

# SMART DRIVING CARS



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10th edition of the 5th year of SmartDrivingCars



**Announcing:**

**[Princeton SmartDrivingCar Summit](#)**

**May 17, 18**

**Princeton University, Princeton, NJ**

Visit [Landing Page](#) for application and sponsorship opportunities. <http://summit.smartdrivingcar.com/> Alain

**Monday, April 10, 2017**



**[The Autonomous Vehicle Global Study](#)**

F. Bruneteau, Apr 2017 "...Yet, despite their potential to reduce accidents, these features have been mostly **ignored** by insurers so far and have had little effect on premiums (p9)..." [Read more](#) *Hmmmm... This report is not free so I can't link it but this statement suggests that it may be very worthwhile. Alain*



**[Tesla becomes most valuable U.S. car maker, edges out GM](#)**

N. Randewich, Apr 11, "For the first time in the era of the modern automobile, the most valuable U.S. car maker is not based in Detroit..." [Read more](#) *Hmmmm... See comment after next listing. Alain*



### [Tesla Passes Ford in Market Value as Investors Bet on the Future](#)

B. Vlasic, Apr 3, "The record pace of auto sales in the United States is slowing down, leaving investors increasingly bearish on auto stocks.

But there is one exception. Tesla, the electric-vehicle upstart, continues to surge.

On Monday, Tesla surpassed Ford Motor in market value for the first time and moved within striking distance of General Motors, starkly illustrating the growing gap in investors' optimism over its future versus the prospects for the traditional carmakers from Detroit... [Read more](#)

*Hmmmm... Is it because they are electric or because they have AutoPilot. A most crazy hypothesis: The upswing since the election is due to Washington's Energy & Environmental Policy. Can you say 'AutoPilot'???* Alain



### [GM comes after Tesla with its own semi-autonomous](#)

[driving system for Cadillac](#)

B. Williams, Apr 10, " Make some room in the cruising lane, Tesla: Cadillac's Super Cruise is ready for action. The long-developed product, coming as an add-on feature for the 2018 CT6 sedan, will jockey with Tesla's Autopilot to be the best semi-autonomous experience on the highway..." [Read more](#)

*Hmmmm... Isn't there a big difference between 'coming as an add-on feature' and 'in user's cars today'???* 'Super Cruise' has been 'coming' for a long time. Now that GM is no longer leading, maybe it will finally follow. Ouch! Alain



### [Future mobility: Bosch and Daimler join forces to work on](#)

[fully automated, driverless system](#)

Press Release, Apr 4, " Bosch and Daimler are joining forces to advance the development of fully automated and driverless driving. The two companies have entered into a development agreement to bring fully automated (SAE Level 4) and driverless (SAE Level 5) driving to urban roads by the beginning of the next decade. The objective is to develop software and algorithms for an autonomous driving system. The project combines the total vehicle expertise of the world's leading premium manufacturer with the system and hardware expertise of the world's biggest supplier... The vehicle will then make its way autonomously to the user and the onward journey can commence...[Read more](#) *Hmmmm... If they allow/encourage casual ride-sharing, they will have re-invented mass transit (where mass = 2 or 3 or...).* Yes!! Alain



### [Google's former self-driving car guru raises cash for his own](#)

[startup](#)

K. Kokalitcheva, Apr 5, "Aurora Innovation, the stealth startup founded by the former CTO of Alphabet's self-driving car project, has raised over \$3 million in venture capital funding, according to an SEC filing.

Keep reading 230 words

The team: Along with CEO Chris Urmson, who left Alphabet last year, the startup also boasts Sterling Anderson, who previously oversaw Tesla's Autopilot software. The company has also hired several of Uber's self-driving car engineers in Pittsburgh (many of which Uber lured away from Carnegie Mellon a couple of years ago), as well as engineers who have worked at Tesla, Nvidia, and Google.

The company: Aurora will develop a "full package" of software, hardware, and data to sell to automakers who want to build their own autonomous cars, .....The company raised just over \$3.1 million last month. Allen & Company managing director Ian Smith is listed as member of Aurora's board, likely a sign that his firm invested. [Read more](#) *Hmmmm... Congratulations Chris! Seems like a good bet. Alain*



#### [Zoox autonomous vehicle start-up hires ex-NHTSA's Rosekind](#)

A. Sage, Apr 3, "Autonomous car start-up Zoox said on Monday that former top U.S. safety regulator Mark Rosekind was joining the Silicon Valley company as its chief safety innovation officer, underscoring the key role regulation will play in the nascent autonomous driving sector.

The hiring of Rosekind, the former head of the U.S. National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), is a major play for Zoox, which has remained secretive about its plans and strategy, and a hire that shows the importance of regulation in how self-driving technology rolls out. Zoox said Rosekind would lead the company's efforts to "safely develop, test and deploy autonomous vehicles." [Read more](#) *Hmmmm... Great catch. Congratulations Mark! Alain*



#### [Another startup promises self-driving taxis 'soon'](#)

A. Dalton, Apr 6, "...Udacity already trains engineers for work in the fast-growing autonomous vehicles field, but now the company is ready to harness all that talent and launch its own self-driving taxi company. Led by CEO (and former Udacity Vice President) Oliver Cameron, the new spin-off company will be called Voyage and has given itself the goal of getting autonomous taxis to "real users" in less than five years.... Voyage can hit that goal thanks to a "maturing" ecosystem that will allow the company to add autonomous functions to existing vehicles..." [Read more](#) *Hmmmm... Finally, someone's going after the after-market. (Although, isn't that what Google did???) Alain*



#### [Renesas 'Opens' Autonomy for Cars](#)

J. Yosida, Apr 11, "Renesas Electronics emerged from a prolonged silence with a bang Wednesday morning (Japan time), heralding the launch of Renesas Autonomy, a newly-designed advanced driving assistance systems (ADAS) and automated driving platform.

