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PRESS RELEASE

UNLOCKING LARGE-SCALE AND PASSENGER-CENTRIC AUTOMATED MOBILITY: NEW EUROPEAN PROJECT ULTIMO LAUNCHES



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With the transport sector at a crossroads when it comes to deploying automated vehicles, the new EU project ULTIMO is seeking to take a new approach.

During the past few years, many projects and initiatives have both **tested and deployed automated vehicles (AVs) in public transport**, but the large-scale roll-out of automated shared fleets that are commercially viable is yet to be realised.

With **the launch of ULTIMO**, the project is seeking to set new foundations and deploy **the very first economically viable large scale, on-demand, and passenger-oriented AV public transportation services**.

By adopting a holistic approach to AV deployment that considers all elements in a cross-sector business environment, ULTIMO wants to **truly unlock the integration of AVs into cities with on-demand and door-to-door services**, allowing for more sustainable, accessible, and inclusive mobility.

Building on the success, to create a new future...

Building upon the experience of past projects like SHOW and AVENUE, ULTIMO will deploy large fleets in three European cities to achieve a commercial level public transportation service.

"The learnings that the sector has built so far around shared automated mobility need to be now scaled up with larger fleets of AVs that are passengers centric and economically viable. Only if larger fleets of AVs are integrated into the public transport network, the benefits of automated mobility for society and environment can be truly unlocked. UITP is proud to be a partner in ULTIMO to help tackle exactly these challenges."

Dr. Henriette Cornet
Thematic Area Leader, Automated Mobility
UITP

With Deutsche Bahn at the helm, **ULTIMO joins 23 partners from eight European countries for a period of four years.** Within the project, UITP is proud to lead dissemination and outreach activities, ensuring engagement across the entire sector value chain.

ULTIMO will **deploy AVs in three sites across Europe, namely Kronach (Germany) Oslo (Norway) and Geneva (Switzerland),** each with 15 or more multi-vendor vehicles per site. The aim is to target the operation without safety-driver on board, in fully automated mode and with the support of innovative user centric passenger services.

"I am very pleased that we, as consortium leader, together with 23 other partners, can ensure that we can clarify the few remaining open questions for a secured live operation in the ULTIMO project, so that the necessary conditions and questions such as demand/capacity transparency, integration into an overall transport system and economic viability can be clarified accordingly for large-scale nationwide deployment."

Frank Klingenhöfer
CEO
DB Regio Bus

Overcome hurdles...by joining sector forces

The current limited lifetime of vehicles, plus the costs of on-board safety operators and technical advancements, means that certain economic challenges still have to be mastered.

In addition, needed changes to city infrastructure and the integration of AV services into operators' Mobility as a Service (MaaS) offerings raise important questions on how to realistically integrate AVs into public transport networks.

The ULTIMO project will build on top of past experiences and projects, focused on tackling obstacles that are hindering large-scale AV uptake, including economical challenges.

At UITP, automated mobility is high on the agenda as a means to advance public transport.

Stay tuned for more on ULTIMO in the weeks and months ahead!

[Find out more on UITP's role in European projects](#)

FOR EDITORS

(UITP) The International Association of Public Transport works to enhance quality of life and economic well-being by supporting and promoting sustainable transport in urban areas worldwide. As a passionate champion of sustainable urban mobility, UITP is internationally recognised for its work to advance the development of this critical policy agenda. With more than **1900 members** in **100 countries**, UITP has a long history to its name, and is the only worldwide network to bring together all public transport stakeholders and all sustainable transport modes. Visit the [newsroom](#) and follow us on [Twitter](#).

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