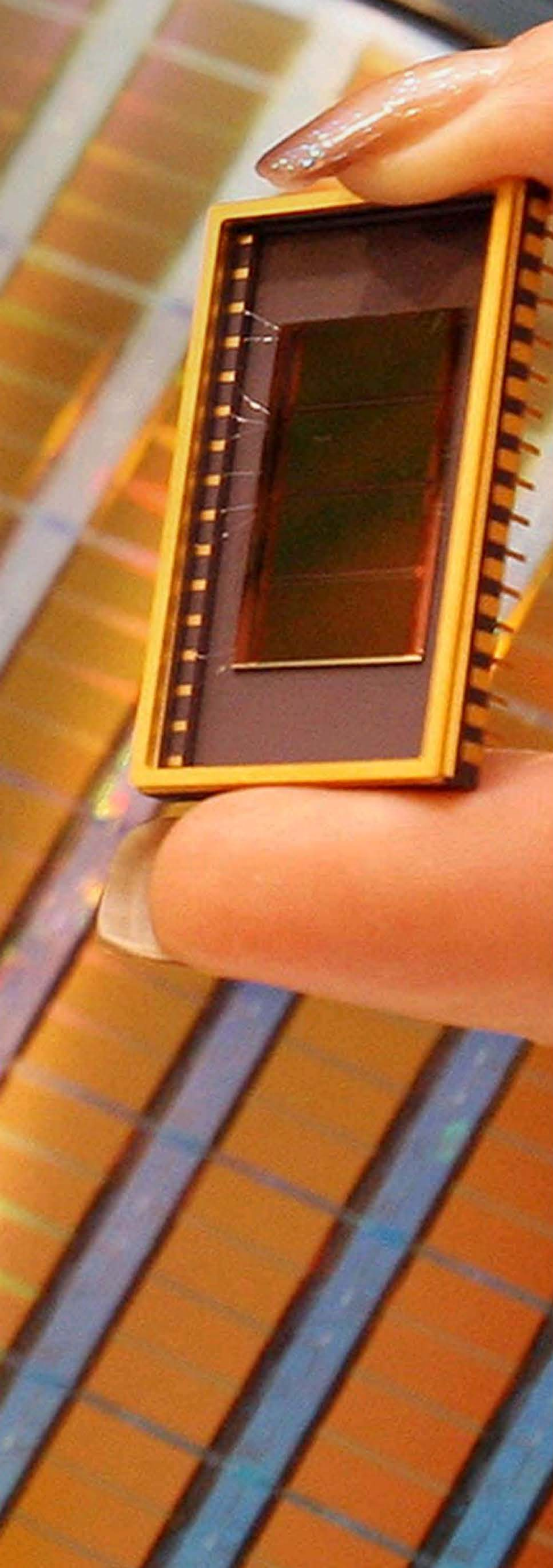
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A microscopic view of a semiconductor wafer, showing a grid of small, colorful rectangular patterns in shades of yellow, orange, red, and purple, arranged in a circular pattern.

SAMSUNG EXPECTED TO BUILD \$17B CHIP FACTORY IN TEXAS



Samsung is planning to build a \$17 billion semiconductor factory outside of Austin, Texas, amid a global shortage of chips used in phones, cars and other electronic devices.

Texas Gov. Greg Abbott has scheduled a press conference this week to make an economic announcement; he is expected to unveil the Samsung investment at that time, according to a person familiar with the plan who wasn't authorized to speak about it publicly ahead of the official announcement. News of the Samsung announcement was reported earlier by the South Korean news agency Yonhap.

The chip shortage has emerged as both a business obstacle and a serious national-security concern. Short supplies of semiconductors kicked off by COVID-era shutdowns have hampered production of new vehicles and electronic devices for more than a year. New questions of economic and national security are also at stake, since many U.S. companies are dependent on chips produced overseas, particularly in Taiwan.

"It's a concentration risk, a geopolitical risk" to be so reliant on Taiwan for much of the world's chip production, said Nina Turner, an analyst at IDC. She said the current shortages will likely subside but there will be a long-term demand for chips as more and more everyday products rely on them.

Neither Samsung, a South Korean electronics giant, nor Abbott's office returned requests for comment about the project this week.

Many chipmakers are spreading out their manufacturing operations, now concentrated in Asia, in response to the shortages, which have

taken a toll on sectors from automakers to the video game industry.

“It makes sense for the supply chain to be a bit more diversified geographically,” said Angelo Zino, an analyst at CFRA. “You’re clearly seeing some new foundry capacity plans being announced in the U.S. as well as Europe.”

Zino said another factor is the expectation that Congress will approve federal subsidies for the semiconductor industry to build its factories in the U.S., in the hopes it will bring jobs, lessen future supply concerns and give the U.S. more leverage over economic rivals like China that have subsidized production.

Samsung had previously indicated it was exploring sites in Texas, Arizona and New York for a possible new U.S. chip plant. It has had a chip fabrication plant in Austin, Texas, since the late 1990s. But most of its manufacturing centers are in Asia.

The U.S. share of the worldwide chip manufacturing market has declined from 37% in 1990 to 12% today, according to the Semiconductor Industry Association, a trade group. President Joe Biden’s administration has been pushing for Congress to pass the \$52 billion CHIPS Act to increase computer chip manufacturing and research. Separate legislation also under consideration would create a new tax credit for investment in semiconductor manufacturing facilities.

Several chipmakers have signaled an interest in expanding their American operations if the U.S. government is able to make it easier to build chip plants. Micron Technology, based in Boise, Idaho, said it will invest \$150 billion





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globally over the next decade in developing its line of memory chips, with a potential U.S. manufacturing expansion if tax credits can help make up for the higher costs of American manufacturing. Pat Gelsinger, the CEO of California-based chipmaker Intel, has urged the U.S. to focus its semiconductor subsidies on American companies.

Intel made waves earlier this year by announcing plans to invest \$20 billion in two new factories in Arizona. Even more significant, Intel said it is starting a new division that will enter into contracts to make chips tailored for other firms in addition to its own processors. That's a major departure for Intel, aligning it more closely with a model popularized by Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co., or TSMC, which already had been building its own plant in Arizona.

Samsung is the dominant player in the market for the memory chips that are key to smartphones and other gadgetry, but Zino said it's also expanding its role on the "foundry side" — the making of chips tailored for other firms.

"My expectation is it's going to be foundry-based in nature," he said of the Texas plant. "It's in line with their intent to triple their foundry capacity."

Other countries have made similar pushes to get chips made closer to where they are used. The European Commission earlier in November said it could approve aid to fund production of semiconductors in the 27-nation bloc amid a global chip shortage and intense worldwide competition to fill the need.

Officials in Williamson County have been working for several months on a package

of incentives that would bring a Samsung Electronics plant to a rural tract between the cities of Taylor and Hutto that would employ about 1,800 workers.

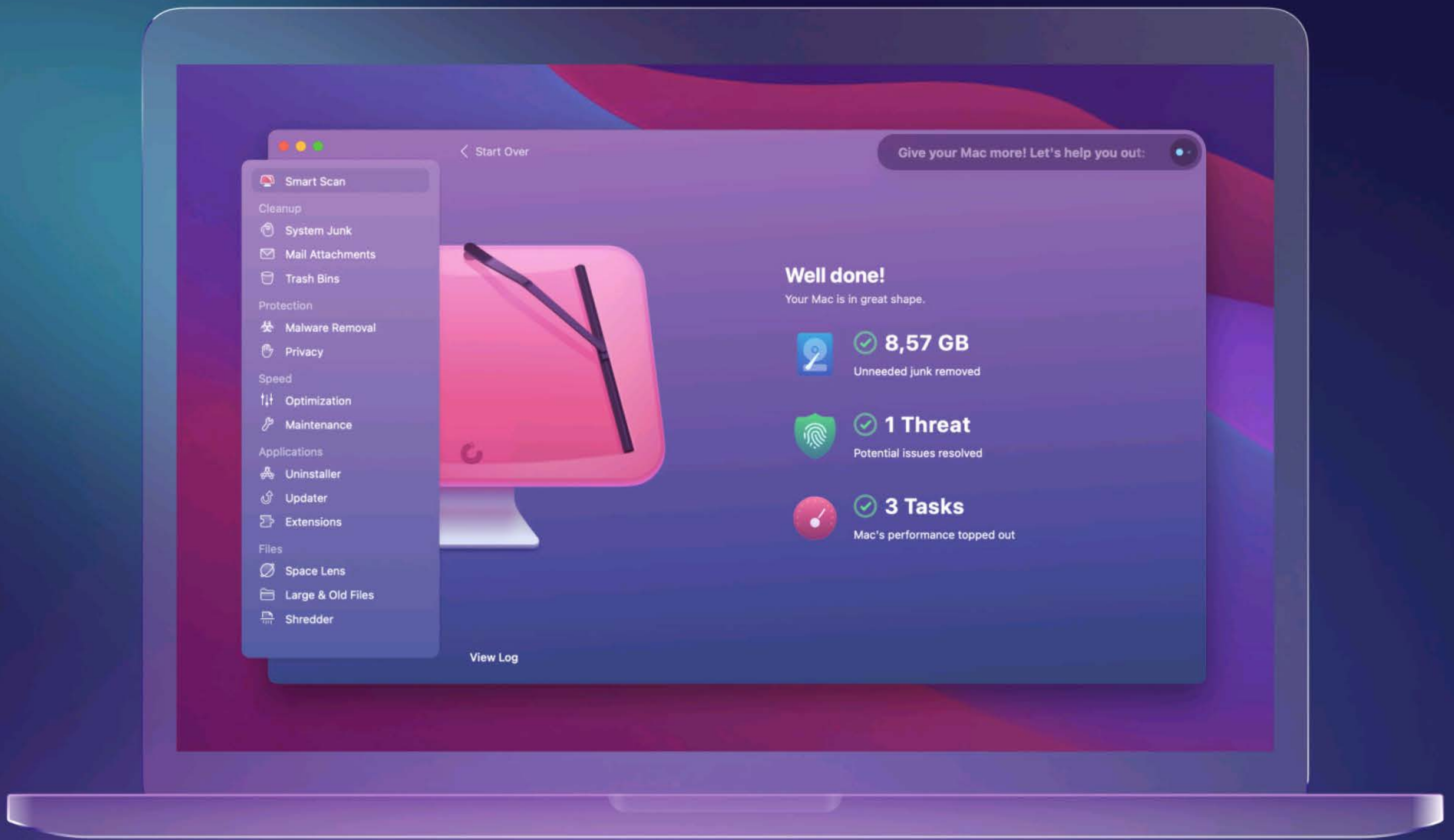
“Now it is mostly agricultural row crop and grazing,” said Russ Boles, the county commissioner whose precinct encompasses the site. “The place where they are looking at has great infrastructure. It has big electricity, it has big water and it has a good road system. Those nuts-and-bolts things are important to Samsung and to the project.”

The school board in Taylor had a meeting on Nov. 15 to approve an arrangement that would enable Samsung to save on taxes if it built a facility within the school district’s boundaries. That followed an earlier approval of tax incentives and infrastructure improvements from government officials in Williamson County, where Taylor is located. The site is about a 40-minute drive northeast of Austin.

The company “plans to invest \$17 billion in 6 million square feet of facilities adding \$135 million in ad valorem taxes to Williamson County over a 30-year period,” according to a September resolution from county commissioners. The document said it could also bring up to 10,000 construction jobs during the building phase.







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APPLE SUING ISRAELI HACKER-FOR- HIRE COMPANY NSO GROUP

Apple announced it is suing Israel's NSO Group, seeking to block the world's most infamous hacker-for-hire company from breaking into Apple's products, like the iPhone.

Apple said in a complaint filed in federal court in California that NSO Group employees are "amoral 21st century mercenaries who have created highly sophisticated cyber-surveillance machinery that invites routine and flagrant abuse." Apple said NSO Group's spyware, called Pegasus, had been used to attack a small number of Apple customers worldwide.

"State-sponsored actors like the NSO Group spend millions of dollars on sophisticated surveillance technologies without effective



GROUP







accountability. That needs to change,” said Craig Federighi, Apple’s senior vice president of software engineering.

NSO Group has broadly denied wrongdoing and said its products have been used by governments to save lives.

“Pedophiles and terrorists can freely operate in technological safe-havens, and we provide governments the lawful tools to fight it. NSO group will continue to advocate for the truth,” the company said in a statement.

It’s the latest blow to the hacking firm, which was recently blacklisted by the U.S. Commerce Department and is currently being sued by social media giant Facebook.

Security researchers have found Pegasus being used around the world to break into the phones of human rights activists, journalists and even members of the Catholic clergy.

Pegasus infiltrates phones to vacuum up personal and location data and surreptitiously controls the smartphone’s microphones and cameras. Researchers have found several examples of NSO Group tools using so-called “zero click” exploits that infect targeted mobile phones without any user interaction.

The Biden administration announced this month that NSO Group and another Israeli cybersecurity firm called Candiru were being added to the “entity list,” which limits their access to U.S. components and technology by requiring government permission for exports.

Also this month, security researchers disclosed that Pegasus spyware was detected on the cellphones of six Palestinian human rights

activists. And Mexican prosecutors recently announced they have arrested a businessman on charges he used the Pegasus spyware to spy on a journalist.

Facebook has sued NSO Group over the use of a somewhat similar exploit that allegedly intruded via its globally popular encrypted WhatsApp messaging app. A U.S. federal appeals court issued a ruling this month rejecting an effort by NSO Group to have the lawsuit thrown out.

Apple also announced that it was donating \$10 million, as well as any damages won in the NSO Group lawsuit, to cybersurveillance researchers and advocates.







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Apple opens a new era
for device repairs



In the US alone, the cell phone repair sector is worth an estimated \$4 billion with thousands of repair stores existing to help fix iPhones, iPads, and more. Apple's Self Service Repair program could revolutionize the sector and put the power back into consumers' hands.



INTRODUCING SELF SERVICE REPAIR

In recent years, Apple has made it clear that consumers should have their smartphones and tablets fixed by an Apple professional, for fear of having their device broken or tampered with. The company went one step further with iOS 15. If you had your screen repaired by a third-party service provider or a company that wasn't part of Apple's authorized repair scheme, Face ID was rendered useless. A number of high-profile organizations rightfully protested the move, and after some backlash the Cupertino company confirmed it would fix the problem and reinstate Face ID for users. Still, it's a sign of the times and demonstrates Apple's opinion on third-party retailers and repair stores, so much so that the company is now planning to revolutionize the sector. In a first for a major technology brand, Apple has announced the Self Service Repair scheme which is designed to allow customers who are comfortable with completing their own repairs access to Apple genuine parts and tools. Although third-party companies like iFixIt have been offering services like this for years, it's the first time Apple will sell parts and tools directly to consumers and give them autonomy over their devices, which is great news.

Apple says that the new scheme will be available for iPhone 12 and iPhone 13 users first, but adds that it will bring the scheme to Macs featuring M1 chips at a later date. The scheme will kick off early next year in the US and expand to additional countries throughout 2022, and it joins more than 5,000 Apple Authorized Service Providers (AASPs) and 2,800 Independent Repair Providers who have access to these parts, tools, and manuals already.









It's unknown why Apple was prompted to introduce the program right now, but perhaps it was a comeback following backlash from the general public over its decision to disable Face ID when replacing a screen that didn't come from an authorized Apple reseller. Empowering users to complete their own repairs will no doubt change the landscape of repair shops, and as consumers become more comfortable completing their own repairs, we may even see that some retailers go out of business as Apple cannibalizes the market. Granted, the scheme will only appeal to a small number of consumers as the process of manually taking apart an iPhone to replace a battery can be daunting and fraught with potential issues, so the majority of consumers will favor sending in their device to be repaired by a professional. However, self-repair companies such as iFixIt will no doubt suffer a drop in sales. The firm has **said it's not concerned about the new scheme, and actually has welcomed proposals.** Speaking in a blog post following the announcement of the program, iFixIt said: "This is huge news for everyone, but we're especially excited at iFixit. We started in 2003, when cofounder Kyle Wiens tried to fix his iBook but was blocked from a service manual for it. If Apple follows through next year, it will be the first time the company has published iPhone repair manuals. We are hopeful that Apple's DIY manuals will have the same information given to Apple Authorized Service Providers, but rewritten with customers in mind."

