



(Philip Street/CBC)

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The future of pizza?

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Say goodbye to the traditional deliveryman, and hello to robots

Some people are getting a taste of the future of pizza.

From a pizza that bakes while it's in transit to a delivery vehicle that drives itself, pizza companies seem keen to outdo each other when it comes to incorporating new technologies into the takeout experience.

One thing is clear: the way you get your favourite slice delivered to your door is likely to change.



Not only can the Tundra PIE Pro cook a pizza in the back, it's a zero-emission vehicle, so it's better for the environment than a gas or diesel truck. (Toyota)

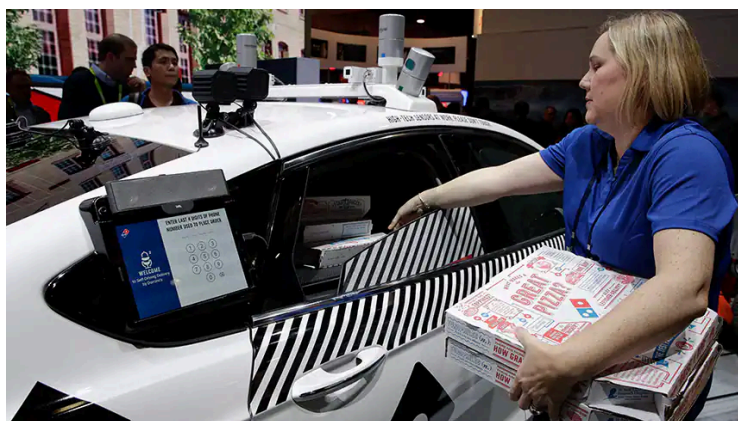
On Oct. 30, Pizza Hut announced it was joining forces with Toyota to develop a mobile pizza factory.

It's basically a truck with a kitchen in the back, including a refrigerator, a pair of robotic arms and an oven.

Once an order comes in, one of the robotic arms opens the fridge, takes out a pizza, puts it in the oven and closes the fridge again.

The second robotic arm removes the pizza, slices it on a cutting board, puts it in a box and delivers it to the customer.

Pizza Hut said the process takes about seven minutes from start to finish.



Jenny Fouracre puts pizza boxes into one of Ford's self-driving delivery vehicles earlier this year. (Jae C. Hong/Associated Press)

Domino's and Ford have teamed up to test out a self-driving delivery vehicle in a handful of American cities.

How it works is the vehicle sends the customer a text to say it has arrived at their home.

The customer then has to walk down to the vehicle and punch in a four-digit code.

When the rear window opens, the customer can grab their order from a heated compartment.

During the first round of tests, there was still a human driver in the vehicle, but the windows were blacked out so they could test how customers would interact with the equipment.

The next step is to use vehicles that drive themselves, a goal Ford said it hopes to reach by 2021.

Domino's is also testing pizza delivery with drones and small robots.



Pizza sales apparently doubled at this restaurant in Pakistan after the owners added a robot waitress in 2017. (Iram Asim/Associated Press)
