

Waymo cars hit the road without drivers

SAN FRANCISCO, US: Waymo on Tuesday said that its [self-driving cars](#) are hitting the road without anyone behind the wheel as the Alphabet subsidiary steers toward launching an automated ride service.



The subsidiary of Google parent Alphabet has been testing autonomous cars for years, but with a driver behind the wheel to take over if needed.

Waymo chief executive John Krafcik used the Web Summit in Lisbon to announce a portion of its fleet in the Phoenix area will operate in fully autonomous mode with the cars handling all the driving.

"After more than eight years of development, we're taking the next step toward unlocking the potential of fully self-driving technology," the Waymo team said in a blog post.



California to allow autonomous cars without driver

13 Oct 2017



"Starting now, Waymo's fully self-driving vehicles are test-driving on public roads without anyone in the driver's seat."

The testing will initially be limited to part of Phoenix, Arizona.

Since Waymo began as a project in Google's 'moonshot' lab in 2009, its vehicles have logged more than 3.5 million miles of autonomous driving on US roads, according to the company.

Waymo employees will be the first to test the fully automated rides.

Plans for driverless on-demand ride service

The company plans to eventually launch a driverless on-demand ride service, potentially eliminating the need for car ownership in the long term.

"Over the next few months, we'll be inviting members of the public to take trips in our fully self-driving vehicles," Waymo said.

"A fully self-driving fleet can offer new and improved forms of sharing: it'll be safer, more accessible, more flexible, and you can use your time and space in the vehicle doing what you want."



Ford, Lyft join forces to take self-driving cars mainstream

6 Oct 2017



The service will initially expand to members of a Waymo early-rider program, who will be able to get rides to or from school, work, shops, pubs or any other local spots they might typically go in their own vehicles.

[Waymo](#) appears to have a head-start in what is expected to be a competitive race to a ride-sharing future, with established automakers such as Ford and BMW and ride-sharing groups Uber and Lyft in the mix.

French firm Naveya separately Tuesday unveiled an electric-powered, self-driving Autonom Cab designed to provide local rides for people in urban centers.

The Autonom Cab has no steering wheel or foot pedals, and is capable of carrying as many as six passengers, according to the company.

"Imagine what cities would be like if there were nothing but Autonom running on the road," Naveya chief executive Christophe Sapet said in a release.

"Fewer accidents and less pollution"

"No more traffic jams or parking problems, fewer accidents and less pollution."

Naveya boasted partnerships with transport specialty firms, notable Keolis in Europe and the US and RAC in Australia, that it said will enable it to roll out Autonom fleets in cities.

A self-driving electric shuttle built by Naveya was tested early this year in Las Vegas in a US first and will start a regular route there on Wednesday, the company told AFP.

Google's Waymo to expand self-driving partnerships

10 Jan 2017





Arma shuttles operated in a collaboration with Keolis will provide rides along a route in downtown Las Vegas, away from the casino-lined main strip.

Operators will be on board the shuttles to act more as hosts than backup drivers, introducing people to the technology, while Arma shuttles tend to navigating the route, according to a company spokesperson.

The Arma program was slated to last one year.

Source: AFP

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