Apple said that the first phase of the program will focus on commonly-serviced modules, such as batteries, displays, and cameras, and



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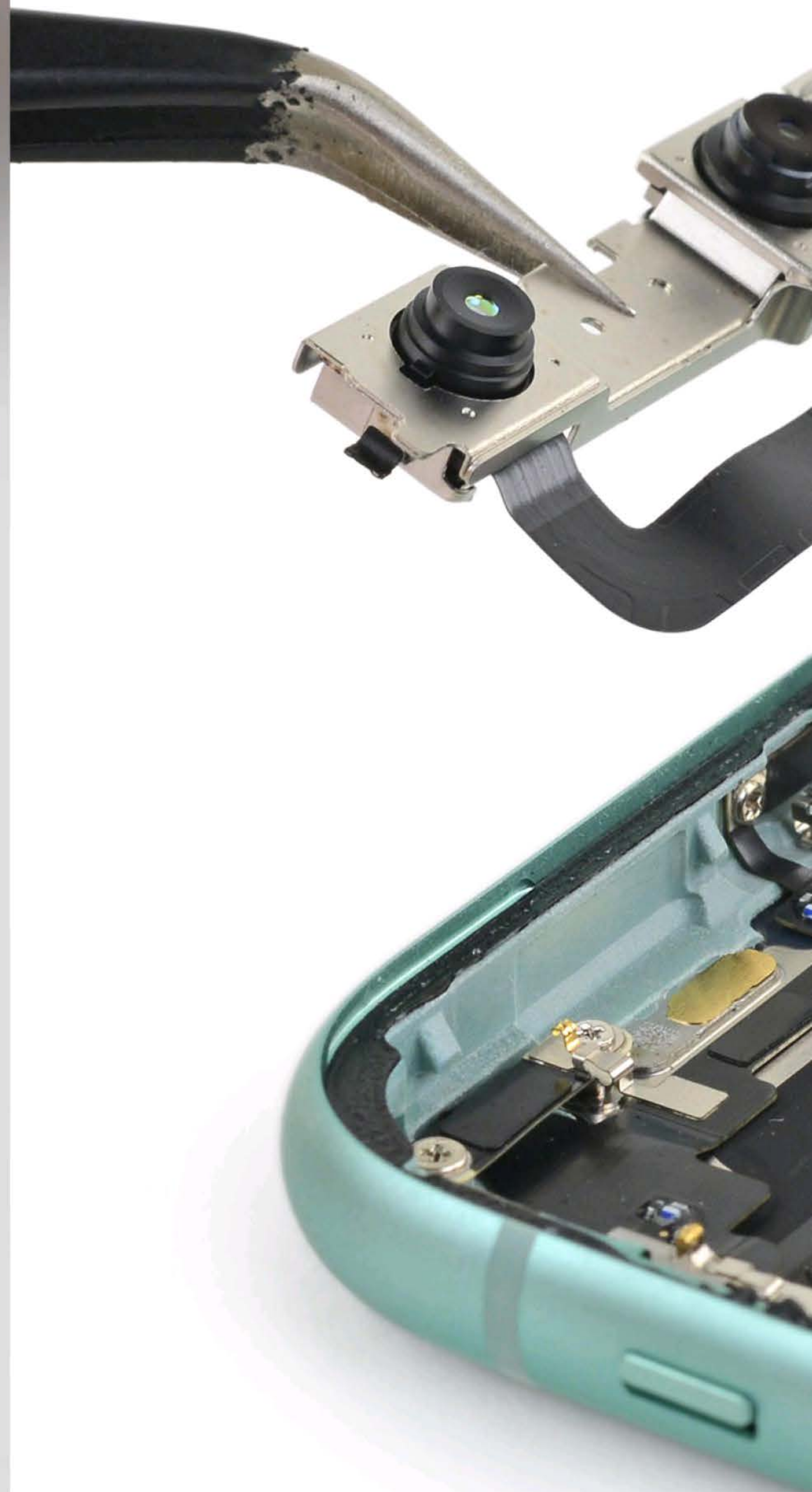
additional repair options will be available at a later date. Speaking of the program, Jeff Williams, Apple's chief operating officer, said: "Creating greater access to Apple genuine parts gives our customers even more choice if a repair is needed. In the past three years, Apple has nearly doubled the number of service locations with access to Apple genuine parts, tools, and training, and now we're providing an option for those who wish to complete their repairs." One important caveat from Apple is that consumers who want to take part in the scheme must be able to safely perform a repair, and so they must first review the Repair Manual. Then a customer will place an order for the Apple genuine parts and tools using the Apple Self Service Repair Online Store. Once they have completed their repair, they can return used parts for recycling to an Apple Store and as a thank you bonus, they'll receive credit toward their purchase, incentivizing more returns.

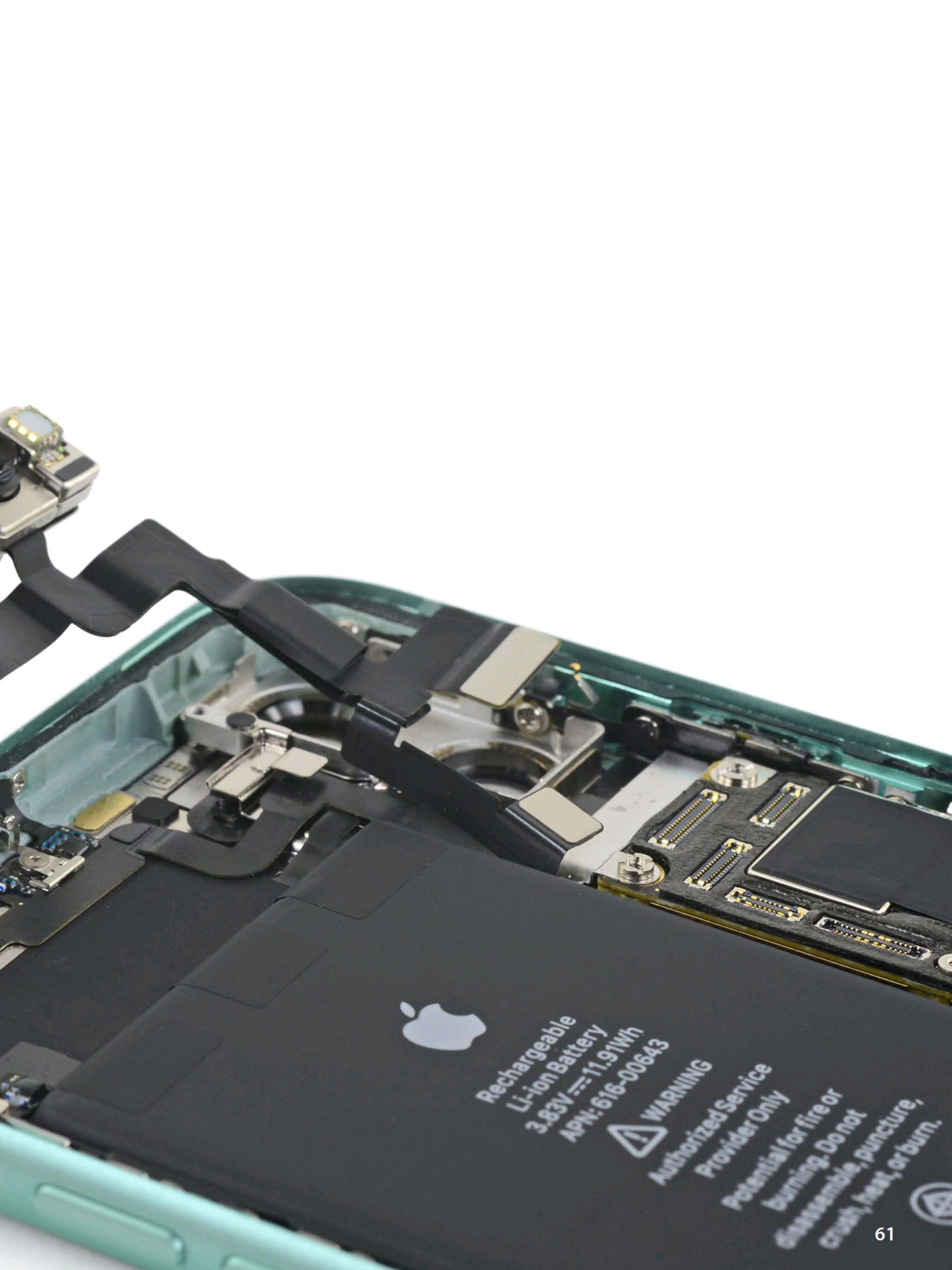
The Cupertino company says that its new repair store will have more than 200 individual parts and tools, enabling customers to complete the most common repairs on iPhone 12 and iPhone 13. The company says that Self Service Repair is intended for individual technicians with the knowledge and experience to repair electronic devices, and recommends that for the vast majority of customers, visiting a professional repair provider with certified technicians who use genuine Apple parts is the safest and most reliable way to get a repair. It will be interesting to see how the general public responds to the new store and whether we'll see claims that users have broken their devices and expect Apple to fix them for free.

During the scheme's announcement, Apple was also keen to highlight the progress it's made in repairs. The firm said that over the past 36 months, it had doubled the number of service locations with access to Apple genuine parts, tools, and training, including more than 2,800 Independent Repair Providers, and added that its Independent Repair Provider program has grown to more than 200 countries, allowing independent repair shops to access the same training, parts, and tools as other Apple Authorized Service Providers. The company added that it offers convenient repair options for customers through its global network of over 5,000 AASPs that help millions of people with both in- and out-of-warranty services for all Apple products, offering great value for consumers who want to extend the life of their devices.

THE RIGHT TO REPAIR

Apple's announcement comes at a turning point in the global technology landscape, as more politicians and lobbyists fight for the 'right to repair'. In today's increasingly heated world where the environment must become more of a priority for everyone, technology giants are now being held accountable and are being asked to make their devices easier to repair, rather than simply replaced. Apple's new self-service repairs are being modeled on the Independent Repair Provider (IRP) program which some people say is too restrictive and only allows new parts to be used. For example, a member of the scheme cannot replace a broken iPhone screen with an iPhone screen from another, unused device. Unique serial codes must be used and scanned





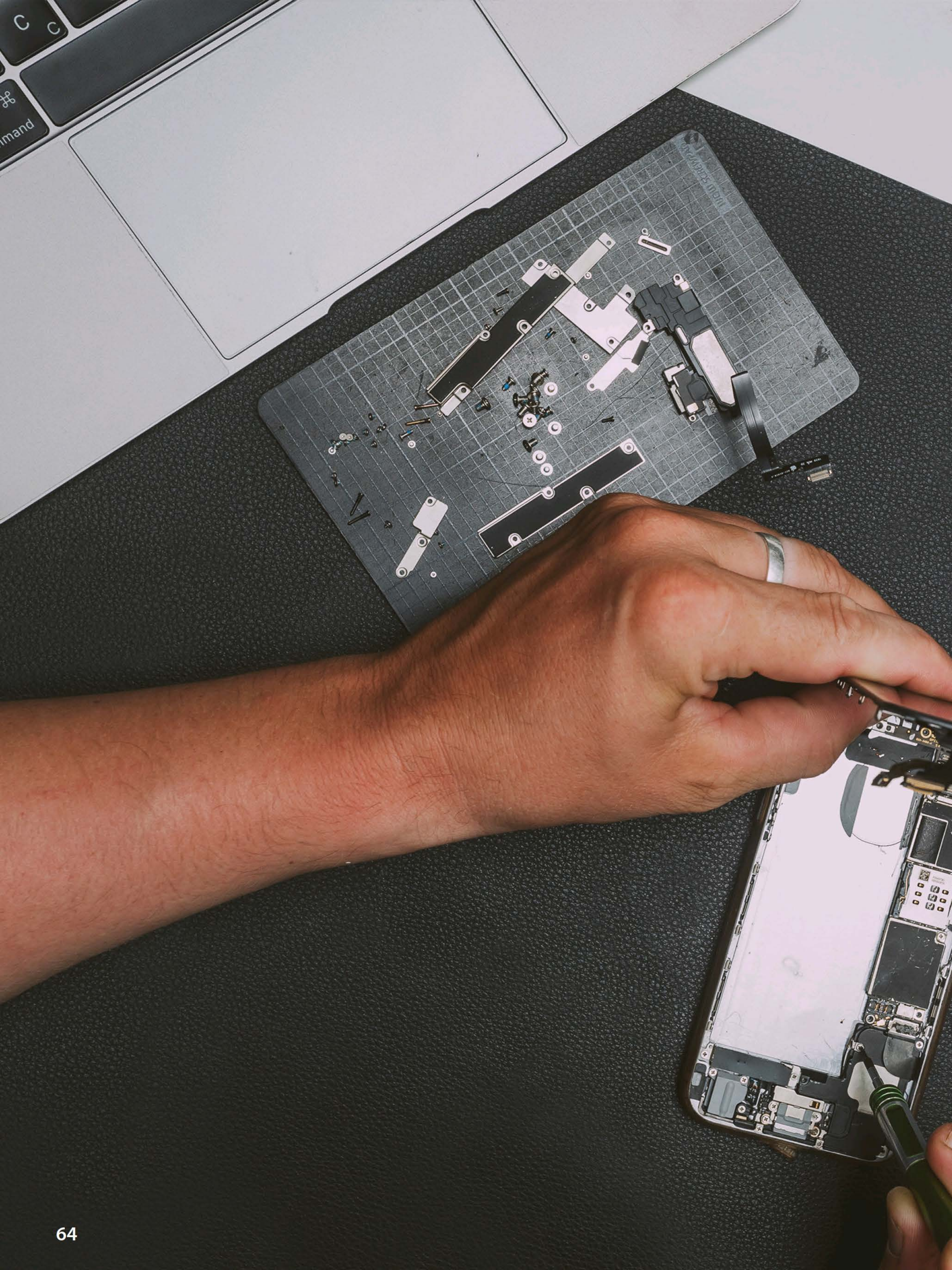
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for the technology to work and for the repair to be deemed as of acceptable quality by Apple. Apple has also been criticized for the prices of its repair parts, with some retailers and repair companies complaining that they simply cannot compete with Apple when it comes to parts. For example, an iPhone 12 screen costs \$235 to buy from Apple if they send back their customer's old broken screen, or \$270 on its own, meaning that repair companies must add another \$50-\$100 to make it worth their while. But Apple offers screen repair to consumers for \$280, which is pricing independents out of the market and encouraging more consumers to go with Apple - or use non-genuine repair parts.

It remains to be seen exactly how the new repair program will work, but there's no doubt that it's a step in the right direction from a consumer and environmental perspective. Here's hoping that Apple can learn lessons from mistakes of the past and ensure that consumers and third-party companies can benefit from a more open repair policy that does not penalize people for wanting to repair their old device rather than throw it away and opt for an upgrade.

Self Service Repair is coming and consumers will soon have more power than ever before.





