



FLORIDA AUTOMATED VEHICLES INITIATIVE FACT SHEET



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The Future of Transportation Arrives

Third Annual Florida Automated Vehicles Summit at the JAXPORT Cruise Terminal demonstrated automated vehicles for land, air and water – a first-ever event in the nation.

JACKSONVILLE –Unmanned boats skimmed the surface of the St Johns River. Autonomous cars navigated around obstacles on roadways nearby. And spectators on a dock watched an aerial drone inspect a large-scale model of a bridge, as several companies showcased vehicles that will help advance the next wave of transportation.

It was the first time that all three forms of autonomous vehicles had been demonstrated on land, in the air and on water at a single outside event in the United States, according to Brent Klavon, president of the Association for Unmanned Vehicle Systems International, Florida Peninsula Chapter.

The demonstrations at the JAXPORT Cruise Terminal were the focus of day two at the Third Annual Florida Automated Vehicles Summit that brought together approximately 350 attendees from the private and public sectors in 20 states. The summit served to stimulate dialogue, innovation and partnerships that can help create the framework and smooth the arrival of a new generation of automated and connected vehicles.

The Florida Institute of Consulting Engineers (FICE) hosted the summit with the assistance of the Florida Department of Transportation with the goal of keeping the Sunshine State on the leading edge of the new transportation technology. Those technologies are expected to significantly improve safety, mobility and efficiency on the roadways and to move goods and cargo in a similar manner.

Rich Biter, FDOT Assistant Secretary of Intermodal Systems Development, noted that the fast-changing technologies have vast implications that include making highways safer and transportation options more readily available. “Automated vehicle technologies also have the potential to stimulate job creation in Florida by attracting high-tech companies for research and development, as well as manufacturing,” Biter said. “These technologies serve a multitude of industries beyond automobiles.”

The JAXPORT event required a special approval from the Federal Aviation Administration for aerial drone demonstration. It’s a sign that many agencies will have to work together to move the vital technology into the mainstream in a safe fashion. “It’s going to save time, lives and money,” Klavon said.

The demonstrations covered a wide array of vehicle types.

An automated Humvee programmed by the Southwest Research Institute drove off-road and made sharp turns to demonstrate how driverless vehicles could resupply military troops in hostile areas. Unmanned boats, programmed and supported by Florida Atlantic University and Gulf Unmanned Systems Center, gave onlookers an idea of how the remotely controlled boats could be used to inspect bridges and piers. A pilotless drone, owned by

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Aviation Systems Engineering Company, showed the power and ease of inspecting infrastructure from the air.

Throughout the day, people also lined up to grab a ride on one of the other autonomous, semi-autonomous or connected vehicles such as the one created by Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University through a research partnership with FDOT or the vehicle built by Tesla. Each vehicle tested another aspect of the new technology, allowing vehicles to communicate with intelligent roadways as well as with other cars and trucks or to navigate highways without the assistance of a human at the wheel.

Embry-Riddle had several demonstrations including the prototype autonomous, commercial-grade lawn mower. It's not just a convenience, it also has wide safety applications for airports such as Daytona Beach International Airport, where cutting the grass drives insects up into the air and attracts flocks of birds that can create havoc with airplanes at takeoff and landing. The idea was to create a driverless vehicle, operating within a geo-fenced area, to mow the grass at night when there are fewer flights and less chance of attracting birds.

Inside the cruise terminal, many companies set up booths and displays to promote various aspects of the new technology and strategies to implement it. One of the more popular was the automated car simulator of the University of Central Florida, another research partnership with FDOT, which gives the operator the interactive experience of riding in an automated vehicle in different urban and rural environments.

For more information about Florida's Automated Vehicles Initiative, visit automatedfl.com

For FICE, visit www.fleng.org/FICE/aboutfice.cfm. For JAXPORT, visit: www.jaxport.com.

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