

BUSINESS

Health gadgets are hot sellers in pandemic

By Kari Lindberg, Gao Yuan, Sohee Kim and Vlad Savov
BLOOMBERG

Fitness-tracking gadgets are selling out, home exercise classes have never been more popular and industrial robot designers are pivoting to making sanitation bots. The COVID-19 pandemic has triggered a seismic wave of health awareness and anxiety, which is energizing a new category of virus-fighting tech.

The fear of infection has accelerated the adoption of apps and wearables as a means to feel better protected. “Having accurate and immediate feedback about our body temperature, blood pressure and other health signals helps to restore people’s sense of control,” said Andy Yap, a social psychologist at the INSEAD business school.

Users, insurers and health-care providers are all seeing the benefit of health gadgets. That’s galvanizing the development of new devices by startups and gadget outfits in Asia, where

the novel coronavirus first struck.

The Withings Thermo is a contactless thermometer that uses 16 sensors to take more than 4,000 measurements in 2 seconds – which it then syncs to a mobile app. It costs \$99.95, but nobody can buy one until mid-April because inventory was depleted two weeks ago, according to the company.

Thermometer fever

Until the start of this year, CrucialTec Co. used to give away its thumb-sized thermometer dongle as a gift to clients. That all changed when “orders came pouring in after the virus outbreak,” said President Jay Yim, and the South Korean company’s now ramping up production with the goal of making “more than 500,000 within the first half of this year.”

Local governments in China, retailers in Japan and wholesalers in the U.S. are all putting in orders for the \$65 Temon thermometer, and Yim expects Chinese smartphone makers to come out with prototype devices

with the technology built in this fall. Sister company CrucialTrak, which sells the module, has seen orders for its touchless biometric ID solutions – facial, vein and iris scanning – rise fivefold after the initial outbreak.

Robot cleaning

Youibot Robotics Technologies Co. took 18 days to design and build a human-height robot that can sanitize rooms using two ultraviolet lights as well as measure the body temperature of passers-by. The Shenzhen startup is looking to sell more than 200 of these robots in the first half of this year, said Cody Zhang, founder and CEO.

“A robot that fights virus pandemics is something new, but we are prepared because it was our goal to bring robotic equipment to emerging sectors,” said Zhang, who was born in 1992.

Bhruugu Pange, managing director at global consultants AArete, expects the surge in usage will lead to a domino effect producing lasting change.

Corona beer to halt production

NEW YORK TIMES

Corona beer has become a temporary victim of the coronavirus.

Grupo Modelo, the brewer behind Corona, Modelo and other beers, said in a statement on Thursday that it is suspending its beer production after the Mexican government ordered nonessential businesses to close in an attempt to stop the spread of the coronavirus.

The brewer, which is part

of Anheuser-Busch InBev, said that should the federal government decide later that its product was essential, “at Grupo Modelo we are ready to execute a plan with more than 75 percent of our staff working from home and at the same time guaranteeing the supply of beer.”

Grupo Modelo’s Corona beer drew attention about a month ago after consumers mistakenly associated it with the fast-spreading virus,

which by that point had already begun its global march.

In one survey, 38 percent of surveyed American beer drinkers said they would not buy Corona beer “under any circumstances,” CBS News reported March 1.

However, Constellation Brands, which handles Grupo Modelo’s beer in the United States, said that the virus had not affected sales, according to CNN.



Brett Coomer / Staff photographer

With tens of thousands of people working from home, downtown Houston has become a ghost town, but many people and businesses still need help to survive.

TOMLINSON

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needs delivered.

If the police arrest you for a violent felony, if you have enough money to pay bail, you can walk away without spending weeks in the viral Petri dish that is a county jail. Even after Gov. Greg Abbott banned the release of thousands of suspects who don’t have any money.

We all know the rich are privileged. The top 20 percent of U.S. families take home 55.1 percent of the nation’s annual income , according to the Congressional Budget Office. But those differences come into sharper contrast at a time like this.

If you live in a two-bedroom shotgun shack with six other people, three of whom serve the public for their wages, you are not going to avoid COVID-19. It’s merely a race to stay ahead of it for as long as possible.

If you do not have health insurance, more than likely, you’re going to wait as long as possible before visiting the emergency room to avoid hospital bills.

