

Living Lab Autonomous Transport Zeeland

We are proud partner of the project Living Lab Autonomous Transport Zeeland. This project is developing an open innovation system in which logistics companies, technology providers for autonomous vehicles, road authorities and knowledge institutions can jointly innovate and experiment with autonomous vehicles with mixed traffic in real-life logistics operations and on public roads.



The Living Lab Autonomous Transport project is made possible by the European Regional Development Fund, the State and the Province of Zeeland as part of OPZuid.

Innovative

This is innovative and has never been done in the Netherlands before. The Living Lab focuses on a wide range of innovations that are necessary for the safe and profitable use of vehicles in a logistics operation: higher speeds, interaction with other logistics systems, fast data connections, recognition of a wide variety of traffic situations, remote control, etc. Zeeland has the space and logistical setting to carry out this type of experiment. The innovation system is open because other technology companies (such as Navya and Einride) will also be given the opportunity to carry out experiments in the near future. Technology providers who supply components (wifi, 5G, radar, artificial intelligence) can also participate. These are currently outside the scope of the application.

Technology companies

The Living Lab is important for Dutch technology companies such as VDL and Terberg, who are global frontrunners in the development of autonomous vehicles for logistics operations. With a Living Lab in the Netherlands they can accelerate their R&D and attract foreign partners to the Netherlands to further develop the technology for driving autonomous vehicles in mixed traffic.

Logistics Service Providers

The project is also essential for logistics service providers in West-Brabant and Zeeland who are active in road transport. Studies indicate that the introduction of autonomous transport will lead to a cost reduction of 47% (and thus put pressure on prices) and that technology companies can take over a significant part of the existing business of logistics service providers by driving autonomous vehicles. The project strengthens the innovation system in West Brabant and Zeeland by involving at least 20 SME logistics service providers in the experiments and actively researching the business impact of autonomous transport. They will be helped to develop strategies and new business propositions with which they can strengthen or protect their position in the chain. It also strengthens the cooperation between road authorities, logistics service providers and technology companies: together, they can guarantee traffic safety with autonomous vehicles and identify the requirements for the systems to be allowed on the public roads.

Experiments and development steps

The following experiments and development steps will be taken in the Living Lab:

- Pilot Autonomous in mixed traffic terminal operation: Deployment of an autonomous vehicle on the terminal of Kloosterboer in Vlissingen between quay and container stack.

- Autonomous pilot in mixed traffic on public roads: On the route of MSP Onions and Kloosterboer an autonomous vehicle is deployed in mixed traffic on public roads aimed at identifying traffic risks, technology improvement and safety measures.
- Design of operational and safety cases for other mixed traffic situations: elaboration of autonomous applications at Verbrugge, OCT, Mepavex with other mixed traffic situations with more ordinary traffic and vulnerable road users.
- Risks and safety: together with road authorities, risks are identified, assessed and mitigated to enable current and new experiments.
- SME Valorisation & Communication: Exploration and analysis of the impact of autonomous transport on the operations and business model of 20 logistics SMEs.