



Unmanned Automated Driving Vehicles to Run in Korea

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The first temporary operation permission has been granted to a domestic unmanned automated driving vehicle as a step for developing full-fledged autonomous driving by gradual verifications; along with the efforts to advance the temporary operation permission for autonomous vehicles to expand the demonstration of unmanned automated driving vehicles

The Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport (MOLIT, Minister PARK Sang-woo) grants the Permission for Temporary Operation* for an unmanned automated driving vehicle developed by a domestic startup company on the designated road in order to promote the advancement of self-driving technology.

* This is to allow a temporary road operation with unregistered vehicles in accordance with the Article 27 of Motor Vehicle Management Act, permitting road operations for autonomous vehicles with the purpose of testing, research, and technology development.

The vehicle that has received the temporary operation permit this time is the first Korea's unmanned automated driving vehicle for passengers (maximum speed 50 km/h)*.

* It has been developed into the unmanned automated vehicle by attaching a self-driving system and a LiDAR sensor, etc. to a domestically produced SUV.

The automated vehicles that had received the temporary operation permission earlier were with a test driver at the driver's seat, or extremely low-speed (maximum speed of below 10 km/h), or special-purpose ones such as cleaning trucks, etc.



It is equipped with safety functions including automatic emergency braking and maximum speed limit, as well as emergency stop buttons inside and outside the vehicle, and has completed the verification of all safety requirements for unmanned automated driving needed in the city center at the K-City*..

* Korea's largest self-driving pilot city designated in Hwaseong-si, Gyeonggi-do with customized testing and research facilities for autonomous vehicles

The MOLIT is introducing a step-by-step verification procedure within the operational area* for more thorough safety management. If the vehicle with the temporary operation permission this time passes the verification process at once, unmanned automated driving will be enabled** as early as the fourth quarter of this year.

* This is an area where the autonomous driving system can operate normally (road section, weather, time, etc.), and the actual unmanned automated driving later will also be conducted in the same area where the test automated driving was successfully done.

** Currently, overseas unmanned automated driving vehicles are being tested in the United States, China, Japan, and Canada, etc.

The first stage of autonomous driving test is carried out with a test driver seated in the driver's seat, then the second stage involves conditions such as remote monitoring and control for emergency measures or placement of controlling persons outside the vehicle instead of having the test driver in the passenger seat.

For unmanned automated driving ultimately, it is necessary to pass the examinations on driving performance during test automated driving (whether an accident occurs, the frequency of switching control, etc.) and the requirements for unmanned automated driving.



In addition, MOLIT plans to upgrade the detailed standards for the temporary operation permission for unmanned automated driving vehicles within the year in preparation for the increased demand from companies for verification of unmanned automated vehicles following this case.

Director of the Automated Driving Policy Division PARK Jin-ho of the MOLIT expressed, “Since the year of 2016, a total of 437 automated driving vehicles have been obtaining the temporary operation permissions to demonstrate their technologies and services, and we hope that the demonstration of unmanned automated driving this time could be another inflection point.”

Adding, “The government will continue to actively strive to harmoniously achieve the dual tasks in creating a freer demonstration environment for unmanned autonomous driving and ensuring public safety”.