When staying home means losing your job, the biggest question is where you will get your next meal. About 10 million Americans have lost their jobs in two weeks.

If you get arrested trying

to survive, you are unlikely to have money for bail and may stay in jail. The sheriff will provide a bunk and a bologna sandwich, but that will not stop the virus from reaching your communal cell.

The point is not to incite class warfare, but to recognize that some have it easier than others.

During a pandemic, our first instinct is to worry about ourselves and our loved ones, that’s biological. But by now, we know how to stay healthy and understand the importance of commerce. We have time to think about the less fortunate.

Recently, I wrote about how grocery stores are providing less surplus food to food banks due to hoarding. If you bought a little extra, leaving others without, then allow me to suggest that every dollar you give a food bank will enable them to provide 10 pounds of food to the needy.

Restaurants are closed, but many places are offering take-out. My family buys several meals a week from our favorite restaurants, not because we cannot cook, but because we want to keep those businesses afloat.

My favorite men’s shop is shuttered, but the manager offered to deliver clothing to his regular customers. I took him up on the offer, found some exceptional items, and gave

him money to help pay the rent on his empty store.

When two dancers living across the street offered a clothed, public performance on Instagram to raise money for rent and utilities, my wife and I stuffed some cash in their virtual g-strings.

Lastly, as regular readers know, I routinely encourage our politicians to respond to this crisis with mercy, not with political pandering and empty machismo.

My family can do these things because we are among the top 20 percent of earners who have a median annual income of \$214,000. We work from home, secure in our jobs.

We choose to do these things because we love our community, and we understand cash flow is critical to all businesses, not to mention keeping people housed and fed. We can afford a private economic stimulus program.

If we want to avoid another Great Depression, we must keep the economy going. Under a stay-at-home order, that means generosity toward our neighbors, and the businesses we rely on.

Tomlinson writes commentary about business, economics and policy. twitter.com/cltomlinson chris.tomlinson@chron.com



Richard Drew / Associated Press

The fear of infection has accelerated the adoption of apps and wearables, such as this Fitbit Charge 3, as a means for users to feel better protected.



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<h3>Notice To Creditors Ad \$74.00*</h3> <p>Call the Legals Team 713-224-6868 Ext. 6435 or 4204 *\$74.00 includes first 36 lines and 1 Affidavit of Publication *\$1.92 per line over 36 lines</p>				
<h4>ADVERTISEMENT FOR SUBCONTRACTOR PROPOSALS</h4> <p>Lone Star College - Health Professions Center (HPC)</p> <p>Tellepsen Builders, L.P., serving as CMAR for Lone Star College, in accordance with Texas Government Code 2269, requests Guaranteed Maximum Price proposals from the following trades for the Kingwood Campus - Health Professions Center: Ornamental Metal Railings, Wayfinding Signage & Graphics, Dental Suite Equipment, Building Automation Controls, Data & Telecommunications Backbone Cabling, Electronic Safety & Security and Pavement Markings. Note: Proposals for all other scopes of work were solicited previously and awarded subsequently.</p> <p>It is the policy of Lone Star College and Tellepsen Builders, L.P., to actively seek the involvement of Historically Underutilized Businesses (HUB) in its construction projects. Lone Star College and Tellepsen Builders, L.P., recognize probable subcontracting opportunities for HUB in the proposal package. HUB certification forms, as required by the package documents, shall accompany each proposal that is submitted. Proposals submitted without all required information, and in the order and manner specified, may result in the proposal being considered non-responsive.</p> <p>Proposals are due to Tellepsen Builders, L.P. at 2:00 P.M. local time on Thursday 16, April 2020. Complete bid forms and proposals are to be uploaded to the Smart Bid Net System. To receive your invitation to Smart Bid, please contact Paul Bain by email at pbain@tellepsen.com or phone at 281-272-4922. If you are unable to upload your proposal, please contact Paul Bain to discuss alternative delivery methods. Late Proposals will not be accepted.</p> <p>All proposals shall remain valid for 90 days. The owner, CM at Risk and Architect reserve the right to reject any and all bids, to waive any informalities and irregularities in the proposal process and to make awards in the best interest of Lone Star College.</p> <p>Project Documents are available at the following locations for respondents to review for preparation of their Proposals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tellepsen's Houston Office -777 Benmar, Suite 400, Houston, TX 77060 SmartBidNet- By Invitation <p>Contact Paul Bain at (281-272-4922) or pbain@tellepsen.com for information.</p>				
<h4>ADVERTISEMENT FOR DESIGN-ASSIST SERVICES PROPOSALS</h4> <p>San Jacinto Community College District (SJCCD) Central Campus Classroom Building</p> <p>Tellepsen Builders, L.P., serving as CMAR for the San Jacinto College District, requests Guaranteed Maximum Price proposals from Glass & Glazing and Drywall sub-contractors ONLY for the SJC Central Campus Classroom Building.</p> <p>Proposals are due to Tellepsen Builders, L.P. at or before 2:00 P.M. local time on Thursday 23, April 2020. Complete bid forms and proposals are to be uploaded to the Smart Bid Net System. To receive your invitation to Smart Bid, please contact Paul Bain by email at pbain@tellepsen.com or phone at (281)272-4922. If you are unable to upload your proposal, please contact Paul Bain to discuss alternative delivery methods.</p> <p>All proposals shall remain valid for 90 days. The owner, CM at Risk, and Architect reserve the right to reject any and all bids, to waive any informalities and irregularities in the proposal process and to make awards in the best interest of the San Jacinto Community College District.</p> <p>Project Documents and Specifications are available at the following locations for respondents to review for preparation of their Proposals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tellepsen's Houston Office -777 Benmar, Suite 400, Houston, TX 77060 SmartBidNet- By Invitation Contact Paul Bain at (281-272-4922) or pbain@tellepsen.com for information. 				

