

Press release

Noordwijk, October 29th, 2019

Official opening of the automated shuttles project at ESA ESTEC

Today was the official opening of the automated shuttle project at ESA ESTEC. An automated minibus (shuttle) transports employees and visitors in mixed traffic around the site. Commencing today, all visitors and employees are able to use this free transport service. In the shuttle there is room for 8 passenger, and 1 steward. Furthermore, the shuttle is accessible by people in a wheelchair. This private initiative is thanks to a good collaboration between multiple parties such as ESA ESTEC, Arriva, Dutch Automated Mobility, Navya and the province Zuid-Holland.

With the arrival of the shuttle, employees and visitors of ESA ESTEC can freely travel around the site. Multiple stops have been implemented, similar to regular bus stops. All project partners cooperate closely to improve this innovative concept and work towards a fully autonomous transport service. A major challenge. The experience gathered will be used to further develop and implement last mile solutions with self-driving shuttles in The Netherlands. The shuttle will be in operation for two years. Another shuttle will be implemented on a yet to be specified location at or towards ESA ESTEC.

Safety

For safety purposes there is always a steward onboard who can take over control if needed and stop the shuttle and request for help. The shuttle scans the environment continuously through its different sensors and can drive automated with a maximum speed of circa 20 kilometers per hour. The involved parties will use the end-user's experiences and input for further development of this kind of transport solutions.

ESA

The European Space Agency (ESA) provides Europe's gateway to space.

ESA is an intergovernmental organisation, created in 1975, with the mission to shape the development of Europe's space capability and ensure that investment in space delivers benefits to the citizens of Europe and the world.

ESA has 22 Member States: Austria, Belgium, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom. Slovenia is an Associate Member. ESA has established formal cooperation with seven Member States of the EU. Canada takes part in some ESA programmes under a Cooperation Agreement.

ESA has sites in several European countries, but the European Space Research and Technology Centre (ESTEC) in Noordwijk, the Netherlands, is the largest. ESTEC is ESA's technical heart - the incubator of the European space effort - where most ESA projects are born and where they are guided through the various phases of development.

ESA develops the launchers, spacecraft and ground facilities needed to keep Europe at the forefront of global space activities.

More info, visit: www.esa.int

Province Zuid-Holland

The province of Zuid-Holland operates on behalf of the community of Zuid-Holland. Zuid-Holland is a densely populated province. More than 3.5 million people live, work and travel in an area of less than 3,000 square kilometres. Province Zuid-Holland is co-funding this project with a grant.

More info, visit: <http://www.zuid-holland.eu/>

Arriva

Arriva is a pan-European public transport provider. Last year, Arriva delivered nearly 2 billion passenger journeys across 14 European countries. Arriva is responsible for the public transport in the region Zuid-Holland Noord.

More info, visit: <https://www.arriva.co.uk/transport-leader/about-us/who-we-are>

Rebel

Rebel tries to answer questions on future mobility, sustainability, transports, urban development, health care, and the social sector. Rebel gives advice to governments, international organisations, and companies, and they invest in social projects and companies all around the world. "Rebel as a consultancy and investing party wants to make impact in the world, because whoever believes in their own advices, invests along.

More info, visit: www.rebelgroup.com

The Future Mobility Network

The Future Mobility Network focuses and is specialized on smart mobility of the future. It is an independent company that together with scientists, government and industry tries to solve mobility problems and this network already implements future mobility solutions in practice today. The Future Mobility Network works on smart mobility on the road, on the sea, and in the air. This innovative and hard-working team is involved in different self-driving shuttles projects and actively shares his knowledge and experiences.

More info, visit: www.thefuturemobility.network

Dutch Automated Mobility

Dutch Automated Mobility BV (DAM) is the consortium specially set up by The Future Mobility Network BV and Rebel Automated Shuttles BV for this automated shuttle project, closely collaborating with Arriva. The Future Mobility Network and Rebel Automated Shuttles specialize in the implementation of automated shuttles as a first- and last mile solution.

NAVYA

Navya is the manufacturer (France) of the automated vehicle. Navya is a pioneer and specialist in the autonomous vehicle market, NAVYA assists cities and private sites around the world in improving their transport offer with its autonomous, driverless and electric solutions.

More info, visit: www.navya.tech/en

Municipality Noordwijk

Municipality Noordwijk is a supporter of the project.

Questions for Rebel?

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