



Driverless Cars

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Q. What is the VENTURER project about and how long will it last?

VENTURER brings together a rich partnership of public, private and academic experts in order to establish the South West, UK as a world class test site facility for Connected and Autonomous Vehicles (CAV). VENTURER will focus on the people as well as the technology side to the trial and understand the blockers and drivers to wide scale adoption of CAV capability. The project itself will last 3 years and take place in Bristol/South Gloucestershire, with an independent test site established as part of a sustainable and ongoing facility.

Q. Who is involved in VENTURER?

The VENTURER consortium is made up of organisations from various sectors:

- **Atkins:** is the lead partner on the project - providing project co-ordination, delivery and intelligent mobility expertise;
- **AXA UK:** providing insurance and legal expertise;
- **Bristol City Council and South Gloucestershire Council:** providing access to public roads and local road network intelligence;
- **First Bus:** as part of the work being done around driver assistance technologies, First will provide a bus as a means of collecting data;
- **Fusion Processing:** providing advanced sensor systems;
- **Williams Advanced Engineering:** providing driving simulator expertise;
- **Centre for Transport and Society, University of the West of England:** conducting research on public expectations, acceptance and response;
- **University of Bristol:** providing car to infrastructure communications;
- **Bristol Robotics Lab, University of the West of England & University of Bristol:** hosting the trial centre and providing systems integration and decision-making algorithms;
- **BAE:** provides the wildcat.

Q. How does this project differ from other driverless cars projects?

The VENTURER project is focused very much with the end in mind i.e. the behaviours that will drive adoption and the insurance and legislative perspectives that must be developed in order to facilitate successful deployment on the roads. In addition, the project will look to exploit UK leading wireless technology as part of the sensor fusion and in parallel develop a virtual as well as a physical test capability.

Q. Isn't Google already miles ahead?

No. Google is taking one approach to creating autonomous vehicles, but this is not the only way. Many companies in the UK are looking at utilising technologies in a more cost effective way as well as considering wider issues such as insurance implications.

Q. Will driverless cars be tested on public roads?

Yes. As part of VENTURER it is intended to have an autonomous vehicle deployed in a controlled and measurable way in a real urban environment, as part of our testing and validation work.

Q. How safe are Autonomous Vehicles?

Human error is a factor in over 90% of deaths and injuries on our roads. CAV looks to reduce this significantly. The vehicles will be required to respect all traffic laws – observing all speed limits and traffic signals. They will not tailgate other drivers or undertake risky manoeuvres. The full positive impact associated with CAV will be understood in time.

Q. What are the benefits of CAV?

Autonomous vehicle technology offers enormous opportunities to positively influence road safety, congestion, air quality, climate change and social inclusion, whilst also delivering the government's growth agenda.

Q. What are the insurance implications of driverless cars?

Data will underpin the new insurance models and charging schemes that will come as part of this evolving marketplace. It is clear that if improved safety capability leads to reduced accidents then insurance costs should come down. However, intelligent data models and market awareness must be factored in also.

Q. What's next for the VENTURER project?

The VENTURER project has begun. The partners are mobilised and we are working hard to develop detailed trial scenarios and validation capability as well as looking at the legal and insurance aspects of CAV. It is an exciting time with a lot of interest from the public. We look forward to engaging and sharing our learnings all through this project and beyond.





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