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Freight Transportation | North America

TechTrack: Kodiak and Gatik Advance Driverless Trucking, Einride Plans 500 Tesla Semi Deployment, AMZN Expands Drone Delivery and Robotics, WMT Advances Automation and Faster Delivery & More...

Autonomous trucking, fleet electrification and AI-enabled freight tools continue to scale, while AMZN, WMT and others accelerate investment in drones, robotics and faster fulfillment, signaling broader commercialization of next-gen logistics technologies.

The following headlines grabbed our attention in August:

Trucking / Logistics: Spice sentence 1) Kodiak Receives Permit to Test Autonomous Trucks on California Public Roads; **2)** Gatik Raises $200M to Scale Driverless Freight to Thousands; **3)** Einride to Deploy 500 Tesla Semis on Its Saga AI Platform; **4)** Aurora Reports Q2 Results, Details Per-Mile Pricing; **5)** Electric Trucking: Is Tesla Semi Ready?; **6)** Descartes Acquires Tai for $100M; **7)** Google Maps Launches Truck-Aware Routing That Accounts for Low Bridges and Weight Limits; **8)** Ports Agreement Expands Commitments to Include Cleaner Ships, and Clean Truck Deployment to Reduce Emissions from Goods Movement; **9)** Dohrn Bets on Camera Data to Cut Fleet Insurance Costs; **10)** Einride Acquires EV Charging-Management Company Flipturn for $38M; **11)** Alvys Opens Freight AI Agents to Fleets of All Sizes

Omnichannel / Delivery / Parcel: 1) Amazon to Expand Drone Delivery Reach Sixfold This Year; **2)** FedEx, Amazon Pursue Expanded Use of Robotic Arms; **3)** Amazon, Fulfillment Tech Company AutoStore Ink Global Supply Deal; **4)** Walmart Equipping a Store With Symbotic Fulfillment System; **5)** Target Strengthens Inventory Management With Digital Twins; **6)** Walmart, Wing Launch Drone Delivery Service in Florida; **7)** Walmart Expands 30-Minutes-or-Less Delivery as Speed Woos Shoppers; **8)** Amazon Deploys Drones Outside U.S. for First Time; **9)** UPS Rolls Out Pickup Technology Upgrades for Small Business Shippers; **10)** Amazon Business Rolls Out Dedicated Trucks for Consolidated and Palletized Deliveries; **11)** Home Depot Rolls Out Express Delivery in 3 Hours or Less Across US; **12)** FarEye Launches Agentic AI Dispatcher for Last-Mile Delivery

Trucking / Logistics: The latest trucking technology developments point to

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FREIGHT TRANSPORTATION
North America
Industry View **In-Line**

Please see link below to previous TechTrack research:

TechTrack

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For analyst certification and other important disclosures, refer to the Disclosure Section, located at the end of this report.

continued progress across AV, fleet electrification, charging infrastructure and freight software. Kodiak received a California DMV permit allowing it to begin testing heavy-duty autonomous trucks on public roads with a safety driver, the first stage of the state's new framework that can ultimately progress to driverless testing and deployment. Gatik raised $200mm in Series D funding led by Qatar Investment Authority and Koch Disruptive Technologies to scale from dozens of driverless trucks today to thousands over the coming years; the company says it has already completed 85,000 fully driverless orders, secured more than $600mm of contracted revenue and achieved 99% on-time delivery across operations in Texas, Arizona, Arkansas and Canada. **Einride announced plans to deploy 500 Tesla Semis on its Saga AI platform for AMZN and other customers across North America, beginning in September 2026** and rolling out over 24 months across corridors including California, Texas, New Jersey, Illinois and Georgia. Separately, Einride is acquiring EV charging-management company Flipturn for $38mm, a transaction expected to double its energy-under-management capacity. AUR provided additional detail on its autonomous-trucking economics during their 2Q call, targeting $2+/mile for its full-service Transportation-as-a-Service model and $0.85+/mile for its Driver-as-a-Service subscription model, with plans to begin transitioning customers toward DaaS in 2027. **On electric-truck economics, Intracoastal Trucking tested a Tesla Semi on Northeast routes and estimated potential fuel and maintenance savings of roughly $0.65/mile**; the carrier plans to add five Semis in 2027 for a dedicated short-haul shuttle operation if the economics hold, although its test also highlighted charging infrastructure as a key constraint, with its current charging process taking 8–10 hours versus ~20 minutes with a Tesla Megacharger. Infrastructure investment is also advancing, with the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach committing $40mm to South Coast AQMD for regional off-port charging and fueling infrastructure supporting zero-emission drayage trucks, alongside additional incentives intended to increase zero-emission truck adoption. On freight technology, Descartes acquired Tai for $100mm in cash, adding Tai's AI-powered freight-broker TMS covering quoting, sourcing, execution and invoicing to the Descartes Global Logistics Network. **Google made its Large Vehicle Routing technology generally available in the U.S., allowing developers and fleet-management platforms to generate routes that account for truck-specific constraints** including vehicle height, weight and length, hazmat restrictions, low bridges and tight turns. Dohrn, a roughly 2,000-employee LTL carrier, reported that accidents have fallen nearly 20% since completing its rollout of dual-facing AI cameras about a year ago, providing better safety data that the carrier hopes can help manage rising insurance costs.

