

Airbus A330neo stages delayed maiden flight

Toulouse

Airbus staged the delayed maiden flight of its A330neo jetliner, an upgraded version of A330 series designed to buttress European sales against the latest model of the Boeing 787 Dreamliner. The wide-bodied, long-distance jet took off from the planemaker's Toulouse headquarters under overcast skies, watched by executives from Airbus and Rolls-Royce, which supplies engines.



Cloud computing sees rapid growth at SAP

Berlin

SAP SE continues to see strong growth in its cloud computing business, official figures released by the software producer showed. Revenue in the cloud computing division of SAP grew by 22 per cent to 937 million euros (1.1 billion U.S. dollars) in the third quarter of 2017. By contrast, the firm's traditional business with the sale of software licenses only grew marginally.



"I set out a few weeks ago in Florence a very bold and ambitious agenda and vision for our future partnership between the EU and the UK at the heart of that remains co-operation on the key issues and dealing with the shared challenges that we face,"

Theresa May

British Prime Minister



Madrid set to override Catalonia's autonomy

Spain is moving to impose direct rule over Catalonia to thwart its push for independence, in a confrontation viewed with mounting alarm in European capitals and financial markets



► **Mariano Rajoy:** Spain's prime minister threatening to trigger **Article 155** of constitution to suspend autonomy, impose direct rule and call new regional elections

► **Carles Puigdemont:** Catalan president signed declaration of independence on Oct 10, but halted implementation to allow negotiations to take place

MEASURES ALREADY IMPLEMENTED

Madrid has taken control of Catalan public finances and deployed thousands of extra security forces.

Hundreds of companies – including region's two largest banks, **Sabadell** and **CaixaBank** – have moved headquarters out of Catalonia.

Spain passed decree on Oct 6 to make moving official base easier



CaixaBank

DETENTIONS

Spain's High Court has ordered leaders of two Catalan separatist organisations to be detained without bail on suspicion of sedition

Jordi Sànchez (1), head of Catalan National Assembly (ANC), and **Jordi Cuixart (2)**, head of Omnium Cultural, played leading role in disputed independence referendum of Oct 1



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ASSEMBLEA NACIONAL CATALANA



OMNIUM

High Court has also banned Catalan police chief, **Josep Lluís Traperó**, from leaving Spain and seized his passport pending investigation for sedition



Traperó is accused of failing to order Catalan police – **Mossos d'Esquadra** – to help Spain's Guardia Civil force tackle thousands of pro-independence protesters in Barcelona

Sources: Stratfor, Reuters

Pictures: Associated Press, Getty Images

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Samsung adopts Google ARCore

Samsung and Google announced a partnership to bring Google's new ARCore framework to Samsung's line of Galaxy smartphones, uniting the two giants' augmented reality efforts as the market is starting to really crowd.

The news is a big boon for Google's ARCore, which Google announced earlier this year as a competitor to Apple's ARKit. It is effectively a software platform for building

out AR apps that make use of both advances in cloud software and on-device hardware to place digital objects into the real world.

Now, developers will be able to design ARCore apps that work on both Google Pixel devices and Samsung Galaxy devices, including the Galaxy S8 and Note 8.

Samsung was an initial launch partner for ARCore with the S8, but this is a more formal adoption of Google's

framework for any and all future devices, the company said today at the Samsung Developer Conference in San Francisco.

Samsung, which sells more phones than any other device manufacturer on the planet, has been a longtime ally of Google's in pushing the ubiquity of Android, and this partnership should extend the strength of Android into the AR market. (theverge)

OPEC seeking consensus on oil supply cut extension

Representative image

London

Oil producers are working to build consensus on extending their deal to reduce supplies, OPEC's secretary general said yesterday, with the potential for continuation throughout 2018 forming a basis for talks.

The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries, plus Russia and nine other producers, are cutting oil output by about 1.8 million barrels per day (bpd) until March 2018 in an attempt to eradicate a supply glut that has weighed on prices.

The deal has supported prices, which are trading within sight of a two-year high, but an overhang of stored oil has yet to be fully eradicated and producers are considering extending the

deal at their next meeting on Nov. 30.

OPEC Secretary General Mohammad Barkindo, in a briefing with reporters yesterday, said that Russian President Vladimir Putin's suggestion this month that the deal could be extended to the end of 2018 were being taken "seriously".

Saudi Energy Minister Khalid al-Falih, the OPEC president, and Russian Energy Minister Alexander Novak "are taking cue from the open statement of President Putin and engaging the rest of the participating countries ... to build consensus before Nov. 30", Barkindo said.

Reuters reported on Wednesday, citing OPEC sources, that producers are leaning towards extending the deal for a further nine

months, though the decision could be postponed until early next year depending on the market.

Barkindo said it wasn't yet clear if the decision would be made on Nov.30 and, asked whether another meeting could be held in early 2018, said that Falih and Novak would consult and decide.

"It's difficult to say at the moment what will be decided in November," Barkindo said.

"It will depend on a number of factors, chief among which is how far are we from achieving our objective of a convergence of supply and demand."

Falih and Novak are also talking to producers not currently participating in the supply cut, Barkindo added. (Reuters)