BIDS & PROPOSALS	BIDS & PROPOSALS
<h4>LEGAL NOTICE</h4> <p>BakerRipley, a non-profit human services organization, announces a Request for Proposal (RFP) #20-07 for Vendor Web Portal Solution. The RFP will be posted on our website at http://www.bakerripley.org/about/vendors on April 14, 2020. Interested Vendors can submit a proposal for Vendor Web Portal Solution to abrown@bakerripley.org. The deadline for submitting a proposal is Tuesday, June 2, 2020 by 2:00 PM (CT). BAKERRIPLEY ENCOURAGES SMALL AND HISTORICALLY UNDERUTILIZED BUSINESSES TO APPLY</p>	
<h4>Sealed Bid Solicitation #PR11-20</h4> <p>Houston-Galveston Area Council Cooperative Purchasing Program Parks and Recreation Equipment Pre-Bid Conference: 04/23/20 @ 9 am Response Deadline: 06/17/20 @ 1pm Public Opening: 06/17/20 @ 2pm 3555 Timmons Lane, Houston, TX. Per ADA, reasonable accommodation provided with 24 hour prior notice. 713-499-6693 or www.hgacbuy.org for info.</p>	

LEGAL NOTICES	LEGAL NOTICES
<p>Houston Eye Associates wishes to congratulate Malcolm Mazow, M.D. on his retirement beginning May 1, 2020. We thank him for his dedication to his patients for over 50 years and wish him the best! Patient medical records will be maintained by Houston Eye Associates 7155 Old Katy Road, Suite N100, Houston, Texas 77024. Records may be requested at 713-668-6828.</p>	
<p>Dr. Victor Chang, Dr. Belu Allam, and Dr. Ruchi Shah are departing from Houston Eye Associates. Patient medical records will be maintained by Houston Eye Associates 7155 Old Katy Road, Suite N100, Houston, Texas 77024. Records may be requested at 713-668-6828.</p>	



