

BUSINESS

Linksys launches Hydra Pro 6

Linksys, a global leader in home and business WiFi solutions, announced the availability of its latest and more affordable WiFi 6 product, the Hydra Pro 6.

"Our mission at Linksys is to connect everyone securely, whether it's someone working from home who needs reliable WiFi or a student intently taking notes during their online class. The Hydra Pro 6 is our latest router in a suite of products that offer next-level streaming, are easy to set up and equipped with advanced security and parental controls," said Harry DeWhirst, CEO, Linksys. "People shouldn't worry

about a dropped video chat or connections that aren't secure. WiFi is meant to make life easier not create unnecessary problems in an already difficult world. We are committed to delivering fast, reliable, and secure connectivity to the hybrid work era and beyond, and the Hydra Pro 6 is just the start."

The Linksys Hydra Pro 6 delivers the ultimate WiFi 6 experience to 30+ devices (per node) across 2700 sq. ft. of coverage and wireless speeds up to 5.4 Gbps. Powered by the Qualcomm® Immersive Home 216 Platform plus access to 160 MHz channel,

the Hydra Pro 6 unleashes the true power of WiFi 6 with reliable, incredibly fast connectivity and improved network efficiency for seamless video streaming, faster downloading and more. Intelligent Mesh technology offers whole home mesh WiFi coverage that's easily expandable by adding nodes.

At a time when device-heavy homes are more dependent on WiFi than ever before, the powerful yet easy to use Hydra Pro 6 is a seamless addition to households and allows users to view/prioritize devices through the free Linksys app. (Agencies)



A Moonbike is shown on display at the Moonbikes Motors booth during CES Unveiled ahead of the CES tech show, Monday, Jan. 3, 2022, in Las Vegas. The Moonbike is the world's first electric snow bike. (AP)

Stocks tick up on Wall Street, but tech drop tempers gains



Workers take a selfie in front of an electric board showing stock prices on the first trading day of the year at Osaka Exchange in Osaka, western Japan Tuesday, Jan. 4, 2022. (AP)

Banks among top gainers as bond yields rise

NEW YORK, Jan 4, (AP): Stocks edged higher in morning trading on Wall Street Tuesday as traders gear up for economic reports and company earnings to resume after the year-end holidays.

The S&P 500 rose 0.3% as of 10:20 a.m. Eastern. The Dow Jones Industrial Average rose 299 points, or 0.8%, to 36,883 and the tech-heavy Nasdaq fell 0.7%.

Banks were among the biggest gainers as bond yields again moved higher. Higher bond yields allow banks to charge more lucrative interest on loans.

The yield on the 10-year Treasury rose to 1.67% from 1.63% late Monday. JPMorgan Chase rose 3.5%.

U.S. crude oil prices rose 1.6% and helped lift energy stocks. Exxon Mobil rose 3%.

A wide range of industrial and communications stocks also gained ground.

Health care and technology stocks

fell and tempered the broader market's gains.

Investors have a mix of economic and corporate news to focus on in the first week of the new year as they try to gauge economic growth with the virus pandemic and persistently rising inflation.

OPEC and allied oil-producing countries plan to stick with their road map to slowly restore cuts in output made during the depths of the pandemic, including adding 400,000 barrels per day in February.

Wall Street is also monitoring updates this week on the manufacturing and service sectors. The Labor Department's closely watched jobs report, for December, will be released Friday.

Walgreens, Constellation Brands and Conagra report their latest quarterly earnings on Thursday.

Investors are also anticipating the minutes from the Federal Reserve's latest policy meeting in December, set for release on Wednesday. The central bank plans to hasten the withdrawal of its support for the markets and economy in the face of rising inflation. It will speed up its withdrawal of bond

purchases that have helped keep interest rates low and investors are closely watching the Fed for any signals on eventually raising benchmark interest rates.

Recent solid gains suggest investors remain bullish about stocks, despite the recent spike in COVID-19 cases from virus' fast-spreading omicron variant and expectations that the U.S. Federal Reserve will begin pushing up interest rates sometime this year to fight rising inflation.

Investors have several key pieces of economic data to look forward to during the first week of the new year, including the Labor Department's jobs report on Friday. The Institute for Supply Management will give investors an update on the manufacturing sector on Tuesday and the services sector on Thursday.

France's CAC 40 added 0.7% in early trading to 7,266.59, while Germany's DAX edged up 0.3% to 16,064.91. Britain's FTSE 100 gained 1.2% to 7,475.46.

Japan's benchmark Nikkei 225 jumped 1.8% to 29,301.79 in Tokyo's first trading day of 2022. Shares also

rose in Australia, South Korea and Hong Kong, but edged lower in Shanghai.

Toyota Motor Corp. gained 6.1%, while Sony Corp. added 3.4%.