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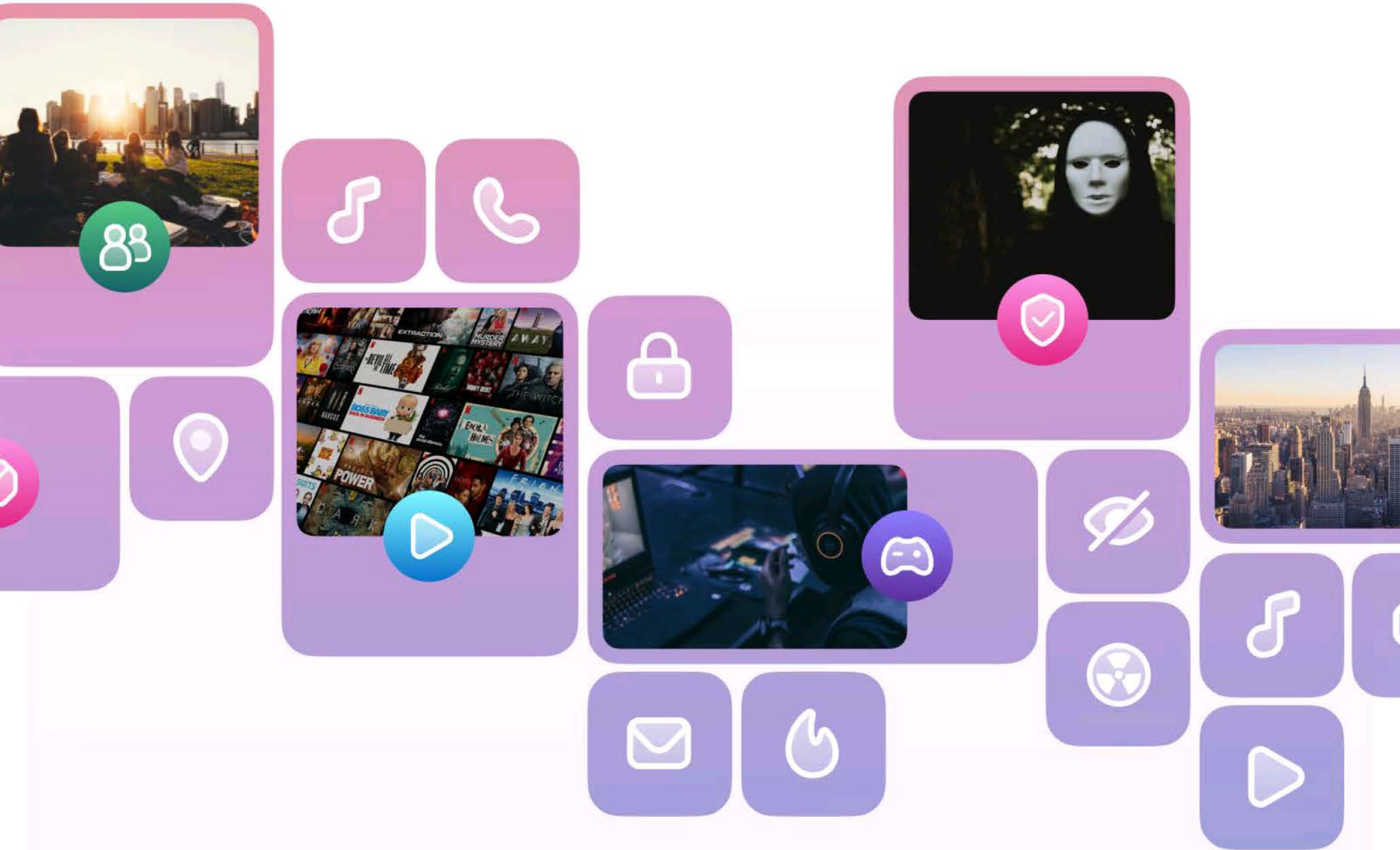
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NASA LAUNCHES SPACECRAFT TO TEST ASTEROID DEFENSE CONCEPT

NASA launched a spacecraft Tuesday night on a mission to smash into an asteroid and test whether it would be possible to knock a speeding space rock off course if one were to threaten Earth.

The DART spacecraft, short for Double Asteroid Redirection Test, lifted off from Vandenberg Space Force Base atop a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket in a \$330 million project with echoes of the Bruce Willis movie "Armageddon."

If all goes well, the boxy, 1,200-pound (540-kilogram) craft will slam head-on into Dimorphos, an asteroid 525 feet (160 meters) across, at 15,000 mph (24,139 kph) next September.





“This isn’t going to destroy the asteroid. It’s just going to give it a small nudge,” said mission official Nancy Chabot of Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory, which is managing the project.

Dimorphos orbits a much larger asteroid called Didymos. The pair are no danger to Earth but offer scientists a better way to measure the effectiveness of a collision than a single asteroid flying through space.

Dimorphos completes one orbit of Didymos every 11 hours, 55 minutes. DART’s goal is a crash that will slow Dimorphos down and cause it to fall closer toward the bigger asteroid, shaving 10 minutes off its orbit.

The change in the orbital period will be measured by telescopes on Earth. The minimum change for the mission to be considered a success is 73 seconds.

The DART technique could prove useful for altering the course of an asteroid years or decades before it bears down on Earth with the potential for catastrophe.

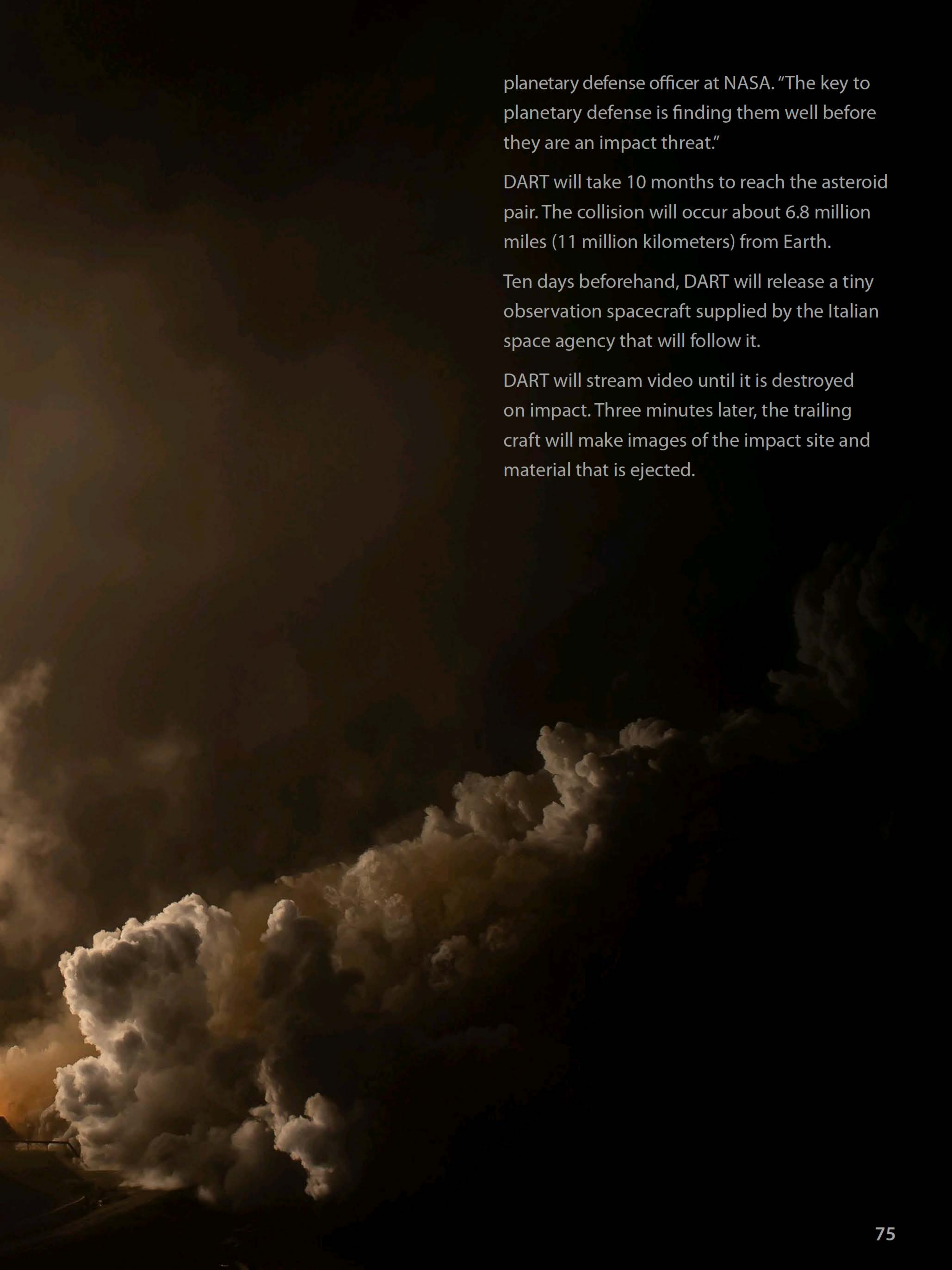
A small nudge “would add up to a big change in its future position, and then the asteroid and the Earth wouldn’t be on a collision course,” Chabot said.

Scientists constantly search for asteroids and plot their courses to determine whether they could hit the planet.

“Although there isn’t a currently known asteroid that’s on an impact course with the Earth, we do know that there is a large population of near-Earth asteroids out there,” said Lindley Johnson,



Image: Bill Ingalls



planetary defense officer at NASA. “The key to planetary defense is finding them well before they are an impact threat.”

DART will take 10 months to reach the asteroid pair. The collision will occur about 6.8 million miles (11 million kilometers) from Earth.

Ten days beforehand, DART will release a tiny observation spacecraft supplied by the Italian space agency that will follow it.

DART will stream video until it is destroyed on impact. Three minutes later, the trailing craft will make images of the impact site and material that is ejected.



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NASA SEEKS IDEAS FOR A NUCLEAR REACTOR ON THE MOON

If anyone has a good idea on how to put a nuclear fission power plant on the moon, the U.S. government wants to hear about it.

NASA and the nation's top federal nuclear research lab put out a request for proposals for a fission surface power system.

NASA is collaborating with the U.S. Department of Energy's Idaho National Laboratory to establish a sun-independent power source for missions to the moon by the end of the decade.

"Providing a reliable, high-power system on the moon is a vital next step in human space exploration, and achieving it is within our

grasp,” Sebastian Corbisiero, the Fission Surface Power Project lead at the lab, said in a statement.

If successful in supporting a sustained human presence on the moon, the next objective would be Mars. NASA says fission surface power could provide sustained, abundant power no matter the environmental conditions on the moon or Mars.

“I expect fission surface power systems to greatly benefit our plans for power architectures for the moon and Mars and even drive innovation for uses here on Earth,” Jim Reuter, associate administrator for NASA’s Space Technology Mission Directorate, said in a statement.

The reactor would be built on Earth and then sent to the moon.

Submitted plans for the fission surface power system should include a uranium-fueled reactor core, a system to convert the nuclear power into usable energy, a thermal management system to keep the reactor cool, and a distribution system providing no less than 40 kilowatts of continuous electric power for 10 years in the lunar environment.

Some other requirements include that it be capable of turning itself off and on without human help, that it be able to operate from the deck of a lunar lander, and that it can be removed from the lander and run on a mobile system and be transported to a different lunar site for operation.


Additionally, when launched from Earth to the moon, it should fit inside a 12-foot (4-meter)





TRANSIENT REACTOR
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diameter cylinder that's 18 feet (6 meters) long. It should not weigh more than 13,200 pounds (6,000 kilograms).

The proposal requests are for an initial system design and must be submitted by Feb. 19.

The Idaho National Laboratory has worked with NASA on various projects in the past. Most recently, the lab helped power NASA's Mars rover Perseverance with a radioisotope power system, which converts heat generated by the natural decay of plutonium-238 into electrical power.

The car-sized rover landed on Mars in February and has remained active on the red planet.

The Energy Department has also been working to team up with private businesses on various nuclear power plans, notably on a new generation of smaller power plants that range from small modular reactors to small mobile reactors that can quickly be set up in the field and then removed when not needed.



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LAUNCH OF NEW NASA SPACE TELESCOPE DELAYED AFTER INCIDENT



20

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The European Space Agency says the launch of a new NASA telescope to replace the famed Hubble observatory is being postponed to allow experts to check the device for possible damage following an incident at its spaceport in French Guiana.

The ESA said in a statement that technicians had been preparing to attach the James Webb Space Telescope to a launch vehicle adapter when a clamp band suddenly loosened, jolting the delicate observatory.

"A NASA-led anomaly review board was immediately convened to investigate and instituted additional testing to determine with certainty (that) the incident did not damage any components," ESA said. "NASA and its mission partners will provide an update when the testing is completed at the end of this week."

