



MAN continues to drive forward the development of driverless trucks

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- **MAN Truck & Bus is the first commercial vehicle manufacturer to receive a Level 4 motorway test approval**
- **Around 500 engineers at MAN and the TRATON GROUP are driving autonomous driving forward, and over 133 patents have already been registered**
- **MAN is supplementing the development of driverless transport between logistics hubs with the expertise of the renowned specialist for automated driving systems Plus. Development partnership is part of an overarching collaboration between the TRATON GROUP**
- **MAN has been involved in various research and development projects in the field of autonomous driving for many years**

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MAN Truck & Bus is pressing ahead with the development of autonomous trucks for use in logistics hubs and hub-to-hub traffic on motorways. In April 2024, MAN was the first commercial vehicle manufacturer to receive a Level 4 test permit based on the law on autonomous driving on German motorways and successfully sent an autonomous truck onto the German motorway. On board the test truck, which drove around ten kilometres on the A9 between the Allershausen and Fürholzen junctions, were Federal Minister of Transport Dr Volker Wissing and MAN CEO Alexander Vlaschke.

For the test drive of the first autonomous truck, Autobahn GmbH examined MAN's concept as part of the application for a test licence before the Federal Motor Transport Authority officially granted MAN approval at the beginning of April. In future, Autobahn GmbH will also be responsible for approving operating areas on motorways for the series approval of autonomous vehicles. The vehicle operator specifies the routes on which its vehicles with autonomous driving functions are to drive, and Autobahn GmbH then checks whether these routes are suitable for the operation of these vehicles with autonomous driving functions.

Around 500 engineers at MAN and the TRATON GROUP are working on the further development of autonomous driving, and over 133 patents have

MAN Truck & Bus is one of Europe's leading commercial vehicle manufacturers and transport solution providers, with an annual revenue of about 14.8 billion euros (2023). The company's product portfolio includes vans, trucks, buses/coaches and diesel and gas engines along with services related to passenger and cargo transport. MAN Truck & Bus is a company of TRATON GROUP and employs approx. 33,000 people worldwide.

already been registered. The use of autonomous trucks in hub-to-hub transport is particularly suitable for efficiently handling the constantly growing volume of freight. These lorries drive around the clock, maximise fuel efficiency and are safe to control. There are no driving time breaks, which means that the vehicles can be perfectly integrated into tightly synchronised logistics processes. The efficient use of autonomous trucks can reduce overall operating costs by ten to 15 per cent and alleviate the driver shortage. There is already a shortage of up to 100,000 lorry drivers in Germany alone.

Development partnership with Plus

MAN recently added the expertise of US tech company Plus to the development of driverless transport between logistics hubs. In order to further intensify the development towards real-life logistics operations, the commercial vehicle manufacturer has agreed a collaboration with the specialist for automated driving systems Plus. This cooperation is part of an overarching development partnership on autonomous driving between MAN parent company TRATON and Plus, which also includes other TRATON GROUP brands.

"Project partnerships with logistics companies, infrastructure operators and technology specialists are of crucial importance to MAN for the practice-oriented development of autonomous trucks. Our aim is to integrate driverless driving into specific hub-to-hub logistics transport operations through practical projects and thus accelerate the series production of autonomous driving systems," explains Jürgen Wagner, Head of Truck Engineering.

Plus, a global provider of software solutions for autonomous driving, is already powering vehicles in commercial use today with its Open Platform for Autonomy. Partners such as Bosch, dm-drogerie markt, DSV, IVECO, Luminar, Nikola, Scania / MAN / Navistar of the TRATON GROUP and Transurban are working with Plus to drive next-generation transport solutions.

Pioneer in autonomous driving

MAN has been involved in various research and development projects in the field of autonomous driving for many years. From 2018 to 2021, MAN worked with Hamburger Hafen und Logistik AG to develop and test a driverless truck in container handling at the Port of Hamburg site. The "Autonomous Innovation in Terminal Operations" (ANITA) project (2019-2023) focused on the complete digital integration of an autonomous truck into the logistics process of container handling from road to rail. Since 2022, MAN

has been working with twelve partners from industry, science, technical testing and road operations in the ATLAS-L4 project (Automated Transport between Logistics Centres on Expressways at Level 4) to develop an autonomous truck for use in motorway transport between logistics hubs. The project will run until December 2024 and is expected to result in an industry-ready concept for the operation of automated trucks on motorways.