



Stanford eCorner

Looking Into the Future

Elon Musk, *SpaceX*

October 07, 2015

Video URL: <http://ecorner.stanford.edu/videos/3626/Looking-Into-the-Future>

Beginning with the example of self-driving vehicles, Elon Musk and Steve Jurvetson discuss innovation sectors that will advance the most in the next 20 years, from artificial intelligence, to sustainable energy and space exploration. "It's very important that we have things that are exciting and inspiring for the future because, otherwise, why get up in the morning?" Musk asks.



Transcript

Technology works as a general solution. So autonomous driving ... anywhere. So it could be sooner for point things-- highway only, or-- Highway only, we're already in public beta with Tesla. So we'll be, hopefully, in the next several weeks releasing to all of the cars that have the autopilot hardware, which is all cars built in roughly the last 12 months. Wow. And so this seems like one of those things that, once you've experienced it, the inevitability of it becomes more apparent-- kind of like the first time I sat in an electric vehicle-- it's just so clear, and same with autonomous vehicles. Do you think that will help persuade public opinion? And the regulatory question is an interesting one, because as technology continues to accelerate, human nature doesn't. And acceptance of change-- I'm just not sure if there's-- as we look out in the future, should we assume that, no matter how fast something like Moore's Law accelerates, there's always the counterbalance and force of human nature and habit? Yeah. I mean, yeah.

I think there's always going to be human nature. And it's difficult to predict, and I think how that will affect things. But I'm not sure if I fully answered your question in terms of what I think of 2025. Yeah, please. So for sure, ubiquitous computing, AI that's beyond anything the public appreciates today. I think we'll have most of the new vehicles being produced being electric, and we'll probably have the super majority of energy being produced being sustainable. So I think we're headed Solar primarily, in your mind? Primarily solar, yeah. And so I think that those are sort of some good things that I think will be on, hopefully, a good path for sustainable energy. Sooner is always better, but I think by 2035, I think we'll be substantially-- like most of transport, most of new energy being produced will be sustainable.

Broadband everywhere? Broadband everywhere, yeah. Mars colony? And hopefully, a small base on Mars, or city on Mars in 20 years, yeah. City, did I hear? Well, OK, fine-- town. Village. Hamlet. I mean, that's exciting. That could get people fired up about the future. Yeah, I agree, exactly. I think that the idea of being a multi-planet species and getting up there and exploring the stars is one of those really inspiring, exciting things. I mean, just as Apollo was incredibly inspiring to everyone around the world, and even those-- I mean, only a very tiny number of people went there.

But vicariously, we all went there. And I think that's true if we have a Mars base, as well. And it's very important that we have things that are exciting and inspiring in the future, because otherwise why get up in the morning? If it's just about one sort of sad problem after another, life's not worth living.