

Uber spins off robot delivery unit of Postmates

March 2 2021



A Postmates robot brings food to customers in Los Angeles—the robotics division of Postmates, acquired by Uber last year, will be spun out as an independent company

Uber is spinning off the sidewalk robotics division of the Postmates delivery service acquired last year, creating a new company called Serve Robotics.

A statement Tuesday from Serve said it had an unspecified amount of seed funding from venture capital firm Neo with participation by Uber and other investors.

Serve Robotics "will continue spearheading the development of a new form of mobility by creating [autonomous robots](#) to deliver goods in [urban environments](#)," a statement from the new company said.

"Its fleet has already proven its viability by serving thousands of households in Los Angeles and has been especially useful during the pandemic by providing customers with contactless delivery."

The move comes with Uber narrowing its focus on ride-hailing and meal delivery, while spinning off or selling non-core operations such as its e-bike division.

Serve meanwhile enters a crowded market for robotic delivery which has gained traction in recent years.

"While self-driving cars remove the driver, robotic delivery eliminates the car itself and makes deliveries sustainable and accessible to all," said Ali Kashani, co-founder and chief executive of Serve Robotics.

"Over the next two decades, new mobility robots will enter every aspect of our lives—first moving food, then everything else."

According to Serve, nearly half of all restaurant deliveries in the US are within a 40-minute walk, offering opportunities for robotic [delivery](#).

Uber last year announced plans to buy Postmates for \$2.65 billion in stock, in a move shaking up the sector which has seen surging growth during the coronavirus pandemic.

© 2021 AFP

Citation: Uber spins off robot delivery unit of Postmates (2021, March 2) retrieved 28 April 2024 from <https://techxplore.com/news/2021-03-uber-robot-delivery-postmates.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.