Driverless Vehicle Technology Takes Centre Stage

To coincide with its red-carpet presence at this week's CeBIT Australia conference in Sydney, the Australia and New Zealand Driverless Vehicle Initiative (ADVI) has released two key thought-leadership papers on parking and transport planning opportunities from driverless vehicle technology.

According to Rita Excell, Executive Director, ADVI, the introduction of driverless vehicles is approaching rapidly and would ultimately underpin the creation of entirely new city structure and architecture, making it critical to recognise this disruptive technology as a central element in future transport planning

"Because most vehicles typically sit idle for 96 per cent of the time it creates a lot of wasted parking spaces in the city, streets and homes," she said. "We can expect multi-storey car parks being transformed into community spaces, on-street parking becoming a walk or cycle lane, and home garages being used as green space or extra living area instead.

https://logisticsmagazine.com.au/driverless-vehicle-technology-takes-centre-stage/

2017-05-25

Autonomous Vehicle Trials To Ramp Up As National Guidelines Published

A set of national guidelines to support trials of automated vehicles on Australian roads has been published, in a first regulatory step towards the commercial deployment of "driverless" cars, and an era of new mobility.

The guidelines – a joint publication of the National Transport Commission (NTC) and Austroads – support state and territory road agencies in providing exemptions or permits for trials, and give greater certainty to industry on conditions for trials.

Released on Wednesday 24 May, they are the first stage of a reform roadmap, agreed to by ministers in November 2016, which aims to develop an end-to-end regulatory system for eventual commercial deployment of automated vehicles.

So far in Australia, the South Australian government has been the most pro-active state in supporting autonomous vehicle R&D, last year becoming the first state to legalise controlled testing of driverless cars on public roads.

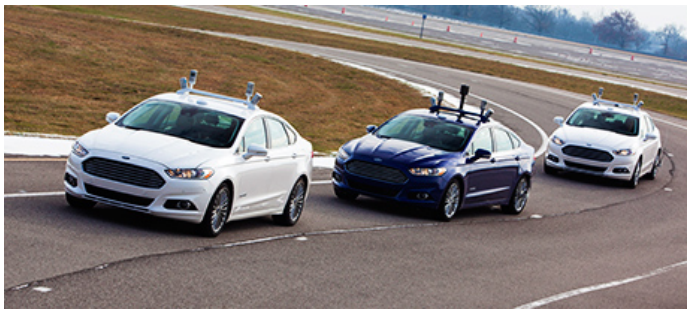
In October 2016, it launched a $10 million grant funding round aimed at accelerating the development and rollout of autonomous and connected vehicles.

And in January this year, UK-based autonomous transport developer RDM Group revealed plans to establish its Asia-Pacific headquarters in Adelaide, citing "massive demand" for creating autonomous mobility solutions in Australia.

But Australia remains behind the global pace on the technology, with some 14 trials underway in California alone in the US by mid-way through last year.

http://reneweconomy.com.au/autonomous-vehicle-trials-to-ramp-up-as-national-guidelines-published-89451/

2017-05-24



Raytheon Launches WAAS Payload To Improve GPS Accuracy For Air Travel

Raytheon Company has launched its GEO 6 satellite payload into orbit for its 12-year mission. It is the latest payload to support the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) Wide Area Augmentation System (WAAS), which enhances the reliability and accuracy of GPS signals for directing air travel.

The Raytheon-developed payload is a key element of WAAS, which offers commercial, business and general aviation pilots more direct flight paths, greater runway capability and precision approaches to airports and remote landing sites without dependence on local ground-based landing systems.

"This latest payload launch is the next step in our journey with the FAA to bolster navigation safety and efficiency for commercial and general aviation," said Bob Delorge, vice president of transportation and support services for Raytheon Intelligence, Information and Services.

In June 2016, Raytheon launched WAAS GEO 5, which was recently accepted by the FAA for integration into the operational WAAS system. Both WAAS GEO 5 and GEO 6 were launched to replace aging satellites and enhance GPS precision for the FAA. WAAS

increases GPS accuracy from 10 metres to approximately two metres and supports nearly all of the national airspace.

