Panasonic adding Google Assistant and Amazon Alexa to future in-car infotainment

Today at CES, Panasonic announced it has worked with Google on a new generation of automotive infotainment systems, and at the same time is working with Amazon to give in-car Alexa capabilities.

The company's automotive division says the latest version of Skip Generation In-Vehicle Infotainment was upgraded to Android 8.1 Oreo, which now gives the system Google Assistant capability. Panasonic says the system also runs natively through the infotainment system, enabling a lockout feature as a nod to curbing distracted driving. Android Automotive Applications will also be able to perform some vehicle functions that control heating and ventilation as well as media and navigation.

Panasonic also said Monday it will put Alexa capability in its next-generation infotainment systems. The company says the collaboration would allow functions such as heating and ventilation systems as well as audio and navigation functions to be controlled through Alexa skills. It is also working with Amazon to provide Alexa Onboard with the infotainment system to let some skills work when the car is not connected to the internet through public wifi or an in-car hotspot.

https://www.theverge.com/2018/1/8/16864920/panasonic-automotive-google-assistant-amazon-alexa-ces-2018