Omnichannel / Delivery / Parcel: The latest retail and logistics developments highlight an accelerating push toward faster last-mile delivery, drone expansion, warehouse automation and AI-enabled fulfillment. AMZN plans to expand Prime Air drone delivery to nearly 500 U.S. cities and towns by YE26, roughly six times its current footprint, with planned launches including Atlanta, Chicago, Cleveland, Boise and Syracuse; the expanded network will make >60% of Amazon's most frequently purchased items eligible for drone delivery, with Prime members paying $2.99 per delivery or receiving free drone delivery on orders of $50+. **AMZN has also begun Prime Air deliveries in Darlington, England, its first drone operation outside the**

U.S., using MK30 drones to deliver packages weighing up to five pounds within 60 minutes. Beyond drones, AMZN plans to more than double its robotic-arm fleet in 2026, including AI/computer-vision systems such as Cardinal and Sparrow, while FedEx has deployed Dexterity dual-arm robotic systems at its Hagerstown, Maryland hub to automate trailer loading. AMZN also signed a global supply framework with AutoStore, giving it the ability to procure AutoStore's automated storage and retrieval systems globally. **WMT is similarly increasing fulfillment automation, with Symbotic installing its first back-of-store SymMicro system at a WMT location**; the system uses autonomous SymBots to retrieve inventory and can support ~550 picks per hour per station, with a second site expected to follow and WMT having previously made a contingent commitment to purchase up to 400 systems. WMT is also expanding faster last-mile options, growing its 30-minutes-or-less delivery service from 33 to 38 U.S. markets; stores now fulfill 80% of Walmart e-commerce orders and 100% of its fast deliveries. **Separately, WMT and Alphabet's Wing launched drone delivery in the Orlando area, initially serving more than 50,000 homes, businesses and apartments** from two stores with delivery in as little as 30 minutes and plans to expand to five area stores; the broader partnership is expected to reach more than 270 WMT locations in 2027. TGT has developed Proxima, a digital twin of its middle-mile inventory positioning system, allowing the retailer to simulate inventory flows and operational decisions before implementing them in its physical network. **UPS introduced a new pickup dashboard aimed particularly at SMB customers, allowing shippers to schedule, manage and track pickups in one place and receive pickup windows and real-time notifications.** Amazon Business is rolling out dedicated branded trucks across 13 states for business customers requiring consolidated drop-offs and palletized loading-dock deliveries, extending Amazon's consumer fulfillment infrastructure to B2B customers. Home Depot has launched three-hour-or-less express delivery nationwide, using its supply chain network and more than 2,000 U.S. stores as fulfillment hubs. Additionally, FarEye launched PILOT, an agentic AI dispatcher for last-mile operations that can plan routes, source carriers and drivers, hand off shipments and monitor delivery exceptions either autonomously or with human oversight.

*Our monthly TechTrack feature keeps tabs on recent key technology developments and disruptive trends in the Freight Transportation space and their investment implications. See our collection "**TechTrack**" for previous editions.*



Trucking / Logistics Monthly Tech News Update

Kodiak AI Receives DMV Permit to Test Autonomous Trucks in California

(August 14, 2026) Kodiak AI, Inc. ("Kodiak") (Nasdaq: KDK), a leading provider of AI-powered autonomous vehicle technology, announced today it has received a drivered testing permit under the California Department of Motor Vehicles' (DMV's) newly expanded Autonomous Vehicle Tester (AVT) program, which allows permitted heavy-duty autonomous vehicle developers to test and deploy their technology on California roads for the first time. Kodiak obtained a permit under the state's new regulations on August 13, 2026. This permit allows Kodiak to operate in California with a safety driver behind the wheel.

