

Press Release

## The future of trucks: No driver needed

Autonomous trucks are no longer visions of a distant future. New technologies and connectivity systems can change the entire logistics and transport industry. This is the main subject of the international VDI conference "Autonomous Trucks". In Düsseldorf IT-experts and global leaders of the automotive industry come together to exchange their knowledge and to discuss the influence of the new technologies on March 28-29, 2017.



Autonomous trucks are the future: International VDI conference "Autonomous Trucks" on March 28-29, 2017. (Source: iStock.com/Doug Berry)

(Düsseldorf, 02/22/2017)

**The conference focusses on advanced automation within the off-highway industry. Yet, there are still many problems and technical difficulties to be solved.**

One of the big keywords in the international logistics sector is 'Truck Platooning'. This means a number of trucks driving autonomously in a convoy, connected by smart technology and communicating with each other.

'Truck Platooning' has already been tested in the US and is gaining ground in Europe as well. The utilization of sensors, cameras and radar systems enables autonomous driving in

isolated areas. But it only works on separated routes which are known to the system. The challenge the creators have to face, is to develop a system that can handle unknown environments and unexpected traffic situations.

The advantages of automation lie in improved safety, less traffic congestion and lower transportation costs. However, there are still unsolved security issues. Further difficulties rise questions on social and legal problems: Who is liable for any accidents caused by autonomous vehicles? How is the public opinion? How secure is the technology in case of external

interferences? Does the computer succeed in interpreting ambiguities? And how does the job profile of truck drivers change?

Beside all this, visitors have the opportunity to get in touch with the leading experts of the industry. Furthermore, the lecturers share their practical experiences with the new technologies.

**Top issues:**

- Truck Technology & Connectivity
- Digitalized Use Cases: Autonomous Trucks transforming major industries
- Regulations & Liability
- Safety & Infrastructure
- Adaptive Behaviour in complex Traffic Development

**Top speaker:**

- Paul Godsmark, CTO, Canadian Automated Vehicles Centre of Excellence, Canada
- Dr. Martin Zeilinger, Head of Advanced Development, Daimler Trucks, Germany
- Prof. Dr. Gernot Spiegelberg, Corporate Technology, Siemens AG, Germany
- Ir. Ron Borsboom, Board of Management, Director Product Development, DAF Trucks NV, Netherlands
- Stephan Keese, Senior Partner, Automotive, Roland Berger LLC, USA

In addition, also benefit from our parallel conferences on “Connected Off-Highway machines” and “Smart Farming” free of extra charge. These events focus on how cloud-based solutions enable an efficient use of working machines and smart agriculture.

Moreover, the VDI Wissensforum is offering the workshop “IT Security for connected / autonomous Trucks” in Düsseldorf on March 30.

More details about the schedule and the corresponding registration can be found on [www.vdi-international.com/autonomoustrucks](http://www.vdi-international.com/autonomoustrucks) or may be obtained at any time [wissensforum@vdi.de](mailto:wissensforum@vdi.de) as well as from our customer service, VDI Wissensforum Kundenzentrum, Postfach 10 11 39, 40002 Düsseldorf, Phone: +49 211 6214-201, Telefax: -154.

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**About VDI Wissensforum GmbH**

The VDI Wissensforum GmbH located in Düsseldorf is one of the leading specialists for further education and advanced training for engineers, senior and executive managers and specialized personnel in the technical environment for more than 50 years. We operate and handle more than 1,500 events per year. The subjects cover all of the relevant branches of the industry. Our portfolio includes special trade fairs, congresses, expert conferences, technical fora, seminars and certified advanced training courses. Permanent market screening and analysis, an immense network of experts and VDI's outstanding know-how ensure highest quality standard of our events. VDI Wissensforum GmbH ist part of the VDI.

The Verein Deutscher Ingenieure (VDI) [engl. Association of German Engineers] is one of the largest technical-scientific associations in Europe. Throughout the years, the VDI has successfully expanded its activities nationally and internationally to foster and impart knowledge about technology-related issues. As a financially independent, politically unaffiliated and non-profit organization the VDI is recognized as the key representative of engineers both within the profession and in public.

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