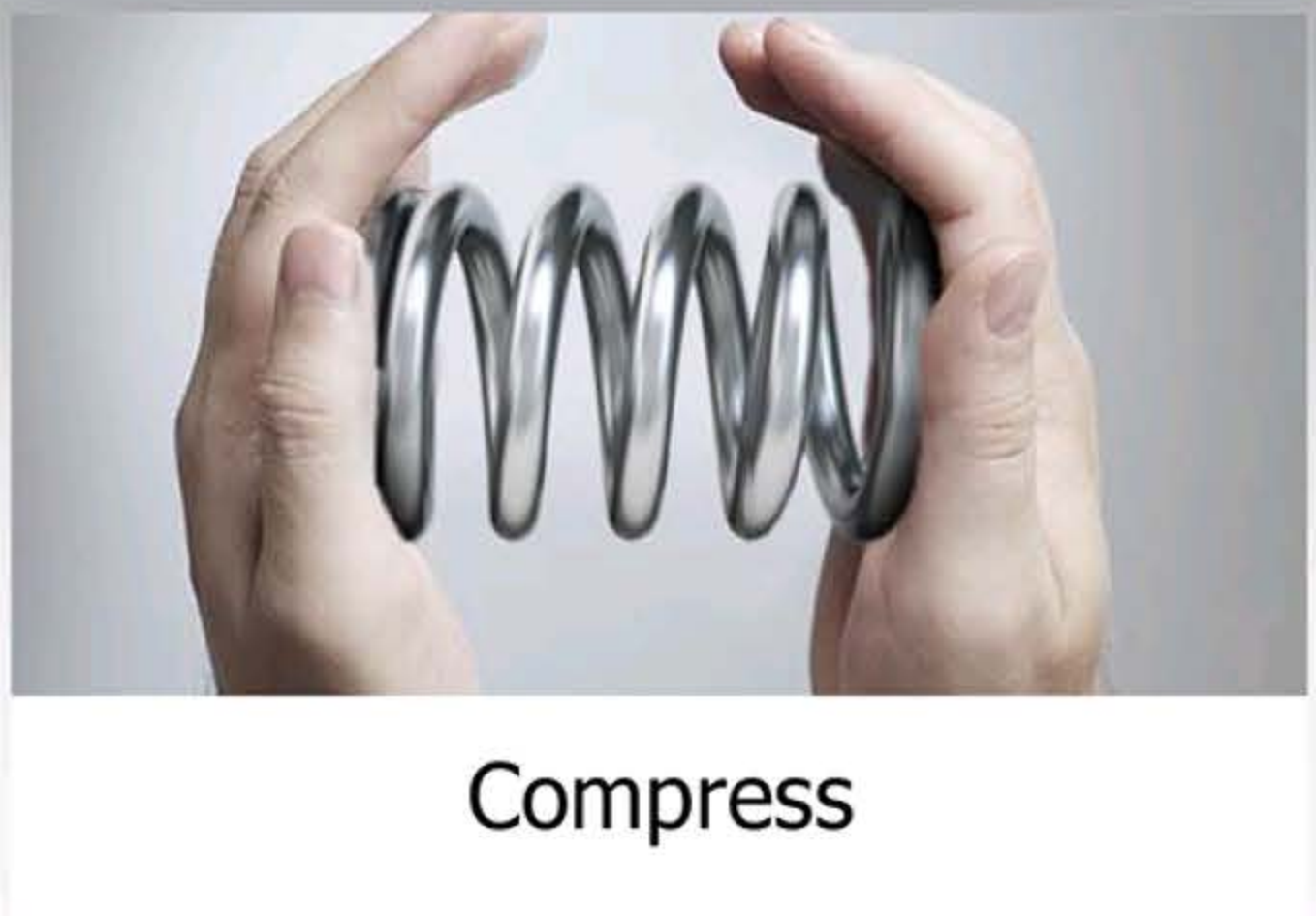
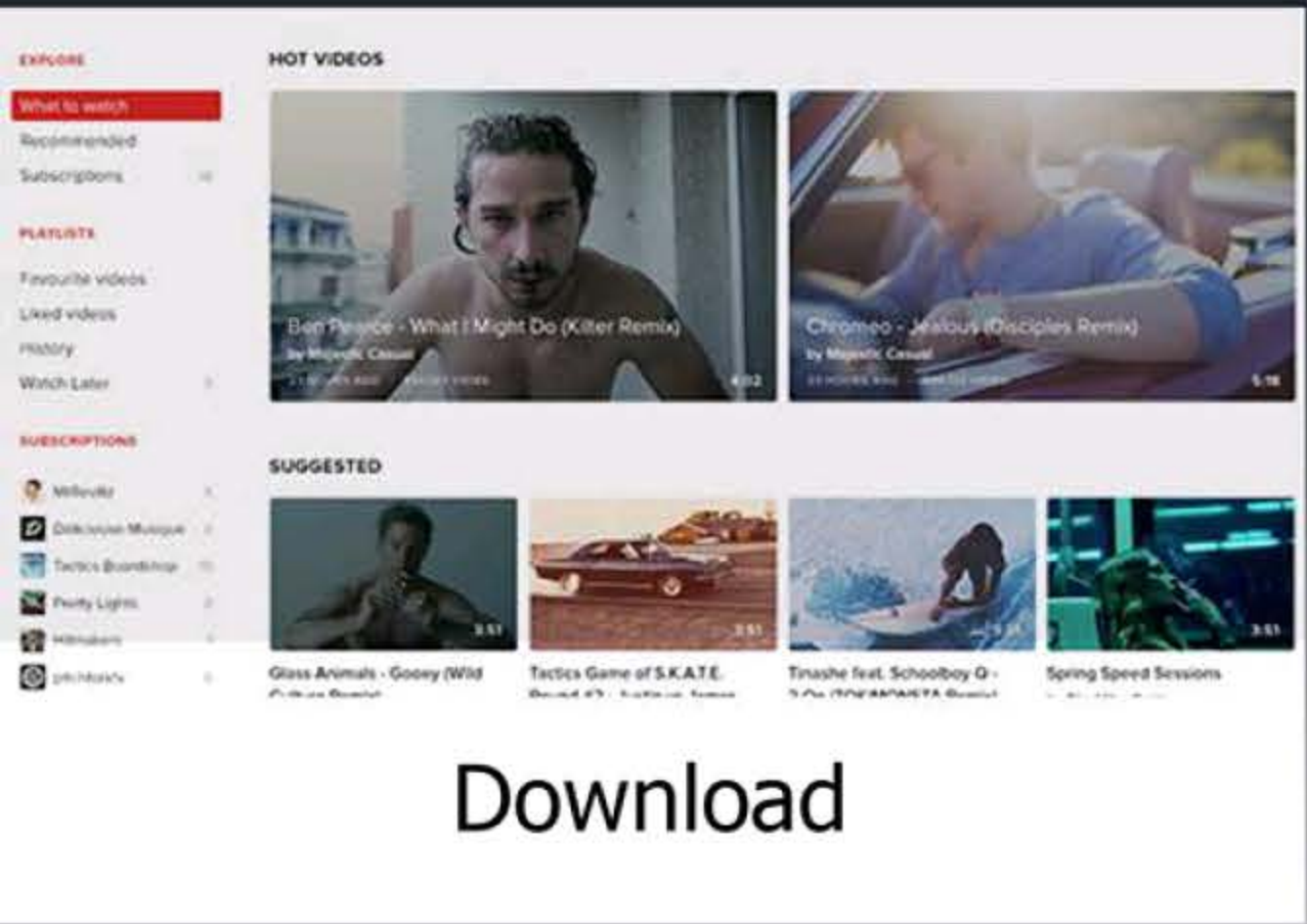
ESA said the telescope will now launch aboard an Ariane 5 rocket no earlier than Dec. 22 — four days after the original planned liftoff date of Dec. 18.



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T-MOBILE TO PAY \$20M AFTER OUTAGE LED TO FAILED 911 CALLS

Wireless carrier T-Mobile agreed to pay \$19.5 million in a settlement with the Federal Communications Commission over a 12-hour nationwide outage in June 2020 that resulted in thousands of failed 911 calls.

The FCC said that as part of the settlement, T-Mobile will also commit to improving communications of outages to emergency call centers, among other measures.

The agency said there was a “complete failure” of more than 23,000 911 calls because of the outage. There were also calls that did go through but without key information, like a callback number or location data.



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The FCC's investigation said the outage began because of a failure in part of T-Mobile's network, which was made worse by routing and software errors.

The Bellevue, Washington, company said that the June 2020 episode was a "short-term isolated outage and we immediately took steps to further enhance our network to prevent this type of event from happening in the future."

This is not the first time such outages have happened. T-Mobile paid a \$17.5 million fine after two related nationwide service outages on the same day in August 2014.

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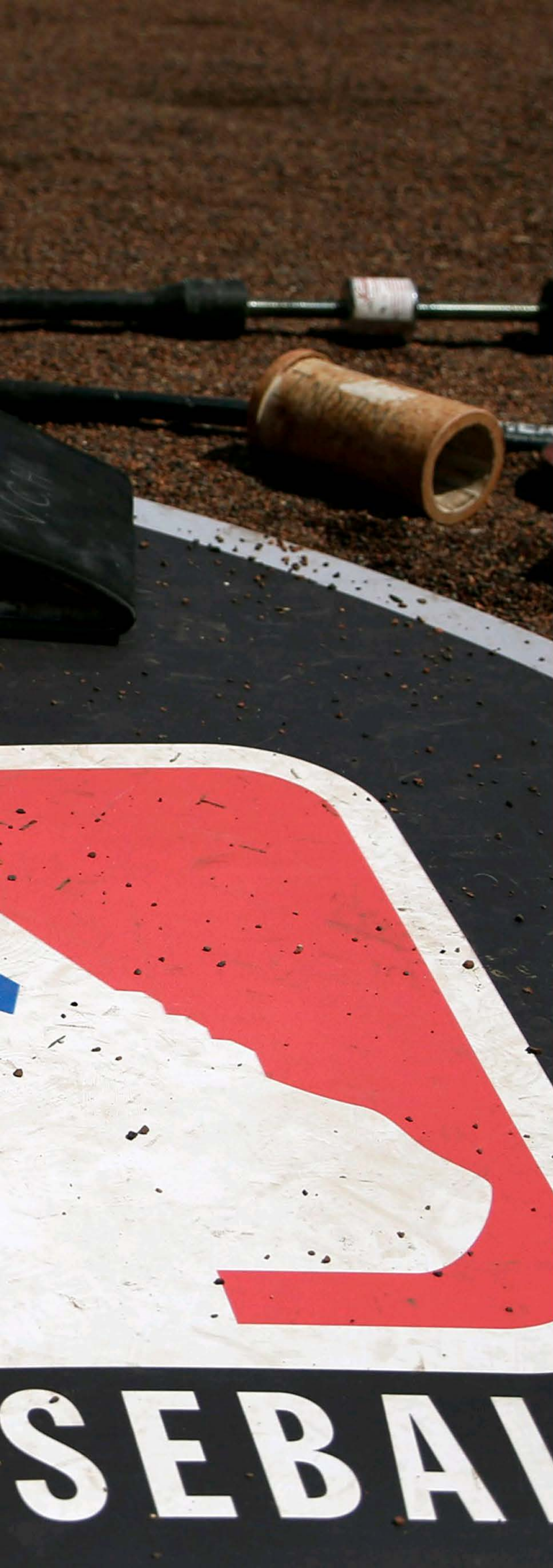
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MLB, UNION MOVE TENDER DEADLINE AMID LOCKOUT UNCERTAINTY

Major League Baseball and the players' union have agreed to move the upcoming deadline for teams to offer contracts to certain players in order to keep them out of potential limbo in the event of a work stoppage next month.

The tender deadline was moved from Dec. 2 to Nov. 30 at 8 p.m. The sport's collective bargaining agreement expires Dec. 1 at 11:59 p.m., and it's not expected that MLB and the union will agree on a new deal before then. A lockout and roster freeze could begin Dec. 2.

Teams have until the deadline to decide whether to offer 2022 contracts to players with fewer than six years of major league service, including those eligible for salary arbitration.

The labor dispute could take months to resolve, and if the Dec. 2 deadline passed during a roster freeze, players not yet tendered contracts might not know if they'd become free agents until shortly before the start of the season.



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IS TRAVEL SAFE DURING THE PANDEMIC THIS HOLIDAY SEASON?

Is travel safe during the pandemic this holiday season?

It depends. It can be safe if you're fully vaccinated against COVID-19, but officials say people who haven't gotten the shots should delay travel.

Regardless of vaccination status, all travelers should keep taking precautions like avoiding indoor, unmasked crowds, says Dr. Keith Armitage, an infectious disease expert at Case Western Reserve University.

"The delta variant has really brought us back to an earlier time in the pandemic," he says.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says not to travel if you're sick, or if you tested positive for COVID-19 and your isolation period isn't over yet — even if you're



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fully vaccinated. Unvaccinated people who decide to travel should get a COVID-19 test one to three days before travel and three to five days after returning.

All travelers must still wear masks on trains, planes and other indoor public transportation areas, the agency says.

Airlines say plane cabins are low risk since they have good air circulation and filtration. However, there is no requirement for vaccination or testing before domestic flights, and passengers can remove their face masks while eating or drinking.

Hotels aren't risky for the vaccinated as long as they wear masks around strangers, Armitage says. More fraught are family gatherings with unvaccinated individuals, particularly for those who are older or have health problems.

Health experts suggest looking at the case levels and masking rules in the place you are visiting before you travel.

Plastic
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@

A close-up photograph of a wooden desk with a blue textured mat and a white notebook. The notebook is open, showing a blank page with a dark blue cover. The desk is made of light-colored wood with a visible grain. The blue mat has a fine, grid-like texture. The notebook is positioned in the bottom left corner of the frame.

3 TIMES YOU NEED MONEY ADVICE FROM A HUMAN

You can now manage most aspects of your money without ever consulting another human being. You can budget, borrow, save, invest, buy insurance, prepare your tax return and create a will — among many other tasks — by using apps, websites and software.

But technology still has limitations, especially when you're facing a money situation that's complex or involves judgment calls. Consider consulting a human expert in the following situations:



1. YOU'RE CREATING AN ESTATE PLAN

Insurers typically can't cancel a policy after 60 days unless you fail to pay premiums, commit fraud or make serious misrepresentations on your application, according to the Insurance Information Institute, a trade group. However, insurers can decide not to renew your policy when it expires.

With auto insurance, you often have many options after such a "non-renewal." Even if you've had accidents or multiple claims, you typically can find coverage with companies that specialize in higher-risk drivers.

If a homeowners insurance company dumps you, however, you may have trouble finding coverage, says insurance consumer advocate Amy Bach. That's especially true if you were dropped because you made too many claims, or your area is considered high risk because of wildfires, extreme weather or crime, for example.

How would other companies know? Insurers share such information in databases, and application forms typically ask if you've been "non-renewed" by another insurer, Bach says.

Bach's nonprofit organization, United Policyholders, recommends seeking out an independent agent or broker who has relationships with several insurance companies. The agent or broker should know which insurers may be more receptive to your application and can put in a good word for you, Bach says. While most underwriting decisions are made by computers, there are still ways for human beings to override the algorithms.



“It will make a difference if (the agent or broker) can call an underwriter that they know and vouch for you as a good bet,” Bach says.

If your area has been labeled high risk, ask your neighbors for referrals to agents or brokers who helped them find coverage. Otherwise, you can ask an accountant, attorney or financial planner if they have recommendations. Friends and family may be able to provide leads as well.

2. YOU’RE CREATING AN ESTATE PLAN

Most IRS audits are conducted through the mail and are relatively routine. The IRS sends a letter requesting additional documentation to support a deduction or other tax break you’ve taken. If you mail back sufficient evidence, your case will be closed with no taxes owed. Otherwise, the IRS will mail you a bill.

However, if the IRS wants to meet with you, the stakes get much higher. In fiscal year 2020, the average amount of additional taxes recommended in face-to-face audits was nearly 10 times larger than the average for a correspondence audit: \$72,210 versus \$7,658, according to IRS statistics.

Even tax pros hire someone to represent them in face-to-face audits, says Leonard Wright, a San Diego certified public accountant and financial planner. Wright has plenty of experience: He was chief financial officer of a company that was audited, and his personal tax returns have been audited four times. In each case, he hired another CPA to represent him.







It's all too easy to say something you shouldn't when you're under scrutiny, Wright says. You could volunteer information that might not be helpful to your case, or get defensive or confrontational.

"You don't want it to become personal, and you don't want to ruffle the feathers of the auditor," Wright says.

If you used a tax preparer, you may assume that person can represent you in an audit, but that's not always the case. Typically CPAs, attorneys and enrolled agents can represent clients in IRS audits, but other tax pros usually can't. Your tax preparer may be able to refer you to someone who can represent you, or you can get referrals from friends, family or financial advisors.

3. YOU'RE CREATING AN ESTATE PLAN

Will-making software and estate-planning sites can help you create essential legal documents if money is tight. Otherwise, you should probably consult an attorney, says Betsy Hannibal, senior legal editor for self-help legal site Nolo.

"Why not get personalized advice that's tailored to your situation, if you can?" Hannibal says.

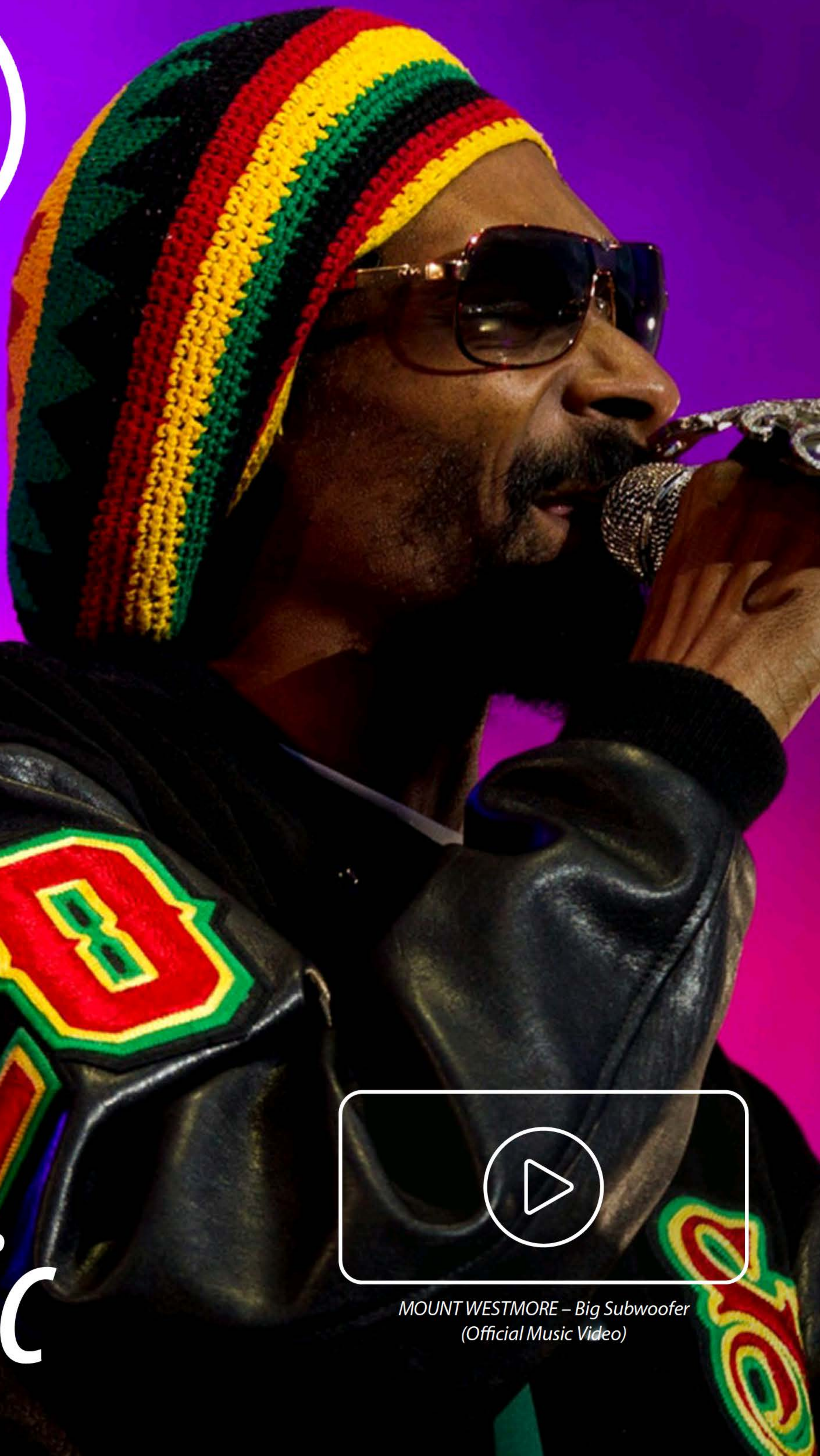
Getting help is particularly important if you need or want to do something complicated with your estate like putting conditions on a bequest, providing for someone with special needs or creating a trust, she says. You'll also want an attorney's help if you have a lot of debt, because there may be ways to protect your assets from creditors. Finally, consult an attorney if you think someone

might contest your will. A lawyer can put additional protections into place and serve as a professional witness that you knew what you were doing, Bach says.