Source: https://investors.kodiak.ai/news-releases/news-release-details/kodiak-ai-receives-dmv-permit-test-autonomous-trucks-california

Gatik raises $200M to scale driverless freight to thousands

(August 25, 2026) Gatik announced Tuesday it raised $200 million in a Series D round led by Qatar Investment Authority and Koch Disruptive Technologies. Millennium Management, ARK Invest and Intact Private Capital also joined the round.The money will support expansion of Gatik's driverless freight operations from the dozens of trucks today to thousands in the years ahead. Gatik has completed 85,000 fully driverless orders. The company reports more than $600 million in contracted revenue and 99% on-time delivery across operations in Texas, Arizona, Arkansas and Canada.

Source: https://www.freightwaves.com/news/gatik-driverless-freight-series-d

Einride Partners with Tesla for the World's Largest Tesla Semi Deployment

(August 18, 2026) Einride to deploy 500 Tesla Semis on its Saga AI platform for Amazon and other customers, converting signed contracts into revenue-generating freight capacity. The deployments will triple Einride's deployed fleet of electric trucks, and further accelerate the Company's US expansion, adding to North America's largest electric freight networks.

Source: https://www.einride.tech/press/einride-partners-with-tesla-for-the-world%E2%80%99s-largest-tesla-semi-deployment

Aurora reports Q2 results, details per-mile pricing

(August 1, 2026) Autonomous trucking developer Aurora Innovation reported a second-quarter net loss of $270 million on $2 million in revenue Wednesday. Executives restated the driverless truck rates behind the two business models the company is selling to carriers and shippers.Chief Financial Officer David Maday said Aurora's transportation-as-

a-service offering carries a per-mile revenue outlook in the $2-plus-per-mile range, while its driver-as-a-service subscription targets $0.85+ per mile. Maday said the company had put both figures out previously. Aurora plans to begin moving customers from the first model to the second in 2027.

Source: https://www.freightwaves.com/news/aurora-q2-earnings-driverless-truck-rates

Electric Trucking: Is Tesla Semi Ready?

(August 17, 2026) Intracoastal Trucking, a 100-truck, 600-trailer truckload carrier based in the Northeast, is currently running a two-week demo of a Tesla Semi on some of the region's most demanding urban delivery corridors — and the company's leader says he plans to add five trucks to the fleet as early as next year if the economics hold up. The carrier put two drivers on the truck, one doing a stop-and-go shuttle operation and one running roughly 180-mile lengths of haul through Paterson, New Jersey, Astoria, Queens, and Long Island before returning via the Cross Bronx Expressway. Both drivers came away largely positive, though for different reasons. The shuttle driver praised the acceleration, ride quietness, and cab visibility. The longer-haul driver found the truck required active energy management — leaning on cruise control and regenerative braking rather than the friction brake — and on one run nearly depleted the battery before returning.

Source: https://www.freightwaves.com/news/electric-trucking-is-tesla-semi-ready

Descartes acquires Tai for $100M

(August 24, 2026) Descartes Systems Group announced Monday that it has acquired Tai, a TMS provider for freight brokers, for $100 million. The deal was funded with cash on hand.California-based Tai's AI-powered platform oversees the entire shipment lifecycle, including quoting, sourcing, execution and invoicing. The TMS primarily executes truckload, less-than-truckload, drayage and cross-border shipments.

Source: https://www.freightwaves.com/news/descartes-acquires-tai-for-100m

Quintero.

Google Maps Just Launched Truck-Aware Routing That Knows About Low Bridges and Weight Limits. Here Is What It Means, and What It Does Not.

(August 21, 2026) Google has announced the general availability of Large Vehicle Routing, a version of its mapping technology built specifically for trucks and buses that accounts for height, weight, length, hazmat restrictions, and the low bridges and tight turns that standard car navigation ignores. Every experienced driver has a story about it, or knows someone who does. A truck follows a navigation app built for cars, and the app cheerfully routes it toward a bridge it cannot clear, a road it is too heavy for, or a turn it physically cannot make. The low-bridge strike is one of the oldest and most avoidable disasters in trucking, and it happens in large part because the mapping tools most people use were never built for a truck.