The WAAS GEO 6 payload is hosted on a geostationary satellite, SES-15, owned and operated by SES. The satellite was successfully launched May 17 from Arianespace's Guiana Space Center in French Guiana aboard a Soyuz launch vehicle.

Read more in *GPS World* article. http://gpsworld.com/raytheon-launches-waas-payload-to-improve-gps-accuracy-for-air-travel/

2017-05-22

Japan Considers Expansion of QZSS System as GPS Backup

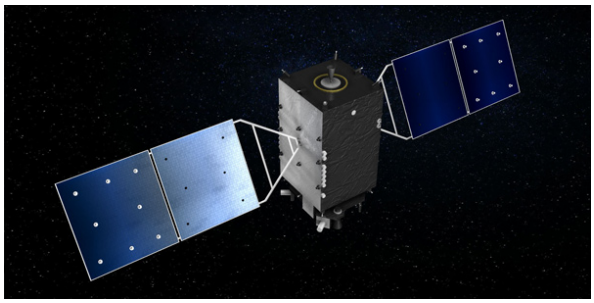
Japan's domestic navigation system, the Quasi-Zenith Satellite System (QZSS), was designed as GPS augmentation system allowing for centimetre level accuracy when supplementing existing GPS data.

The network was designed to have four satellites in orbit, one is already aloft and three more are scheduled for launch this year ahead of the system going live in 2018.

But now Japan is considering adding three more satellites to permit the QZSS system to operate as an independent regional GPS service for Japan and provide a back-up reducing their reliance on GPS.

http://www.pocketgpsworld.com/Japan-considers-expansion-of-QZSS-system-as-GPS-backup-5519.php

2017-05-19



Driverless Cars In Sydney Closer Than You Think

WITHIN a few years western Sydney will be transformed as residents step out of homes and offices and into satellite controlled driverless cars — many of them called up through an app on smart phones.

Far-fetched? Not according to experts at this year's Western Sydney Leadership Dialogue Out There Summit.

Tim Trumper, NRMA board member and adviser at data miners Quantium, told the summit driverless cars were on their way.

"It is real and it is now," Mr Trumper said. "There is nothing futuristic about this."

To underline the coming tsunami of change, next month at Olympic Park a range of ready-to-go driverless cars will be presented to industry and government leaders.

The message from the heart of an increasingly traffic congested western Sydney will be clear — get on board now.

http://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/newslocal/parramatta/driverless-cars-in-sydney-closer-than-you-think/news-story/c53f69d0d067110a551feed47fff7e57?csp=49121f9af28385fc78222dfffd3d310f
2017-05-01

Could Self-Driving Cars Be A Death Knell For Canberra's Stage Two Light Rail?

Fleets of self-driving cars hitting the road in the next four years could upset the rollout of the second stage of Canberra's light rail network, one of the speakers at an upcoming transport forum has warned.

This changing use of passenger vehicles and its effect on emissions will be explored in a forum hosted by Kent Fitch and Warwick Cathro on on 4 May.

Mr Fitch, who has previously advocated for the development of a fleet of autonomous vehicles for Canberra, said major car manufacturers like Ford and BMW planned to have their own fleets of autonomous vehicles running by 2021.
While the cars won't be available for ordinary punters to buy for some years after that and will most likely be operated by manufacturers as a fleet, Mr Fitch said their capability for ride-sharing could make it more convenient and as economical to hail one as jumping on a tram.

"The autonomous car is more about taking someone door-to-door 24 hours a day on demand," Mr Fitch said.

"Whereas a light rail or tram is really another mass transit mechanism that will operate on a fixed timetable and certainly you'll have to walk to and from the stops and have all of the problems mass transport currently does about attracting people out of their cars, it's just not as convenient."

http://www.watoday.com.au/act-news/could-selfdriving-cars-be-a-death-knell-for-canberras-stage-two-light-rail-20170427-gvubr3.html

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