“If someone doesn’t think you were in your right mind, going through an attorney can help make sure that (a legal challenge) can’t go forward,” she says.







Music

MOUNT WESTMORE – Big Subwoofer
(Official Music Video)



Genre: Hip-Hop/Rap
Number of Songs: 25
Price: \$14.99

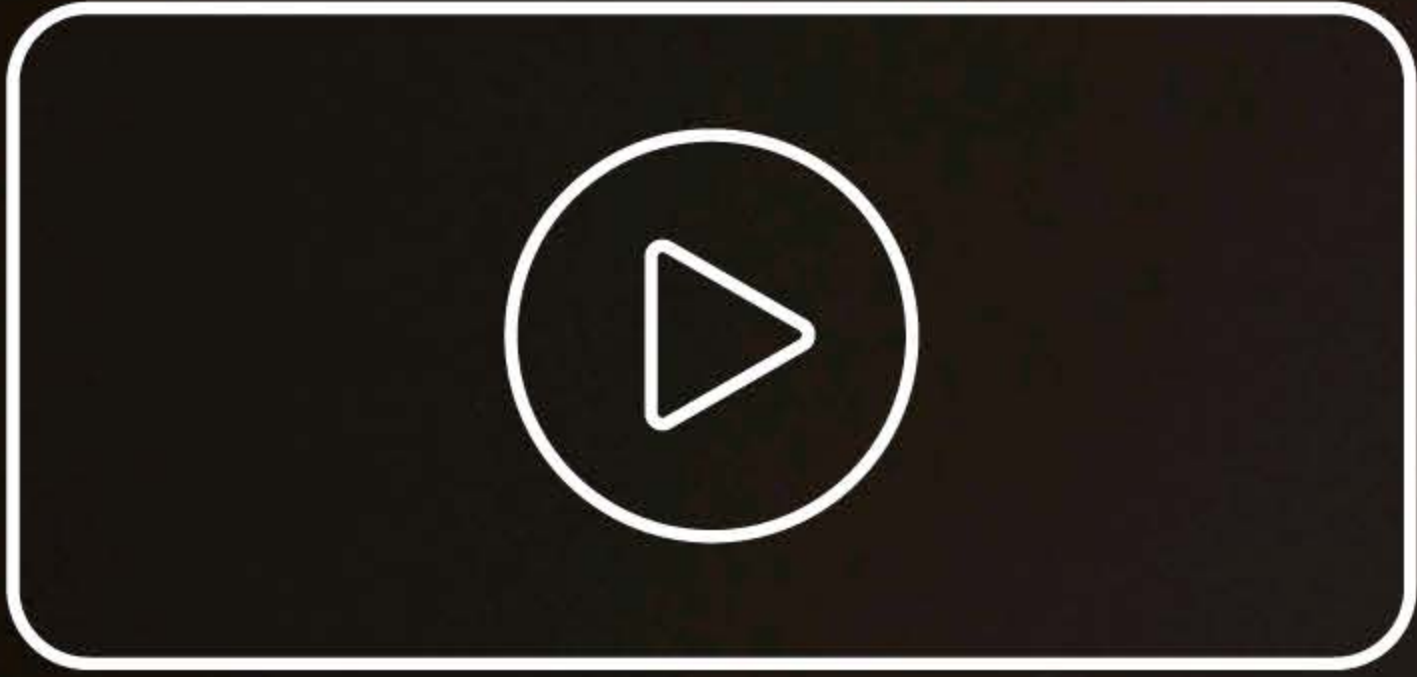
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Snoop Dogg Presents Algorithm Snoop Dogg

Having recently taken up the role of executive creative consultant for Def Jam Recordings, prolific rapper Snoop Dogg has since released a new compilation of material from several stars – including himself – who have become strongly associated with the record label during its history.

FIVE FACTS:

1. Big-name artists represented on the album include Method Man, Usher, Ice Cube and Busta Rhymes.
2. Snoop Dogg unveiled the album to music industry insiders **at a Manhattan recording studio on October 26, 2021.**
3. **“There’s so much talent on the record,” Snoop enthused,** adding: “So many styles of music, it breaks the algorithm.”
4. The first single released from the album was “Big Subwoofer”, recorded by the rap supergroup Mount Westmore – comprising Ice Cube, E-40, Too Short and Snoop himself.
5. “My main focus on Def Jam Records is to help the artists and give them love and wisdom, guidance and understanding,” Snoop revealed when announcing his new position at the label.



Jane Handcock – Like My Weed (Official Video)





Christmas (Deluxe 10th Anniversary Edition)

Michael Bublé

Originally released in October 2011, Michael Bublé's festive-themed album – which has since made the Canadian-Italian singer synonymous with holiday music – is getting a deluxe-edition re-release for its 10th anniversary year, with new song "The Christmas Sweater" now included.

FIVE FACTS:

1. The song "The Christmas Sweater" has also been **chosen for inclusion in the new Matthew Vaughn-produced film Silent Night.**
2. All editions of the album include a cover version of the Bing Crosby classic "White Christmas" Bublé recorded with fellow Canadian singer Shania Twain.
3. All of the album's deluxe editions include two tracks featuring English close harmony trio The Puppini Sisters: "Jingle Bells" and "Frosty the Snowman".
4. However, only the latest of these deluxe editions includes the Bublé-penned "The More You Give (The More You'll Have)".
5. That particular song was originally released as a digital download in November 2015.



Genre: Holiday
Number of Songs: 25
Price: \$13.99





*Michael Bublé - All I Want For Christmas Is You
[Official HD]*





Michael Bublé' - It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas (Official Music Video)



Marvel Studios' *Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings* | Official Trailer

Movies & TV Shows



by Destin Daniel Cretton
Genre: Action & Adventure
Released: 2021
Price: \$19.99



Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings

Long after escaping the clutches of the Ten Rings organization as a teenager, skilled martial artist Xu Shang-Chi (Simu Liu) is drawn back into it by its leader, his own father Xu Wenwu (Tony Leung), and soon finds himself on a search for a mythical village.

FIVE FACTS:

1. This is the 25th film in the Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU).
2. The film is based on the superhero Shang-Chi, who made his comic-book debut in December 1973.
3. A film about Shang-Chi was considered back in the late 1980s, with Brandon Lee – son of martial arts legend Bruce Lee – eyed for the lead role. However, this plan ultimately fell through.
4. In 2001, Stephen Norrington announced that he was going to direct a Shang-Chi film – but by 2003, the directorial reins had been handed to Yuen Woo-ping.
5. The movie that was eventually made started filming in March 2020, but the pandemic led filming to be suspended until the end of July 2020. Filming eventually wrapped in October 2020.

Rotten **Tomatoes**



92%



Simu Liu Reflects on Making History with Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings | Tonight Show



Last Night in Soho

Aspiring fashion designer Eloise “Ellie” Turner (Thomasin McKenzie) is enamored with the 1960s, a time period she finds herself mysteriously slipping into during her nighttime dreams. There, she encounters wannabe singer Sandie (Anya Taylor-Joy), but events soon take a dark turn.

FIVE FACTS:

1. This film includes the final film appearances of English actresses Diana Rigg and Margaret Nolan, who both passed away in 2020.
2. Each of these actresses had their own high-profile role in a 1960s James Bond film, with Nolan appearing in 1964’s Goldfinger and Rigg featuring in 1969’s On Her Majesty’s Secret Service.
3. The end credit sequence’s flashing shots of a deserted central London were filmed when England was in a national lockdown due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
4. This is the first Edgar Wright film with a female protagonist.
5. McKenzie left the cast of the upcoming Top Gun: Maverick to take this starring role.



by Edgar Wright
Genre: Thriller
Released: 2021
Price: \$19.99



Rotten Tomatoes



75%



*LAST NIGHT IN SOHO - Official Trailer [HD] - Only in
Theaters October 29*





Thomasin McKenzie Really Had To Do Her Homework Before "Last Night in Soho"

DISNEY'S ANIMATED 'ENCANTO' EFFORTLESSLY ENCHANTS





Disney's Encanto | Official Trailer



Disney's Encanto | Teaser Trailer



Mirabel is extraordinary, in that when it comes to her family, she is totally normal.

That's the set-up for Disney's absolutely charming new animated musical "Encanto," which flips the typical children's movie script. Instead of few magical people amid a sea of ordinary, here the ordinary is, well, weird.

"I will stand on the side/When you shine," Mirabel sings to her special brothers and sisters, though she confesses, "I'm not fine."

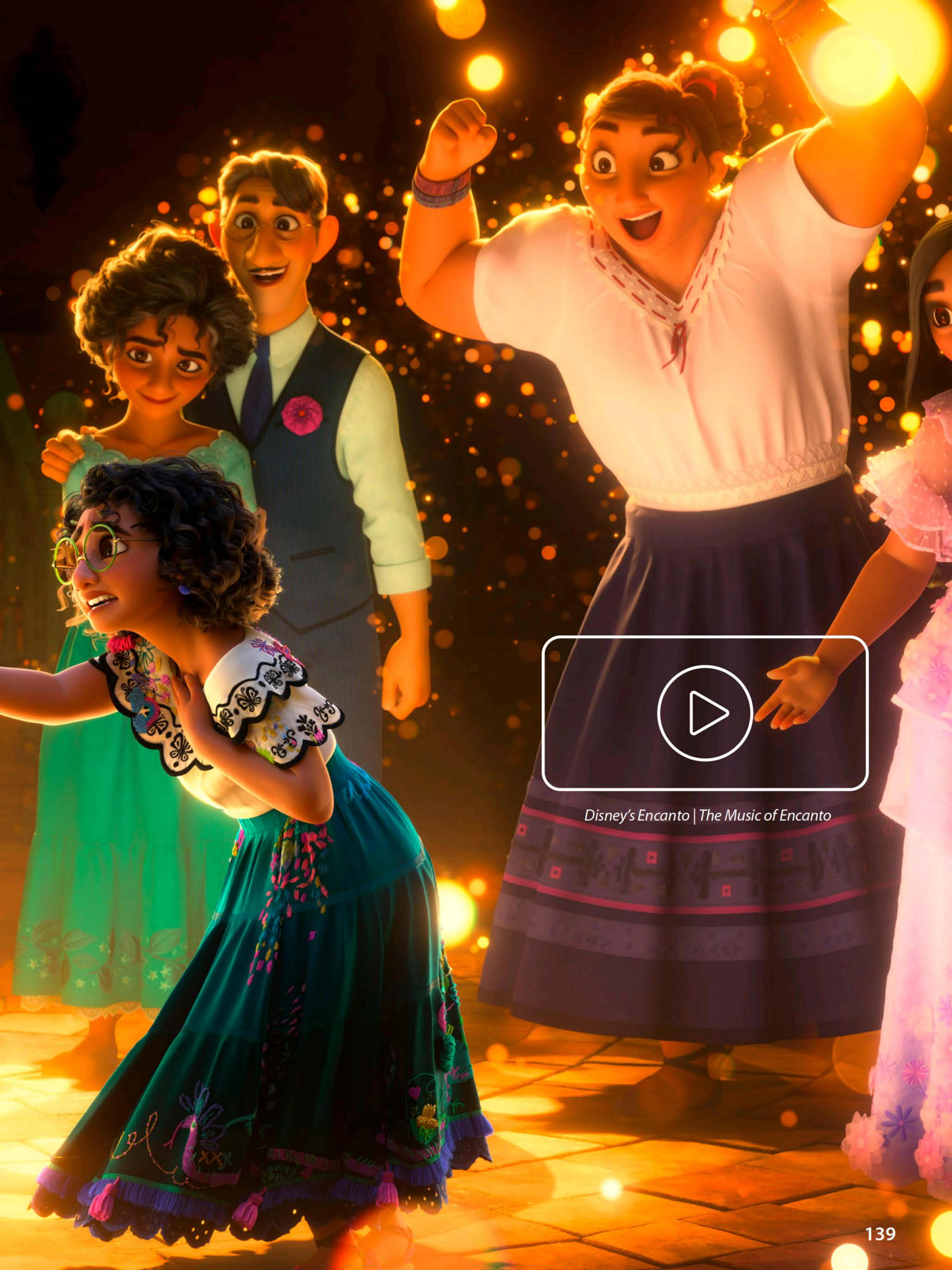
It's only appropriate that "Encanto" — fueled by eight original songs by "Hamilton" creator Lin-Manuel Miranda — turns into that most special thing of all: A triumph in every category: art, songs and heart.

It starts with Mirabel Madrigal, a saucer-eyed, sweet hearted youngster from a magical family in Colombia, where their vibrant house holds many generations. Every Madrigal at the age of 5 reveals an inner magic, say, shapeshifting, talking to animals, super strength or powerful hearing. They, in turn, help the surrounding community.

But magic has somehow skipped over Mirabel (voiced by Stephanie Beatriz), who as she grows into a young girl still tries to be useful among a household of Avenger-like siblings. "Gift or no gift, I am just as special as the rest of my family," she says.

But soon not all is well for this family whose magic was built on tragedy. Cracks — literal — appear in their home's foundations and their stern matriarch, Abuela Alma, worries quietly that their magic may be failing. It's up to Mirabel to investigate what's going on and save the family.





Disney's Encanto | The Music of Encanto

Directors Byron Howard, Jared Bush and Charise Castro Smith fill this tale with their own magic — expressive faces, acres of brilliant flowers, dancing rats, funny donkeys and a house that becomes a character itself, complete with wagging shutters for waves and tiles that move excitedly.

The voice cast includes John Leguizamo, Wilmer Valderrama, Maluma, Adassa, María Cecilia Botero, Angie Cepeda, Diane Guerrero and Jessica Darrow.

Miranda takes a page from musical theater in his first song, “The Family Madrigal,” which sets the table by introducing the extended clan, and creates “Waiting on a Miracle” for Mirabel, our spunky, glasses-wearing heroine, who stops time to sing her plaintive tune.