Source: https://www.freightwaves.com/news/google-maps-just-launched-truck-aware-routing-that-knows-about-low-bridges-and-weight-limits-here-is-what-it-means-and-what-it-does-not

Ports Agreement Expands Commitments to Include Cleaner Ships, and Clean Truck Deployment to Reduce Emissions from Goods Movement

(August 7, 2026) South Coast Air Quality Management District's (South Coast AQMD) Governing Board approved an addendum to the landmark Cooperative Agreement with the Ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles. The addendum strengthens the original agreement by adding three new actions, including new incentives for cleaner ships and zero-emission trucks and a $40 million investment in regional charging infrastructure designed to accelerate emissions reductions from port-related operations. The original Cooperative Agreement was signed and executed in December 2025 and established a framework for advancing zero-emission infrastructure at the Ports—the most important step to deploy zero-emission technologies for cargo handling equipment, harbor craft, trucks, trains, and ocean-going vessels that will reduce emissions and improve air quality across the region.

Source: https://www.aqmd.gov/docs/default-source/news-archive/2026/ports-agreement-expands-commitments-to-include-cleaner-ships-and-clean-truck-deployment---august-7-2026.pdf

Dohrn bets on camera data to cut fleet insurance costs

(August 17, 2026) Insurance premiums keep climbing across trucking. Unfortunately for carriers, they cannot opt out of the trend. What a fleet can control is the experience data sitting underneath its own renewal.For Dohrn, a Midwest LTL carrier with about 2,000 employees, that data now comes from AI cameras. The company finished converting its fleet to dual-facing event recorders roughly a year ago. Accidents have fallen almost 20% since. Robert Howard, president and CEO of Dohrn, told FreightWaves that nobody outside the building forced the decision. Insurers are not the ones pushing hardest on fleet insurance costs. Instead, carriers themselves are.

Source: https://www.freightwaves.com/news/fleet-insurance-costs-camera-data

Einride acquiring EV charging management firm Flipturn for $38M

(August 12, 2026) Einride entered a definitive agreement to acquire Flipturn, a developer of charging and energy management software for electric fleets for the estimated price of $38.4 million, the firm announced in a press release.The Sweden-based maker of electric heavy duty autonomous trucks, which has been expanding in the U.S. since going public in June, said the acquisition allows it to add Flipturn's established customer base to Einride's portfolio.

Source: https://www.truckingdive.com/news/einride-acquiring-ev-charging-management-

firm-flipturn-for-38m/826408/

Alvys opens freight AI agents to fleets of all sizes

(August 11, 2026) Alvys introduced Alvys Foundry on Tuesday, an agentic AI platform that lets carriers, brokers and hybrid carrier-brokers build and deploy freight AI agents inside the transportation management system they already run. The Solana Beach, Calif.-based company paired the launch with a second announcement: its TMS is now open to fleets of all sizes, extending a platform built around larger trucking companies to owner-operators and small carriers.Foundry offers three paths: more than 20 pre-built agent templates, custom agents built and tuned by Alvys engineers, or agents customers assemble themselves. Early targets are the work that still eats dispatch hours, including check-call automation, invoice and settlement prep, and track-and-trace exceptions.

Source: https://www.freightwaves.com/news/freight-ai-agents-alvys-foundry

Omnichannel / Delivery / Parcel: Monthly Tech News Update

Amazon to expand drone delivery reach sixfold this year

(August 19, 2026) Amazon is expanding its drone delivery capabilities to nearly 500 cities and towns by the end of 2026, a sixfold increase from its current footprint, the e-commerce giant announced. The company expects its Prime Air service to launch soon in the metro areas of Atlanta, Chicago, Cleveland, Boise, Idaho; and Syracuse, New York, in addition to other communities. Amazon's drones currently deliver in parts of seven states, including Arizona, Florida, Kansas, Louisiana, Michigan, Nebraska and Texas.

Source: https://www.supplychaindive.com/news/amazon-to-expand-drone-delivery-reach-sixfold-this-year/828253/

FedEx, Amazon pursue expanded use of robotic arms

(August 10, 2026) FedEx and Amazon are ramping up the presence of robotic arms within their networks in a bid to boost productivity and limit strenuous employee tasks. On August 30, FedEx announced in a news release the deployment of Dexterity's dual-armed Mech trailer loading systems at its Maryland-based Hagerstown Hub. The systems are powered by Foresight, Dexterity's model that makes real-time decisions to optimize package placement during the autonomous loading process.

Source: https://www.supplychaindive.com/news/fedex-amazon-pursue-expanded-use-of-robotic-arms/827221/

Amazon, fulfillment tech company AutoStore ink global supply deal

(August 20, 2026) AutoStore, a fulfillment technology provider, has agreed to a framework to supply products and services globally to Amazon. The agreement "defines the terms for further procurement of AutoStore systems by Amazon" but doesn't include any purchasing commitments yet.