Although details of the platform remain sketchy (the company isn't yet disclosing all the platform's building blocks), Amrit Vivekanand, vice president for automotive business at Renesas Electronics America, stressed that his company's autonomous vehicle platform stands apart from its competitors because, "This is an open platform."

The operative word here is "open." [Read more](#) *Hmmmm... Great! Alain*



### [GM and SAE International Select 8 North American Universities for New Autonomous Vehicle Competition](#)

Apr 6, "...This new autonomous vehicle design competition is a three-year challenge to develop and demonstrate a fully autonomous passenger vehicle. The competition's technical goal is navigating an urban driving course in an automated driving mode as described by SAE Standard (J3016) level 4 definition by Year 3...GM will provide each team with a Chevrolet Bolt EV as the vehicle platform. Strategic partners and suppliers will aid the students in their technology development by providing vehicle parts and software...[Read more](#) *Hmmmm... Congratulations! Alain*

### Some other thoughts that deserve your attention



### [How not to create traffic jams, pollution and urban sprawl](#)

Parkgeddon, Apr 8, "Don't let people park for free...EVEN if the new headquarters that Apple is creating in California does not prove to be "the best office building in the world", as Steve Jobs boasted shortly before his death in 2011, it will be an astounding sight. ..And then, unfortunately, there's the car park. For 14,000 workers, Apple is building almost 11,000 parking spaces. ... Tot up all the parking spaces and the lanes and ramps that will allow cars to reach them, ... In all, the new headquarters will contain 318,000 square meters of offices and laboratories. The car parks will occupy 325,000 square meters...Apple is building 11,000 parking spaces not because it wants to but because Cupertino, the suburban city where the new headquarters is located, demands it....But parking influences the way cities look, and how people travel around them, more powerfully than almost anything else..

Water companies are not obliged to supply all the water that people would use if it were free, nor are power companies expected to provide all the free electricity that customers might want. But many cities try to provide enough spaces to meet the demand for free parking, even at peak times..

Some base their parking minimums on the "Parking Generation Handbook", a tome produced by the Institute of Transportation Engineers. This reports how many cars are found in the free car parks of synagogues, water-slide parks and so on when they are busiest...[Read more](#) *Hmmmm... Talk about something that is in desperate need of being reinvented... the ITE Parking Generation Handbook. Was it originally written by the Auto Industry? Alain*



### [Driverless shuttle bus to be tested by public in London](#)

D. Thomas, Apr 5, "Over the next three weeks, about 100 people will travel in a prototype shuttle on a route in Greenwich, London. The vehicle, which travels up to 10mph (16.1kmph), will be controlled by a computer.

However, there will be a trained person on board who can stop the shuttle if required during the tests. [Oxbotica](#), the firm that developed the technology behind the shuttle, said 5,000 people had applied to take part. [Read more](#) *Hmmmm... The Gateway vehicle looks a lot like Heathrow's ULtra Pods. :-) Alain*

### [On the More Technical Side](#)

<http://orfe.princeton.edu/~alaink/SmartDrivingCars/Papers/>

### Half-baked stuff that probably doesn't deserve your time



### [25% of U.S. driving could be done by self-driving cars by 2030, study finds](#)

D. Etherington, Apr 9, "Self-driving still seems to be a ways off from active public use on regular roads, but once it arrives, it could ramp very quickly, according to a new study by the Boston Consulting Group. The study found that by 2030, up to a quarter of driving miles in the U.S. could be handled by self-driving electric vehicles operating in shared service fleets in cities, due mostly to considerable cost savings for urban drivers..." [Read more](#) *Hmmmm... Sorry, Self-driving doesn't stimulate car-sharing, nor does it stimulate casual ride-sharing. So there will be no cost reduction (except insurance which is captured by Safe-driving (with your hands on the wheel)). Self-driving will be purchased by the 10%er that live way out in the burbs and self-drive to clogged cities. Alain*

### [C'mon Man! \(These folks didn't get/read the memo\)](#)



### [Navigant Research Leaderboard Report: Automated Driving](#)

Navigant, Apr 2017, "This Navigant Research Leaderboard Report examines the strategy and execution of 18 leading companies developing automated driving systems. These players are rated on 10 criteria:...[Read more](#) *Hmmmm... I couldn't get by the 1st chart. When the ranking's from one's ratings don't pass the sniff-test, then one should question the rating system. C'mon Man! How are you reducing your 10 criteria to 2 values??? What??? Alain*

Calendar of Upcoming Events:



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May 17 & 18, 2017

Princeton University

Princeton, NJ

**Save the Date**