He gives the rocking “What Else Can I Do?” to a beautiful sister who makes flowers bloom but is secretly restless, and he gifts the super-strong sister the song “Surface/Pressure,” which reveals the secret stresses she feels. And there’s the terrific, fun group tune “We Don’t Talk About Bruno,” about a family outcast. (Also listen to a little fun Miranda has with another Disney hit, “Let It Go”).

The action, technically, mostly takes place in the rambling house, though there are magical parts of it that defy physics. There is no traditional villain, either, just an unease as the magic fades.

As always in a Disney animated movie, the visuals are a delight. Look at how a motif of butterflies is subtly represented in the pattern on Mirabel’s dress. There is also a panning shot of the Colombian community





al House. Magical Family.

Disney

CANTO





at dusk with its lights and candles blazing that is warm and welcoming.

“Encanto” is a film about the pressure of living up to high expectations and the fear of revealing imperfections. It’s about outcasts and misfits in plain sight. “Sometime family weirdos get a bad rap,” is one line. “You’re more than just your gift,” is another message. Behind all that is also a cheer for immigration and how we need to lend our gifts to the community. It is the Thanksgiving movie we need in 2021.

“Encanto,” a Walt Disney Studio release, is rated PG-13 for “some thematic elements and mild peril.” Running time: 99 minutes. Four stars out of four.

Online: <https://movies.disney.com/encanto>

MPAA Definition of PG: Parental guidance suggested.

TOO MANY OLD GHOSTS MAR 'GHOSTBUSTERS: AFTERLIFE'

"Ghostbusters: Afterlife" — the direct cinematic follow-up to the 1984 classic — is haunted, of course. But not in a good way.

Director and co-writer Jason Reitman's sequel leans so hard into his dad's original that it sometimes seems like a checklist of the megahit's touchstones, from the Ecto-1 tricked-out Cadillac, to Stay-Puft marshmallows, appearances from the surviving Ghostbusters and even the same Ray Parker Jr. theme song.

It has taken Ivan Reitman's original — which had the feel of an anarchic "Saturday Night Live" skit taken as far as it could go — too seriously. It fetishizes the ghost-trapping equipment and limps along until the original actors arrive — one cynically resurrected — to wring some sort of emotion it hasn't earned.







Ghostbusters: Afterlife - Official International Trailer





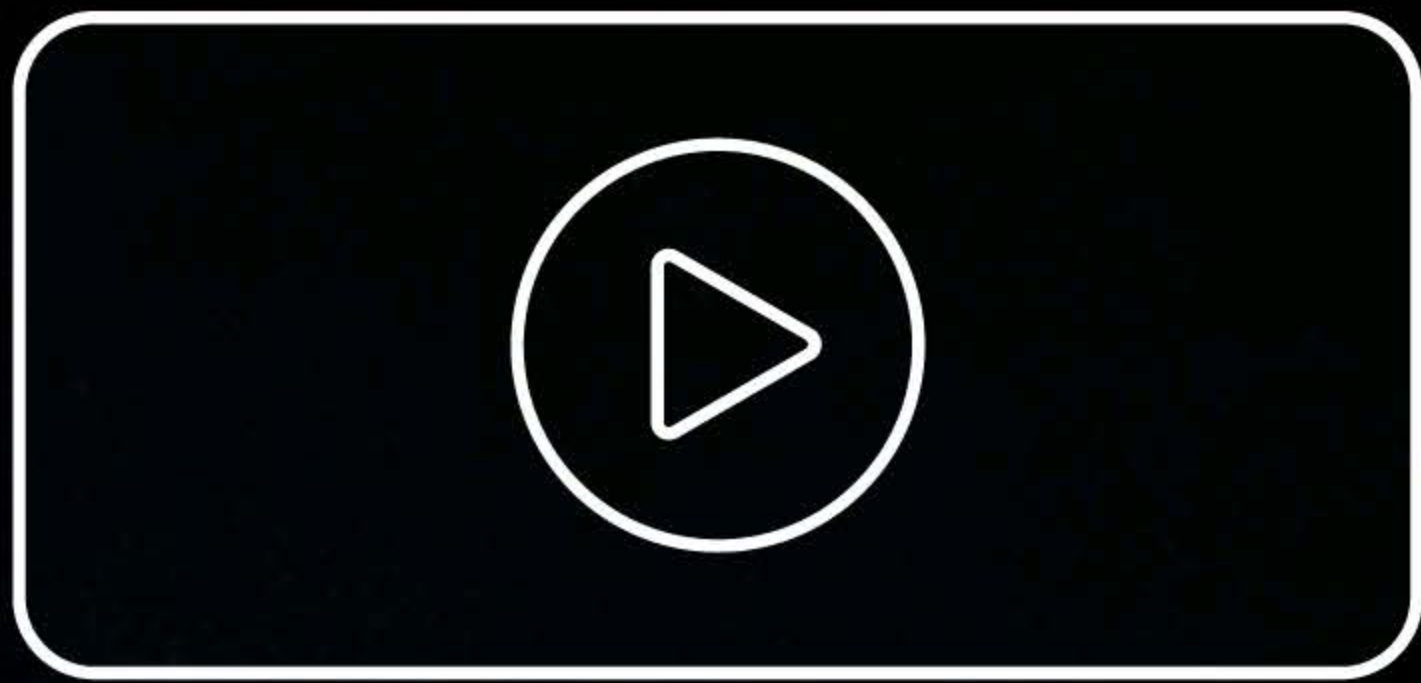


The film is set several decades after the events in "Ghostbusters," trading in the urban for the rural and ignoring any other sequels. It focuses on a struggling single mother Callie (Carrie Coon, treading water) and her two kids, the very, very teenage son Trevor (Finn Wolfhard) and her precocious science whiz daughter Phoebe (Mckenna Grace, also on the soundtrack with the appropriately titled "Haunted House").

After Callie's estranged father dies, the family pack up for his dilapidated farm in Summerville, Oklahoma, where the kids realize their grandfather was famed Ghostbuster Egon Spengler (the late Harold Ramis), who abandoned their mom for reasons unknown and hasn't been forgiven. "Take a little advice," mom tells the kids, "Don't go chasing ghosts."

Eerie things happen for the first hour and it's appropriate that Wolfhard of "Stranger Things" fame is here, mixing that show's vibe with an early Steven Spielberg suburban-stressed-out-parents-and-their-quirky-kids movie feel. (The family's motto: "Don't be yourself!") Chess pieces move on their own, flashlights get used a lot and proton packs get played with.

The amount of acting talent wasted in this film is astounding, from a Slimer-esque critter named Muncher "voiced" by Josh Gad (bravo, eating noises!) and Logan Kim playing an intensely weird podcaster, to acting greats J.K. Simmons and Tracey Letts (Coon's real-life playwright-acting husband). A mom love interest is offered by Paul Rudd as a studly teacher, but 2021's Sexiest Man Alive is unable to create comedic sparks due to so much slime.



GHOSTBUSTERS: AFTERLIFE - Official Trailer





"Ghostbusters: Afterlife" meanders along like an after-school special — kids, did you know science can be cool? — until the inevitable: Original stars Bill Murray, Dan Aykroyd and Ernie Hudson arrive in the final 10 minutes to save the day (curiously also appearing, but sidelined, are OGs Annie Potts and Sigourney Weaver). And then comes the breaking point: Ramis heroically reappears thanks to supernatural computer work, a moment that can seem either incredibly crass or honorifically crass.

"What the hell is going on?" asks one character and she's right. Poorly edited, the film's musical queues must often signal to the viewer what they should be feeling. Poorly explained, the plot relies on the audience already knowing about the first film and especially the same villains — Gozer, the Gatekeeper and the Keymaster. Come on, at least update the baddies.

Once viewers realize this is merely a greatest hits compilation, they can settle in and anticipate the reappearance of lines like "Are you a god?" and "Who you gonna call?" After all, this is not a movie that can stand alone. It is more like half a movie, standing in the shadow of its parent. It is a film made to sell us more lunchboxes.

"Ghostbusters: Afterlife," a Sony Pictures release that hits theaters exclusively is rated PG-13 for "supernatural action and some suggestive references." Running time: 124 minutes. One star out of four.

Online: <https://www.sonypictures.com/movies/ghostbustersafterlife>







GHOSTBUSTERS: AFTERLIFE Vignette - Passing the Proton Pack







MPAA Definition of PG-13: Parents strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.





TOP 10 ALBUMS

30
ADELE

RAISE THE ROOF
ROBERT PLANT & ALISON KRAUSS

RED
TAYLOR SWIFT

AN EVENING WITH SILK SONIC
BRUNO MARS, ANDERSON .PAAK & SILK SONIC

WHEN CHRISTMAS COMES AROUND...
KELLY CLARKSON

=
ED SHEERAN

NOW THAT'S WHAT I CALL MUSIC! CHRIST...
VARIOUS ARTISTS

THE ESSENTIAL NOW THAT'S WHAT I CALL...
VARIOUS ARTISTS

21
ADELE

25
ADELE



TOP 10 MUSIC VIDEOS

ALL TOO WELL: THE SHORT FILM

TAYLOR SWIFT

SMOKIN OUT THE WINDOW

BRUNO MARS, ANDERSON .PAAK, & SILK SONIC

EASY ON ME

ADELE

FANCY LIKE

WALKER HAYES

SCARS IN HEAVEN (OFFICIAL MUSIC VIDEO)

CASTING CROWNS

COLD HEART (PNAU REMIX)

ELTON JOHN & DUA LIPA

I BET YOU THINK ABOUT ME (TAYLOR'S ...)

TAYLOR SWIFT

MY UNIVERSE

COLDPLAY & BTS

THE PRAYER (OFFICIAL VIDEO)

PENTATONIX

FANCY LIKE

WALKER HAYES





TOP 10 TV SHOWS

WINNING OR LEARNING

YELLOWSTONE

OLD TESTAMENTS, NEW REVELATIONS

THE REAL HOUSEWIVES OF SALT LAKE CITY

REUNION, PT. 3

THE REAL HOUSEWIVES OF POTOMAC

ALL I SEE IS YOU

YELLOWSTONE

HALF THE MONEY

YELLOWSTONE

PHANTOM PAIN

YELLOWSTONE

EVERYDAY IS A HOLIDAY

GREY'S ANATOMY

THE OTHER WAY - DON'T OVERTHINK IT

90 DAY FIANCE: THE OTHER WAY

CHAPTER FOUR: VILLAGE OF THE ANGELS

DOCTOR WHO

SHOOTER

THE EQUALIZER

JAMES PATTERSON

FEAR NO

**LARGE
PRINT**

ALEX C

THRILLER

PERSON

EVIL

**CROSS
LER**

TOP 10 BOOKS

FEAR NO EVIL

JAMES PATTERSON

MERCY

DAVID BALDACCI

THE AWAKENING

NORA ROBERTS

GO TELL THE BEES THAT I AM GONE

DIANA GABALDON

THE DARK HOURS

MICHAEL CONNELLY

FROM THIS MOMENT

MELODY GRACE

THE JUDGE'S LIST

JOHN GRISHAM

NEVER

KEN FOLLETT

THE STAND

STEPHEN KING

THE LINCOLN HIGHWAY

AMOR TOWLES





TOP 10 SONGS

EASY ON ME
ADELE

GOD'S COUNTRY
STATE OF MINE & DREW JACOBS

DON'T TELL ME HOW TO LIVE
KID ROCK

FANCY LIKE
WALKER HAYES

COLD HEART
ELTON JOHN & DUA LIPA

I AM WOMAN
EMMY MELI

SHIVERS
ED SHEERAN

ON MY WAY
JENNIFER LOPEZ

AA
WALKER HAYES

BEGGIN
MÄNESKIN

ITALIAN COMPETITION WATCHDOG FINES APPLE, AMAZON \$225M

Italy's antitrust watchdog has fined Apple and Amazon a total of more than 200 million euros (\$225 million) for cooperating to restrict competition in the sale of Apple and Beats branded products in violation of European Union rules.

An investigation found that provisions in a 2018 agreement between the U.S. tech giants limited access to Italy's Amazon marketplace to selected resellers, the Italian Competition Authority said this week.


The watchdog slapped Apple with a 134.5 million euro (\$151.32 million) fine and Amazon with a 68.7 million euro (\$77.29



A low-angle photograph of a modern building facade. The main part of the building is covered in dark, textured square panels. The word "amazon" is mounted on this wall in large, white, three-dimensional letters. A yellow arrow, part of the Amazon logo, is positioned below the 'a' and points towards the 'z'. To the right, a portion of another building with a blue glass facade is visible. The sky is clear blue with some light clouds at the top left.

amazon





million) penalty. It also ordered them to end the restrictions and give resellers access in a “non-discriminatory manner.”

Both Apple and Amazon said they would appeal.

“The proposed fine is disproportionate and unjustified,” Amazon said. “We reject the ICA’s suggestion that Amazon benefits by excluding sellers from our store, since our business model relies on their success.”

Apple said it respects the Italian Competition Authority “but believe we have done nothing wrong.”

Teaming up with selected resellers helps customer safety because it ensures products are genuine, Apple said.

“Non-genuine products deliver an inferior experience and can often be dangerous,” Apple said. “To ensure our customers purchase genuine products, we work closely with our reseller partners and have dedicated teams of experts around the world who work with law enforcement, customs and merchants to ensure only genuine Apple products are being sold.”





WHATSAPP PUSHES PRIVACY UPDATE TO COMPLY WITH IRISH RULING

WhatsApp is adding more details to its privacy policy and flagging that information for European users, after Irish regulators slapped the chat service with a record fine for breaching strict EU data privacy rules.

Starting Monday, WhatsApp's privacy policy will be reorganized to provide more information on the data it collects and how it's used. The company said it's also explaining in more detail how it protects data shared across borders for its global service and the legal foundations for processing the data.

WhatsApp is owned by Facebook, now renamed Meta Platforms. With the update, users in Europe will see a banner notification at the top of their chat list that will take them to the new information.

WhatsApp is taking the action after getting hit with a record 225 million euro (\$267 million)

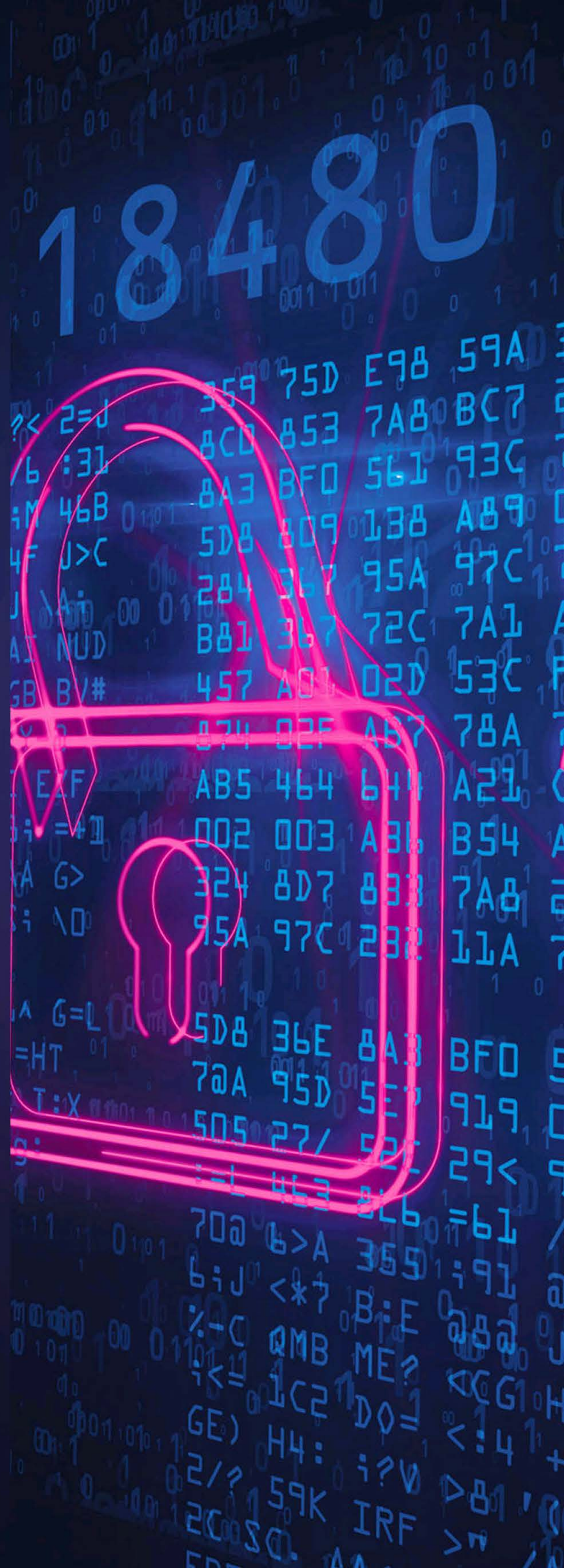
fine in September from Ireland's data privacy watchdog for violating stringent European Union data protection rules on transparency about sharing people's data with other Facebook companies.

