Extra links that we couldn't fit in this month's newsletter...

What's Emerging

Volvo Promises an injury-proof car by 2020

The Swedish automaker is leading a race to create a "matrix of systems" that use radar, sonar and other technology to prevent and mitigate crashes. In the event of a crash, when most drivers freeze, the car would steer and brake on its own. *Read more...*

Social networking going mobile?

According to consultancy Informa, the number of mobile social-networking users will rise from 2.3% of global cell-phone users at the end of 2007 to as many as 23% of all mobile users by the end of 2012. *Read more...*

Espresso book machine

Publishing a paperback is now as quick and easy as brewing a coffee. *Read more...*

Nanotubes on the brain

Neural implants could benefit from coated electrodes. Metal electrodes are increasingly being used in brain implants that help treat depression and the tremors of Parkinson's disease, and in ever more sophisticated prosthetic devices. Researchers led by Edward Keefer at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center developed a simple method for coating electrodes with carbon nanotubes. The coated electrodes were better at recording neural activity than were bare electrodes. *Read more...*

Google adds computer games to online advertising

AdSense for Games software that lets website operators weave video, text, or picture advertisements into online games is being tested in the United States. *Read more...*

Sticky nanotape

Carbon-nanotube adhesive outperforms gecko feet and could aid climbing robots. *Read more...*

Water-repelling metals

New metals will keep engines and turbines dry and ice-free. *Read more...*

Computer circuit builds itself

A team of European physicists has developed an integrated circuit that can build itself. *Read more...*

Teaching bacteria to behave

A century after Pavlov's dog first salivated at the sound of a bell, researchers are saying that single-celled organisms such as bacteria can be "trained" to react in a similar way. Rather than use complex networks of nerve cells, or neurons, bacteria can "learn" to associate one stimulus with another by employing molecular circuits, according to a multidisciplinary team from Germany, Holland, and the United Kingdom. *Read more...*

Solar powered refrigeration

Promethean Power Systems is developing a solar-powered refrigeration system for commercial cold-storage applications in off-grid and partially electrified areas of developing countries. *Read more...*

Wireless at fiber speeds

New millimeter-wave technology sends data at 10 gigabits per second. *Read more...*

New nanotechnology to speed up computers

New nanoscale process created by UCSB scientists will help computers run faster and more efficiently. *Read more...*

Omnivorous engine' hopes to run on many fuels

The "omnivorous engine" is no picky eater. Gasoline? Down the hatch. Ethanol? Butanol? It'll slurp those up too. The creators of the omnivorous engine, engineers at the U.S. Department of Energy's Argonne National Laboratory, seek to fashion an engine that can run on just about any type of spark-ignited fuel. *Read more...*

Networking at your hotel

Podculture is a service offered by the budget pod hotel that allows you to invite people to a party, or drinks, or a meal when you are going to be at their hotel. An interesting way to network for business or just get some people to eat with if you are travelling on your own. *Read more...*

Renault bets on electric vehicles

Might the most fuel-efficient vehicles in mass production--powerful hybrids, such as Toyota's Prius, that can run on either gasoline or electricity--already be destined for the science museum? That's the argument that French carmaker Renault is making at the Mondial de l'Automobile, the giant auto show running in Paris. *Read more...*

Stealth semantic startup raises $8.5 million, won't tell us anything

Siri, a spinoff of SRI International, plans to commercialize the DARPA-funded CALO (Cognitive Assistant that Learns and Organizes) system, the "largest Artificial Intelligence project in U.S. history." It will use AI to automate many of the tasks that people currently conduct manually online. The founders describe themselves as out to change the fundamental ways that people use the Internet, apparently by leveraging artificial intelligence that will learn from you. *Read more...*

Giant database plan 'Orwellian'

Proposals for a central U.K. database of all mobile phone and Internet traffic, stored for two years, has been condemned as "Orwellian." *Read more...*

Study finds value in 'junk' DNA

A University of Iowa study has found evidence that a significant number of exons (the building blocks for protein-coding genes) created from junk DNA seem to play a role in gene regulation. *Read more...*

The free market preachers have long practised state welfare for the rich

Bailing out banks seems unprecedented, but the US government's form in subsidising big business is well established. *Read more...*

From energy efficiency to war: Thinktank sees 2030 climate future

The challenge posed by climate change could be resolved by a peaceful switch to a low-carbon economy, or alternatively inflict stresses that could include war and desertification of swathes of the US and Australia. *Read more...*