Finance Minister Shunichi Suzuki and other dignitaries rang a bell at the Tokyo Stock Exchange to herald the opening of trading. At the smaller exchange in Osaka, in western Japan, women carried on the tradition of attending the year's opening ceremony in colorful kimono.

Troubled Chinese developer Evergrande announced it had been ordered to demolish a 39-building resort in the southern province of Hainan. Shares in the company were suspended from trading on Monday but resumed trading Tuesday, gaining 1.9%.

Evergrande is struggling with \$310 billion in debt and the order to demolish the resort was a new blow to its finances.

Evergrande Group gave no explanation, but news reports said the government of Danzhou, a city on the southern island province of Hainan, found it was improperly built and violated urban planning law.

'An online CES is not a real CES'

CES show stages a wary 'return' amid pandemic

LAS VEGAS, Jan 4, (AP): Is anyone going to CES this year?

A long-simmering question in the tech world will finally get its answer as the influential gadget show returns to the Las Vegas Strip after a hiatus caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

"We know it will be a smaller show this year, for obvious reasons," said Jean Foster, senior vice president at the Consumer Technology Association, the event's organizer. Several huge tech companies have abandoned plans to attend in person. The latest sign of its dwindling size was Friday's announcement that CES will run one day shorter than originally planned.

The sprawling exhibition floors open Wednesday as the spread of COVID-19's omicron variant has heightened concerns about the safety of indoor events and international travel. The CTA by late December was anticipating between 50,000 and 75,000 attendees for this week's conference, down from more than 170,000 who came for the last in-person gathering two years ago.

Some die-hard CES devotees were considering whether to go or stay home right up until last week.

"An online CES is not a real CES," said Prince Constantijn of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, in a December interview. "You've got to see the products and meet the people." But a week later, the royal who regularly serves as a special envoy for Dutch technology startups had opted to stay home after all. His country is sending a barebones crew to CES 2022. So are many big tech companies - if they send anyone at all.

The last physical CES in January 2020 pumped an estimated \$300 million into the Las Vegas economy. Few attendees would have known then about the coronavirus outbreak emerging in central China and still months away from being declared a pandemic. The CTA took the conference online in 2021 as COVID-19 hospitalizations were spiking around the world and vaccines weren't yet widely available.

The trade group announced eight months ago it was ready to come back to Nevada in 2022 but would offer options for remote participants to see some of it virtually. Those who do travel to CES are required to show they are fully vaccinated and will be given a COVID-19 test kit. Masks are required inside.

"CES is maybe the most significant event economically of the year in terms of conventions," said Alan Feldman, a former casino

executive who is a fellow at the International Gaming Institute at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Even a significantly reduced event will be "something to look forward to" for local hotels, restaurants, casinos, retailers and entertainment crews, Feldman said.

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Even without a pandemic to dampen the party, tech industry analyst Carolina Milanesi said "big industry events like this are becoming less important than they used to be" as digital technology has supplied other ways to network and keep up with trends.

CES used to stand for Consumer Electronics Show, but Milanesi said the decades-old gathering has become less a place to find the next line of consumer gadgetry and more focused on longer-term technology cycles, like self-driving cars or the artificial intelligence applications being fused into smart homes and cities.

"You no longer go to CES to see what's going to be in the Best Buy near you by summer," Milanesi said.

New expo categories centered around the digital assets called non-fungible tokens, or NFTs, as well as space technology and food, reflect the latest tech buzzwords on the minds of investors and marketers. Some companies also plan to hype their vision for the next generation of the internet - a collection of virtual worlds known as the metaverse - though explored from the confines of a physical convention floor.

Milanesi has regularly attended CES for a decade to keep an eye on tech companies and trends but public health concerns led her to mull over whether she'd go this time. She made a final decision in mid-December to attend, but plans to do things differently - visiting the exhibition halls but skipping big speaking events she can watch from her hotel room.

"I haven't decided yet on the cocktail hours," she said. "That's a big reason to go to CES and meet people face to face. With a glass in your hand, people get a little more comfortable discussing things."

Lineage announces \$1.7b in new equity

NOVI, Mich., Jan 4, (Agencies): Lineage Logistics, LLC, the world's largest and most innovative temperature-controlled industrial REIT and logistics solutions provider, today announced it has raised \$1.7 billion in equity from new and existing strategic partners. Participating investors include BentallGreenOak, CenterSquare Investment Management, Cohen & Steers, D1 Capital Partners, Healthcare of Ontario Pension Plan (HOOPP), NYSTRS, OP Trust, Oxford Properties, QuadReal Property Group, Rabobank, StepStone, and others.