Source: https://www.supplychaindive.com/news/amazon-fulfillment-tech-company-autostore-ink-global-supply-deal/827978/

Walmart equipping a store with Symbotic fulfillment system

(August 14, 2026) Automation technology company Symbotic recently began installation of its first SymMicro system for e-commerce fulfillment in the back of a Walmart store, advancing a pact announced last year between the two companies. The system is expected to "come to life" in about six months, Richard Cohen, Symbotic's president and CEO, said.

Source: https://www.supplychaindive.com/news/walmart-equipping-a-store-with-symbotic-fulfillment-system/827794//

Target strengthens inventory management with digital twins

(August 14, 2026) Target developed a technology tool that aims to help the retailer make better inventory decisions across its supply chain. The tool, called Proxima, is a digital twin of Target's middle-mile inventory positioning system which determines how goods move between facilities to stores. In practice, Proxima uses the same data and logic as its inventory platform to simulate how decisions play out before inventory teams put them into practice.

Source: https://www.supplychaindive.com/news/target-strengthens-inventory-management-with-digital-twins/827910/

Walmart, Wing launch drone delivery service in Florida

(August 03, 2026) Walmart has launched drone delivery operations in Florida's Greater Orlando area with Wing, adding momentum to the two companies' expanding partnership. With the launch, over 50,000 homes, business and apartment buildings in Central Florida can now receive deliveries in as fast as 30 minutes via Wing drones.

Source: https://www.supplychaindive.com/news/walmart-wing-launch-drone-delivery-service-in-florida/826520/

Walmart expands 30-minutes-or-less delivery as speed woos shoppers

(August 21, 2026) Walmart has expanded its 30-minutes-or-less delivery offering into 38 U.S. markets, giving millions of additional customers access to a faster fulfillment option, President and CEO John Furner said in a Q2 earnings call.

Source: https://www.supplychaindive.com/news/walmart-expands-30-minutes-or-less-delivery-as-speed-woos-shoppers/828404/

Amazon deploys drones outside U.S. for 1st time

(August 17, 2026) Amazon has been delivering packages by drone since February from a large fulfillment center in Darlington, England, the first location outside the United States where Amazon has expanded the Prime Air service. Drones are another way for Amazon (NASDAQ: AMZN) to increase delivery speed and convenience for customers and the retail giant is deploying drones at scale this year.

Source: https://www.freightwaves.com/news/amazon-deploys-drones-outside-u-s-for-1st-time

UPS rolls out pickup upgrades for small business shippers

(August 05, 2026) UPS has launched a pickup dashboard that enables shippers to schedule, manage and track pickups in one place, an upgrade that will particularly aid small businesses with fluctuating pickup needs, the carrier announced in a news release. The new dashboard, which also features real-time notifications, adds to UPS' efforts to attract more volume from small- and medium-sized businesses.

Source: https://www.supplychaindive.com/news/ups-rolls-out-pickup-upgrades-for-small-business-shippers/826965/

Amazon taps fulfillment model for dedicated, branded delivery trucks

(August 04, 2026) Amazon Business is rolling out its dedicated, branded delivery trucks in 13 states for organizations needing consolidated drop-offs and palletized delivery at loading docks, Daniel Silverfield, head of value and selection at Amazon Business, told Supply Chain Dive.

Source: https://www.supplychaindive.com/news/amazon-taps-fulfillment-model-for-dedicated-branded-delivery-trucks/826726/

Home Depot rolls out express delivery in 3 hours or less across US

(August 19, 2026) The Home Depot is now offering express delivery nationwide to customers to receive eligible orders in three hours or less, according to an Aug. 18 press release. The service uses Home Depot's supply chain network alongside more than 2,000 U.S. stores as fulfillment hubs, per the release.

Source: https://www.supplychaindive.com/news/home-depot-rolls-out-express-delivery-in-3-hours-or-less-across-us/828175/

The Amazon Prime Effect Is forcing dispatchers into AI

(August 21, 2026) FarEye, an AI-Powered Delivery Management System (DMS), recently launched an agentic AI dispatcher called PILOT to plan, execute, and monitor final-mile deliveries with minimal human oversight. Gaurav Srivastava, the company's co-founder and chief product and technology officer, told FreightWaves two forces made the launch possible: relentless consumer demand for free, fast delivery, and the leap in AI capability that followed Large Language Models (LLMs) debut.

Source: https://www.freightwaves.com/news/fareye-agentic-ai-dispatcher