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Nevada Approves License for Google's Self-Driving Car



By Mark Hachman

May 8, 2012 12:29am EST

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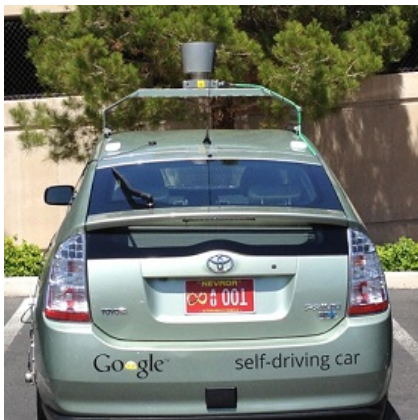
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Google has become the first company to receive a license to test its self-driving car on public roads, the Nevada DMV said Monday.

The license plate that will be used to officially designate the autonomous vehicle will have a red background, with an infinity symbol on the left-hand side.

"I felt using the infinity symbol was the best way to represent the 'car of the future,'" the Department of Motor Vehicles' director Bruce Breslow said in a statement. "The unique red plate will be easily recognized by the public and law enforcement and

will be used only for licensed autonomous test vehicles. When there comes a time that vehicle manufactures market autonomous vehicles to the public, that infinity symbol will appear on a green license plate."

In February, Nevada approved the procedure for licensing self-driving cars. Other states, including Google's home state of California, have pushed ahead to develop their own licensing programs, but no state other than Nevada has approved the process, let alone begun licensing the self-driving cars.

The Nevada DMV said that Google and DMV officials had tested the self-driving cars along freeways, state highways and neighborhoods both in Carson City and the busy Las Vegas Strip. The newly-formed Autonomous Review Committee then met to review Google's safety plans, employee training, system functions and accident reporting mechanisms.

Google has also extensively tested the self-driving car in California, most recently chauffeuring a blind man to Taco Bell in its autonomous vehicle, a Toyota Prius equipped with a laser turret manufactured by Velodyne. That turret is being marketed as a security system, Velodyne officials said.



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MTA487 3 weeks ago

I wonder how long it will take the package delivery industry like Fedex and UPS to automate their systems? Can you imagine replacing Taxi drivers, Commercial delivery drivers, and even pizza delivery drivers? I wonder how many people this will replace and put out of a job?

Like Reply



carol 3 weeks ago in reply to MTA487

Even if the car drove itself there would be the matter of product and cash exchange. While it would be plausible to automate those as well, the expense involved in creating a system that couldn't be easily thwarted would probably result in it being easier to just have a person on board the vehicle as well. I'm sure some jobs would be lost due to an increase in efficiency (i.e no more lost drivers going up and down the street searching for an address; the delivery driver can be prepping for his next stop while the vehicle drives itself as opposed to doing that when the vehicle is stopped). However the jobs lost due to increased efficiency might be balanced out by the increased efficiency resulting in growth in the business.

1 person liked this. Like Reply



Neon F 3 weeks ago in reply to carol

yeah developing ATMs would be rough

Like Reply



Gordon McAlpin 2 weeks ago in reply to MTA487

Taxis, I can see. But how's the pizza/package gonna get to your door?

1 person liked this. Like Reply



tony fixer 3 weeks ago

it would not matter if your Dui , You can be over legal limit as long as you can find the car you are good.

1 person liked this. Like Reply



Silver Fang 3 weeks ago

Knight Rider has been realized.


Justin Edgell and 1 more liked this Like Reply



Justin Edgell 3 weeks ago

Just better hope you never wreck into it haha. Cause I'm sure Google's lawyers will not play nice in court :D And if it was to ever malfunction and wreck into someone else? Well that person would be driving a brand new vehicle and probably a nice small fortune to boot.

Like Reply



Mike Hess 3 weeks ago

ok how do I get more information on driving them. I am blind and would love to test drive. Does anyone know?

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