

- **[Spotify, in Major Podcast Push, Buys Gimlet Media and Audio Tool Start-Up](#)**

The music-streaming giant Spotify, moving aggressively to expand beyond its core service, said Wednesday it had agreed to buy two companies that will bolster its podcast roster and help to reduce its reliance on major record labels. The acquisitions include Gimlet Media, the studio behind the popular podcasts “Crimetown,” “Reply All” and “StartUp,” and Anchor, which makes tools for recording and distributing podcasts.

Source: The New York Times Feb 6 2019

- **[E.U. Blocks Siemens-Alstom Plan to Create European Train Giant](#)**

European antitrust authorities on Wednesday blocked a plan by Alstom of France and Siemens of Germany to combine their train-making units, killing a deal the companies said they needed to combat increasingly aggressive competition from China. The decision by the European Commission to prohibit Siemens from acquiring the Alstom business, which was expected, stokes a debate about whether Europe is vulnerable to Chinese competitors that often have close ties to the government and have been acquiring high-profile assets, including last year a big stake in the German carmaker Daimler.

Source: The New York Times Feb 6 2019

- **[Are Greasy Snacks Smearing Your Phone? Japan Has Found a Solution](#)**

OSAKA, Japan - Cleanliness-obsessed consumers are fed up with soiled fingers gumming up smartphones, computer mice and other electronica. Tokyo snack-maker Koike-ya Inc., has already snatched the name. The company’s One Hand brand features a line of splintered potato chips and other snacks that can be consumed like a bottled drink. It’s marketed with a jumbo-size premise—“a new snack style humankind has been waiting for.”

Source: International Business Times Feb 3 2019

- **[Meet Adrian and Sonia Cheng, Power Siblings Behind Some of the World’s Most Luxurious Hotels](#)**

Hong Kong locals often argue about which view of the city’s vertigo-inducing skyscrapers, verdant mountain slopes and ship-filled harbor is the most scenic. But if Sonia Cheng has her way, all will agree it’s the perfectly framed, picture-postcard vista from the main entrance of her recently completed Rosewood hotel, opening this month. Occupying 43 floors of a 65-story skyscraper, the Rosewood Hong Kong is just one of the newest projects from Cheng, 38, a Harvard grad and investment banker-turned-hotelier.

Source: CNBC.com Feb 4 2019

For more information contact or visit:

Dr. Suman Niranjana

Director of G-LIBER Center

niranjans@savannahstate.edu

Phone: 912.358.3424

<https://www.savannahstate.edu/coba/GLIBER>

Contributor: DeLanda N. Robbins