The chat service said it disagreed with the decision, but it has to comply by updating its policy while it appeals. The update doesn't affect how data is handled, and users won't have to agree to anything new or take any other action.

Ireland's Data Privacy Commission is the lead privacy regulator for WhatsApp under European Union rules because its regional headquarters is in Dublin.

WhatsApp was embroiled in a separate privacy controversy earlier this year when it botched a different update to its privacy policy that raised concerns users were being forced to agree to share more of their data with Facebook. That update sparked a backlash from users who switched to rival services like Telegram and Signal, an investigation by Turkey's competition watchdog, a temporary German ban on gathering data, and a complaint by EU consumer groups.

A six-hour outage of Facebook services last month highlighted how vital WhatsApp has become for its more than 2 billion users worldwide.





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EL SALVADOR TO BUILD CRYPTO-FUELED 'BITCOIN CITY'

In a rock concert-like atmosphere, El Salvador President Nayib Bukele announced that his government will build an oceanside "Bitcoin City" at the base of a volcano.

Bukele used a gathering of Bitcoin enthusiasts to launch his latest idea, much as he used a an earlier Bitcoin conference in Miami to announce in a video message that El Salvador would be the first country to make the cryptocurrency legal tender,

A bond offering would happen in 2022 entirely in Bitcoin, Bukele said, wearing his signature backwards baseball cap. And 60 days after financing was ready, construction would begin.

The city will be built near the Conchagua volcano to take advantage of geothermal energy to power both the city and Bitcoin mining — the energy-intensive solving of







**bitcoin
beach**
¡El futuro está aquí!

SE
DOR



complex mathematical calculations day and night to verify currency transactions.

The government is already running a pilot Bitcoin mining venture at another geothermal power plant beside the Tecapa volcano.

The oceanside Conchagua volcano sits in southeastern El Salvador on the Gulf of Fonseca.

The government will provide land and infrastructure and work to attract investors.

The only tax collected there will be the value-added tax, half of which will be used to pay the municipal bonds and the rest for municipal infrastructure and maintenance. Bukele said there would be no property, income or municipal taxes and the city would have zero carbon dioxide emissions.

The city would be built with attracting foreign investment in mind. There would be residential areas, malls, restaurants and a port, Bukele said. The president talked of digital education, technology and sustainable public transportation.

"Invest here and earn all the money you want," Bukele told the cheering crowd in English at the closing of the Latin American Bitcoin and Blockchain Conference being held in El Salvador.

Bitcoin has been legal tender alongside the U.S. dollar since Sept. 7.

The government is backing Bitcoin with a \$150 million fund. To incentivize Salvadorans to use it, the government offered \$30 worth of credit to those using its digital wallet.

Critics have warned that the currency's lack of transparency could attract increased criminal activity to the country and that the digital

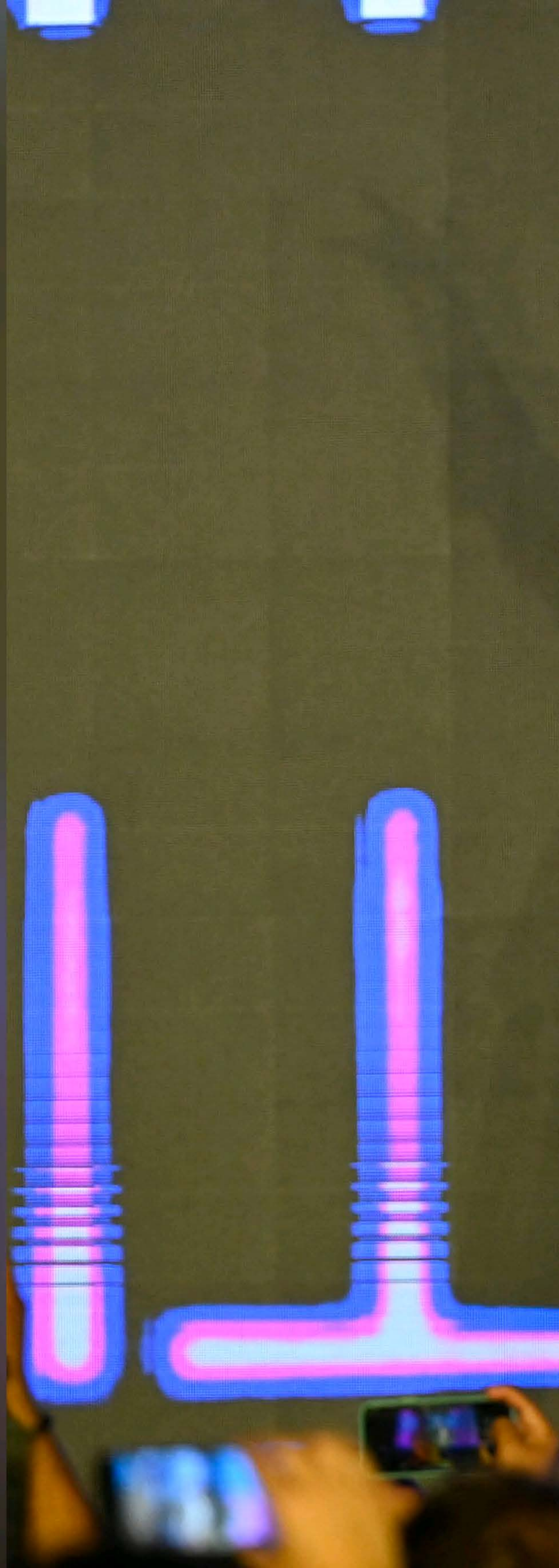
currency's wild swings in value would pose a risk to those holding it.

Bitcoin was originally created to operate outside government controlled financial systems and Bukele says it will help attract foreign investment to El Salvador and make it cheaper for Salvadorans living abroad to send money home to their families.

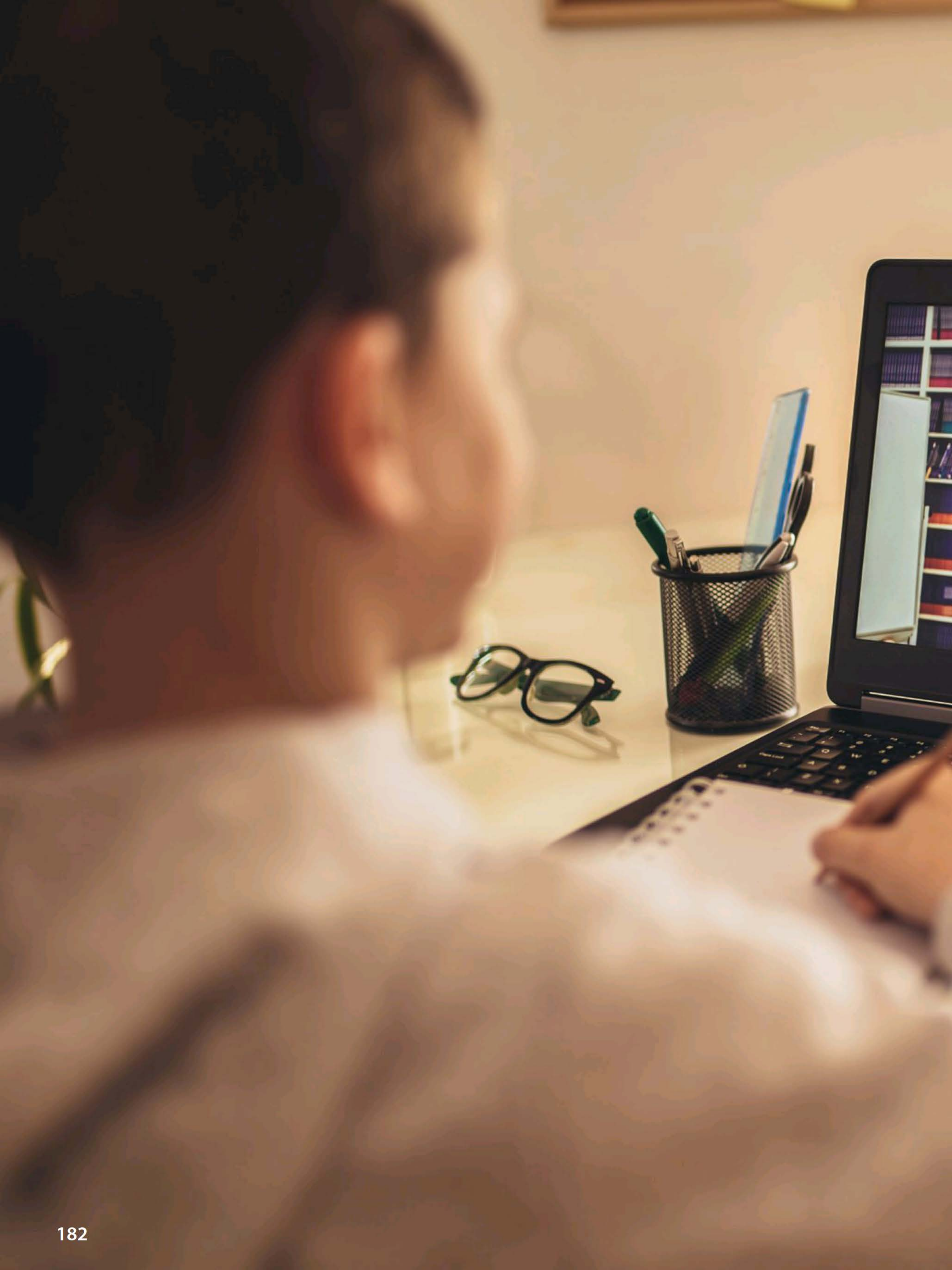
Concern among the Salvadoran opposition and outside observers has grown this year as Bukele has moved to consolidate power.

Voters gave the highly popular president's party control of the congress earlier this year. The new lawmakers immediately replaced the members of the constitutional chamber of the Supreme Court and the attorney general, leaving Bukele's party firmly in control of the other branches of government.

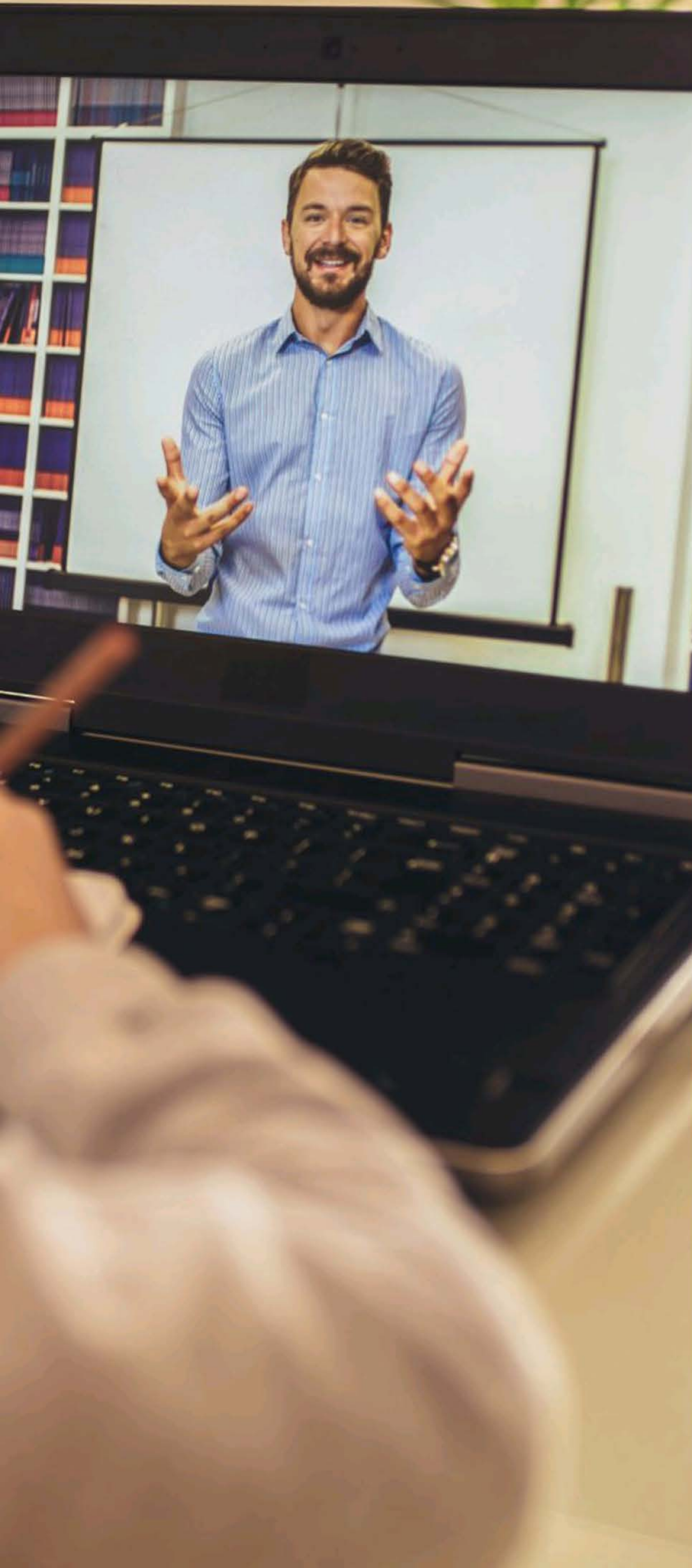
The U.S. government in response said it would shift its aid away from government agencies to civil society organizations. This month, Bukele sent a proposal to congress that would require organizations receiving foreign funding to register as foreign agents.







NEW MEXICO SEES TV TECH AS ONE FIX TO K-12 INTERNET DIVIDE



Internet problems continue to slow down many students in the U.S. state of New Mexico, but a pilot project using TV signals to transmit computer files may help.

State public education officials distributed devices to eight families in the city of Taos that allow schools to send them digital files via television. The boxes the size of a deck of cards allow digital television receivers to connect with computers using technology called datacasting.

Many rural areas of New Mexico are too far from internet infrastructure like fiber cables and cell towers but do get TV reception.

In October, local broadcasting affiliates of New Mexico PBS finished testing the technology to make sure they could set aside bandwidth not taken up by TV show broadcasts and dedicate it to broadcast downloadable digital files.

The pilot program in Taos relies on a broadcast from northern New Mexico PBS affiliate KNME, while two others are planning to roll out pilot programs in the cities of Silver City and Portales.

Remote learning during the pandemic highlighted the digital divide for New Mexico students, many of whom had to learn using paper packets while their peers could participate in virtual lessons via video chat.

Even with schools back to offering in-person classes, internet inequality persists after class when students do homework, and for students being quarantined due to virus concerns.

Even where families are in internet coverage areas, it's not always enough for the entire household.

"It's very slow and I have a lot of students," said Ofelia Muñoz, a mother of four in Ranchos de Taos who has a monthly subscription to a cable internet service. "It's bad when they have to do homework."