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LEGAL NOTICES	LEGAL NOTICES	LEGAL NOTICES
<h4>REQUEST FOR COMPETITIVE SEALED PROPOSALS</h4> <p>2020 Matzke Road: Site Clearing & Grubbing Package CYPRESS-FAIRBANKS INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT Cypress-Fairbanks ISD Proposal No. 20-03-5470R-RFP</p> <p>The Cypress-Fairbanks Independent School District will accept Base Competitive Sealed Proposals until 2:00 P.M. on Tuesday, April 21, 2020 at the Cypress-Fairbanks Independent School District Windfern Administrative Annex, 12510 Windfern Road, Houston, Texas 77064 for the 2020 Matzke Road: Site Clearing & Grubbing Package project. A Pre-Proposal Conference will be held on Monday, April 13, 2020 at 10:00 A.M. at the above location. Proposal Evaluation Criteria are published in the "Instructions to Offerors" section of the proposal documents. Plans and specifications will be released after Monday, April 6, 2020, and are available to general contractors from the following address upon deposit of \$150.00 per set and submittal of a fully executed Contractor's Qualification Statement, AIA Document A305 tp; PBK Architects, Inc., 11 Greenway Plaza, 22nd Floor, Houston, Texas 77046, 713-965-0608. The Owner reserves the right to waive any informalities and to reject any or all proposals.</p>		

SEALED QUALIFICATIONS WILL BE RECEIVED BY PROCUREMENT SERVICES, PORT OF HOUSTON AUTHORITY EXECUTIVE OFFICE BUILDING, ATTN: BID/PROPOSAL RECEIPT DEPARTMENT, 111 EAST LOOP NORTH, HOUSTON, TEXAS 77029 UNTIL 11:00 A.M., ON May 19, 2020 FOR THE FOLLOWING:

PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES TO DESIGN WHARF 7 AND OPTIONAL WHARF 1 AT BAYPORT CONTAINER TERMINAL(RFQ-1485).

NOTE: THERE IS NO PRELIMINARY MEETING SCHEDULED FOR THIS PROJECT

FIRMS INTERESTED IN SUBMITTING QUALIFICATIONS FOR THIS PROCUREMENT MAY OBTAIN A COPY OF THE RFQ FROM THE PORT OF HOUSTON AUTHORITY'S WEBSITE, <http://busspeed.pohs.com/bso>, WHERE VENDOR REGISTRATION AND "PROCUREMENT PACKAGE" DOWNLOAD INSTRUCTIONS ARE AVAILABLE.

LEGAL NOTICE
BakerRipley, a non-profit human services organization, announces a Request for Proposal (RFP) #20-06 for **Locksmith Services**. The RFP will be posted on our website at <http://www.bakerripley.org/about/vendors> on April 7, 2020. Interested Vendors can submit a proposal for Locksmith Services to abrown@bakerripley.org. The deadline for submitting a proposal is **Thursday, May 7, 2020 by 10:00 AM (CT)**. BAKERRIPLEY ENCOURAGES SMALL AND HISTORICALLY UNDERUTILIZED BUSINESSES TO APPLY

NOTICE TO BIDDERS
The Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County, Texas (METRO) is planning to issue the procurement documents listed in this advertisement. RFP 40200000127: Program Management Information System for Planning Engineering & Construction. Solicitation will be available on or about April 6, 2020. Prospective bidders/proposers can view and download these solicitations by visiting METRO's website at <https://www.ridemetroapp.org/procurement/>. If you are unable to download the documents or are having difficulty, please contact METRO Plan and Bid Room at (713) 739-4881.

LEGAL NOTICES	LEGAL NOTICES	LEGAL NOTICES
<h4>Metropolitan Transit Authority NOTICE OF PUBLIC COMMENT</h4> <p>At its January 23, 20 meeting, the Board of Directors of the Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County, Texas (METRO) approved the FY2019 Urbanized Area Formula, the FY2019 State of Good Repair and the FY2019 Bus and Bus Facilities Programs of Projects. These Programs of Projects will be funded with grant support from the United States Department of Transportation Section 5307, Section 5337 and Section 5339 of the Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act (FAST Act). A complete listing of the projects can be found at:</p> <p>http://www.ridemetro.org/Pages/NewsPublicHearing.aspx.</p> <p>Members of the public may submit comments in writing to METRO Grant Programs office on the 5th floor, 1900 Main, Houston, TX 77002; or, requests for a public hearing will be accepted until 5:00 p.m., Friday, April 24, 2020. Further information may be obtained by contacting Albert Lyne, METRO Director of Grant Programs, at 713-739-4697 or al21@ridemetro.org. The approved FY2019 Program of Projects outlined above will become the final Program of Projects unless amended by the Board of Directors.</p>		