"This latest round of funding is further validation of our business strategy and will be used to double down on our commitment to offering innovative, end-to-end supply chain solutions for our customers worldwide," said Greg Lehmkuhl, President and CEO of Lineage. "As we head into 2022, this new equity gives us even more confidence in our ability to drive future growth opportunities for our business, the industry, and the wider food supply chain."

The new capital will strengthen Lineage's balance sheet and will fuel Lineage's investments in industry-leading technology, including automation and proprietary software tools that help to improve supply chain efficiencies. It will also be used to fund Lineage's growth through greenfield developments, facility expansions, and investments in clean energy initiatives.

"While Lineage has already achieved significant growth since its founding in 2008, the company remains as committed as ever to its promise of preserving, protecting, and optimizing the distribution of food," said Adam Forste, Co-Executive Chairman of Lineage and Co-Founder and Managing Partner at Bay Grove, which founded and manages Lineage Logistics. "Lineage's continued growth and investments in technology and innovation would not be possible without our incredible investors. We are excited to have fresh capital from this latest funding to deploy in our business and create new solutions and capacity for our customers, particularly during this time of significant disruption in global supply chains."

The equity raise follows Lineage's latest funding round of \$1.9 billion, announced in March 2021. The latest funding brings the total equity raised since January 2020 to \$6 billion.

Morgan Stanley acted as financial advisors, and Latham Watkins served as legal counsel for Lineage.

Lineage Logistics is the world's largest temperature-controlled industrial REIT and logistics solutions provider. It has a global network of over 400 strategically located facilities totaling over 2 billion cubic feet of capacity which spans 19 countries across North America, Europe and Asia-Pacific.

Largest and Most Modern Showroom in the Middle East

Al Zaabi: KFH Auto offers a fully Integrated Finance Services



Muaz Alzaabi

KFH Executive Manager – Auto Finance and Leasing, Muaz Alzaabi indicated that KFH Auto showroom comprises the largest finance center at Kuwait level to finance customers' needs and requirements of cars and other products. He mentioned that the showroom offers more than 22 finance services and products.

Al-Zaabi noted that KFH Auto is the largest Auto Showroom in the Middle East, covering a total area of 38 Thousand square meters, out of which 17 thousand square meters are allocated for exhibiting cars and other products.

He added that KFH Auto is an environment friend facility

which is compatible with sustainability requirements and comprises the following facilities:

- A/C system "Chillers" using R134A gas
- Solar energy system to benefit from the solar energy and minimize current energy usage level.
- Light and fire-resistant smart ceiling system (Parasol) which has mitigated the load on the building by 40 tons.
- LED Light's system
- Highly developed thermo-resistant glass covering an area of 2000 meters to provide natural light and minimize AC load and consumption.
- Light Sensor and Water Sensor to minimize electricity and water consumption.
- The building height is 1.5 meters above the ground level to avoid any emergency incidents due to heavy rainfall and water drainage problems.
- Car charging systems for electrical cars
- Recycle Ceramic floors.

He added that KFH Auto accommodates more than 200 cars, 28 agencies and 44 trademarks including cars, motorbikes, jet skis, and boats. The showroom represents an



integrated city comprising all that is related to the sale/purchase of new and used cars and other vehicles as well as leasing, trading, traffic, and insurance products. Also, it contains a special ladies' section.

Kfh.com/auto platform

Al-Zaabi said that KFH has launched its e-platform for auto services and offers on its website kfh.com/auto in a step which is the first of its kind in Kuwait. Customers can view the latest auto offers and take their pick. Also, customers can submit a purchase or lease request through an e-form on KFH website. The platform is considered as the first portal for all those who wish to purchase or lease cars. A specialized and highly qualified team updates information and follows up with customers right from the

beginning of the service till final completion of the sale or lease transaction.

Solutions and Advantages

Al-Zaabi said that KFH services include: Sale of new cars, sale of certified used cars with agent's maintenance, sale of motorbikes, jet skis, boats, and marine equipment, "Pay here and receive car abroad" service covering 4 countries Egypt, Jordan, USA and Turkey, retail and corporate operational and finance lease, ladies' services, new and used cars finance from commercial offices and individuals, spare parts and accessories finance service and trust (Aman) car sale service.

He added that the most distinguished finance solutions and advantages provided by KFH include agent warranty and advantages, cash or

instalment sale at competitive prices, suitable payment periods, flexible settlement method (Salary deduction – bank transfer).

Al Zaabi emphasized that KFH is the first bank to launch lease finance services in the market with advantages allowing KFH customers to own the car according to their need for a period approximating 5 years including takaful comprehensive insurance, factory warranty, substitute car in case of maintenance, repair or lease and discount advantage. The customer is given the choice either to purchase the car or return it to KFH at the end of the lease contract. KFH provides a vast variety of highly reputable trademarks approximating 80 models within its operational and lease finance programs.