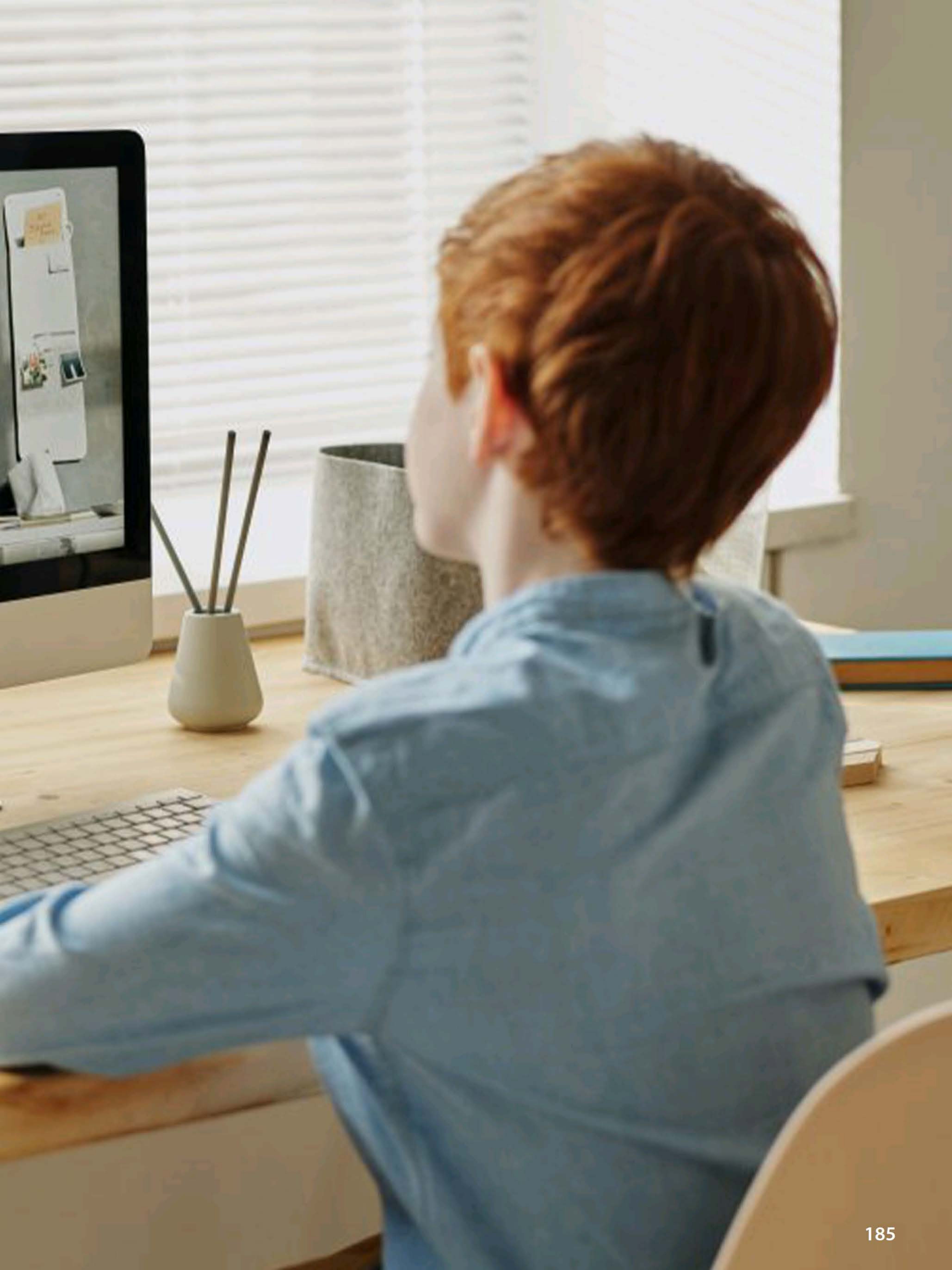
One of her children is a university student, who takes most of his classes online, and won't be connected through the TV broadcast. But if his younger siblings can access a virtual library of school materials through the new device, it will lower the overall burden on their bandwidth.

"It's easier when they can work at the same time," she said.

New Mexico isn't the first state to experiment with datacasting. Some schools in South Carolina were using it last year.

There are limitations to the technology that won't allow it to replace the internet. For one, the datacasting is currently one-way and won't









allow students to send data back to schools. That means no video chats with teachers or access to email.

“Until fiber optic cables bring broadband internet to every corner of New Mexico, we’re going to need a patchwork of solutions, and it sure looks like datacasting could be one,” New Mexico Education secretary Kurt Steinhaus said.

Last week, Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham named an adviser for the newly formed state office of broadband. A deputy representing the adviser at the meeting said that in an optimistic scenario getting all New Mexico residents access to high-speed internet would take three years.

The pandemic left education officials around the world scrambling to make remote learning possible, often in areas with limited or no internet access. Some nations — including Mexico and Thailand — broadcast lessons on public television channels but they didn’t set up ways to transmit files.

UNICEF has said globally about 131 million children have missed out on three-quarters of their in-person instruction since March 2020, and nearly 77 million of them have missed almost all of it.





MANY SCIENTISTS BACK BIDEN'S MOVE TO TAP OIL RESERVE

Democrats and climate activists generally supported President Joe Biden's decision to release a record 50 million barrels of oil from America's strategic reserve, even as the move appeared to contradict his long-term vision of combating climate change.

The U.S. action, announced this week in coordination with countries such as India, the United Kingdom and China, is aimed at global energy markets and helping lower gasoline prices that have risen more than a dollar per gallon since January. But it could also undermine Biden's climate goals, including a 50% cut in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030.

Some leading climate hawks, however, said they were not concerned by the move because they see it as a short-term fix to meet a specific problem. Sen. Ed Markey, D-Mass., who has focused on combating climate change, said Biden was "taking effective action to protect Americans from oil price gouging" even as the administration continues to boost renewable energy that it

hopes will eventually mean less dependence on fossil fuels.

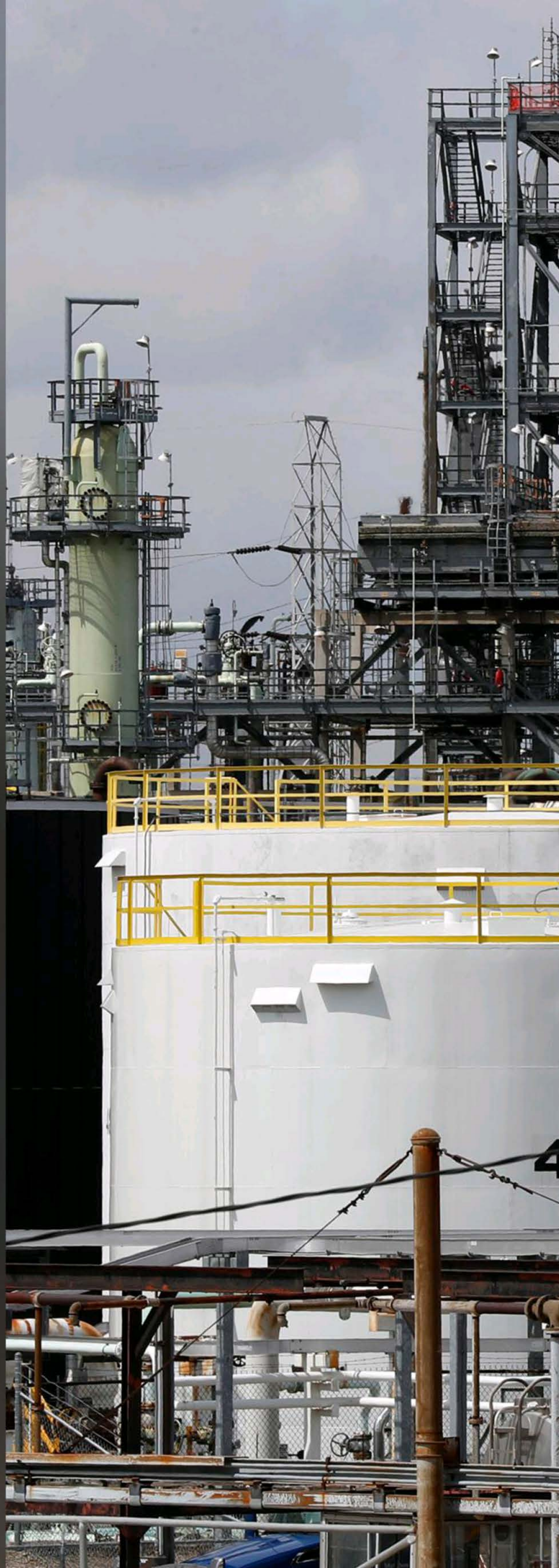
“This is what reserves are for — defending our economy against disruption,” Markey tweeted. “Profiteering can’t go unanswered, especially as Big Oil makes billions and fuels the climate crisis through exports.”

The Strategic Petroleum Reserve is an emergency stockpile to preserve access to oil in case of natural disasters, national security issues and other events. Maintained by the Energy Department, the reserves are stored in caverns created in salt domes along the Texas and Louisiana Gulf Coasts. There are roughly 605 million barrels of petroleum in the reserve.

Markey and other Democrats had urged Biden to release oil from the reserve to ease prices on consumers. There have also been calls on the president to reinstate a ban on crude oil exports that was lifted in 2015. Biden has made no move to reimpose the export ban, which was repealed by congressional Republicans in a bid to assert U.S. energy dominance and promote domestic production.

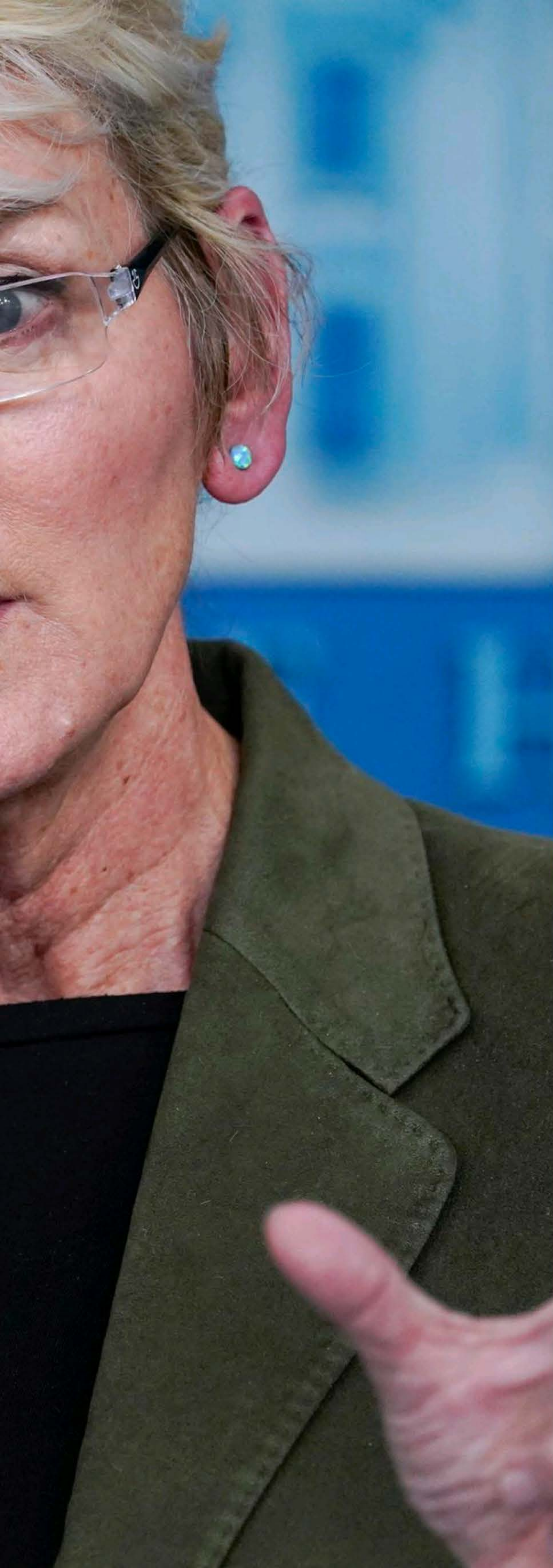
Biden has authority under the legislation to declare an emergency and limit or stop oil exports for up to a year but is not expected to do so.

Kelly Sheehan, senior director of energy campaigns with the Sierra Club, hailed Biden’s actions as a way to ease Americans’ energy burdens. But she said the current spike in oil prices was a reminder that “the only way to truly achieve energy security is to rapidly transition away from risky fossil fuels like oil and gas and make it easier for more people to access clean energy.”









Lorne Stockman, research director of Oil Change International, an environmental group focused on creating a “fossil-free future,” said Biden should have acted sooner, if only to counter a barrage of Republican criticism blaming him for high gasoline prices.

“Presidents are always blamed for high gas prices, whether they have anything to do with it or not,” Stockman said, calling the measure a small step to bring short-term relief to American consumers.

Speaking at the White House, Biden said the rise in gas prices made the move necessary and that it wouldn’t distract from his larger ambitions of moving toward energy independence.

“My effort to combat climate change is not raising the price of gas,” Biden said. “What it is doing is increasing the availability of jobs building electric cars like the one I drove ... in a GM factory in Detroit last week.”

Americans who buy electric cars will save up to \$1,000 in fuel costs this year, Biden said, “and we’re going to put those savings within reach of more Americans and create jobs installing solar panels, batteries and electric heat pumps. We can make our economy and consumers less vulnerable to these sorts of price spikes when we do that.”

Biden said the White House was looking into potential price gouging by oil companies squeezing customers while making money off lower costs. And Energy Secretary Jennifer Granholm said U.S. companies were keeping production below pre-pandemic levels in order to increase profits.

The coronavirus pandemic has roiled energy markets. As closures began in April 2020, demand collapsed and oil futures prices turned negative.

Energy traders did not want to get stuck with crude that they could not store. But as the economy recovered, prices jumped to a seven-year high in October.

Sen. John Barrasso, R-Wyo., called Biden's use of the strategic reserve, along with calls for OPEC and Russia to increase production, "desperate attempts to address a Biden-caused disaster" and no substitute for increased American energy production.

Lukas Ross, manager of climate and energy justice at Friends of the Earth, another environmental group, said the spike in gas prices shows that "our continued dependence on a volatile compound that is literally cooking the climate is exactly why we need" Biden's sweeping social and environmental bill approved as quickly possible.

The \$2 trillion bill, which has been approved in the House and is pending in the Senate, includes about \$550 billion for climate change efforts, including proposals to boost wind and solar power and support electric vehicles. Republicans unanimously oppose the measure.

Biden has said the U.S. needs to transition away from oil dependence, and "now is the moment to keep that promise by urgently speeding the transition to electric cars and a renewable energy grid," said Kassie Siegel, director of a climate law institute at the Center for Biological Diversity, another environmental group.

"Price volatility will always be part of Big Oil's playbook," she added. "Let's break their stranglehold on our economy once and for all."



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YOUR BRAND HAS NEVER BEEN IN SUCH GOOD COMPANY

The image features a large iPad displaying the cover of Apple Magazine #367. The cover is a light brown color with the word "Apple" in a large, white, sans-serif font, and "Magazine" in a smaller font below it. The issue number "#367" is in the top left corner. Below the title, there are two main headlines: "LANDMARKS ON THE iOS MAP WHERE APPLE IS BEATING GOOGLE" and "NETWORKS INTERNET NEUTRALITY HOW IT BECAME A HOT-BUTTON ISSUE". At the bottom of the cover, the word "MacBook" is written in a large, white font, with "100% RECYCLED ALUMINUM: APPLE'S GREEN" partially visible below it. To the right of the iPad, a smartphone displays the digital version of the magazine, showing a grid of covers for various issues, including "Mac Mini", "MacBook Air", "Stan Lee", and "iPhone X". A smartwatch also displays the "Apple Magazine" logo. The background is a dark, gradient blue.

Everything Apple, Every Week.

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