



Leipziger

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Innovation project ABSOLUT launched

Autonomous, electric and safe on the road in Leipzig

The ABSOLUT innovation and development project was launched today with a kick-off meeting of all project partners at the Congress Center in Leipzig. Project partners include industry, the scientific community, and the City of Leipzig. In the project, the partners will be working closely with the transport companies that have taken over the project management. The core concept of ABSOLUT is to develop highly-automated vehicles and to test them at locally-permitted speeds on a test route from the suburban railway station "Messe" to the BMW works. The aim is to integrate these vehicles into local transport company services in the future.

"With the joint support of the ABSOLUT development project by regional industries, the scientific community and the City of Leipzig, we are making Leipzig more attractive as a business location and demonstrating the practical effects of the shift in mobility in Germany," says Dr. Michael Schimansky, provisional Head of the Department of Economics, Labor and Digital Affairs.

In addition to testing and approving the new vehicles that will be constructed, a further focus of development will be on operating them in pilot projects in public areas in order to evaluate various deployment concepts. This includes a needs-based service that is available round the clock or by order, a booking and information interface developed together with users, as well as the establishment of a networked control center. This will be accompanied by a survey to evaluate people's level of acceptance when it comes to using autonomous bus services.

More climate protection, less dependence on fossil fuels and new technologies will change mobility and its players considerably. The further development of electromobility and artificial intelligence are topics that are highly relevant to the future of the German industry. As part of the Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) scheme to promote electromobility, the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy is funding this individual strategic project to the tune of around 10 million euros. It also reflects the objective of the Free State of Saxony to devise and support concrete pilot measures to develop and expand autonomous transport systems.

"As a consortium leader and mobility service provider for Leipzig and the surrounding region, we are pooling the expertise of our partners in order to explore opportunities for autonomous driving and thus strengthen our core business in the long term," says Ronald Juhrs, Managing Director of Technology and Operations at Leipziger Verkehrsbetriebe.

This gives the project members, mainly Saxon partners, including small and medium-sized enterprises, the opportunity to apply and expand on existing expertise in the field of digital communication technologies, as well as in the intelligent networking of infrastructures, vehicles, control centers and customer apps.

For more information on the project, please visit www.absolut-projekt.de. Articles on the project written by the various partners can be found as an appendix in the partner profiles.