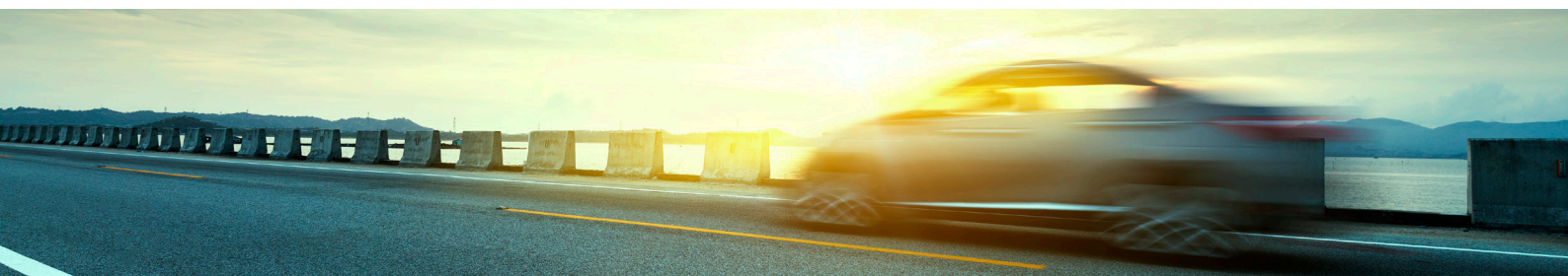


Never Trust, Always Verify – Managing Trust for Self-Driving Cars

The Austrian-managed CONNECT project will develop a trust management framework for self-driving cars

July 2022



VILLACH, AUSTRIA - Technikon, Europe's leading private company for coordinating and disseminating technology-based cooperative European research projects has been awarded funding by the European Union's Horizon Europe to manage a joined research project that develops a framework managing trust for self-driving vehicles starting a new era of advanced road safety. Based on "Never trust, always verify" the project establishes a trust management framework expanding it by dynamic trust relationships based on who is involved in providing the information and utilising the backend of networks for faster decision-making.

Driving on the road requires trust in others and the environment, but in reality, we never completely trust - not us, not other drivers or what is ahead of us. A similar level of mistrust in terms of safety is applied according to the project coordinator - Lisa Burgstaller-Hohenwarter from Technikon - within self-driving cars. The EU-funded CONNECT project launching in September 2022, sets out to tackle exactly this concept of trustworthiness within automotive driving to create a new era of advanced road safety.

The project works on establishing a trust management framework centred on zero-trust, which expands by assessing dynamic trust relationships based on who is involved in providing the information. These assessments of trust are important for sharing data securely with entities the car hasn't had any or insufficient trust relationships. Combining the vehicle's systems with information available in the cloud, expands the knowledge on the environment required for decision making, outsources the calculations in a trustworthy way to the backend of the cloud and helps in this way to make faster decisions, cooperatively and without delay increasing the safety of autonomous driving.

The three main questions that will be answered by the CONNECT project are:

- How can vehicles trust the input given by other vehicles?

- How can vehicles trust the Edge device (entry point to the network) to perform critical calculations on their behalf, meaning utilising the edge or backend of the mobile network to enable faster decision making?
- How to decide which applications (road safety, traffic management, infotainment etc.) remain in the vehicle and which can be offloaded dynamically to the backend of the cloud?

Over the next 36 months the project will work on answering these questions and integrate it in a prototype. The 5,996 Mio EUR funding of the project will help develop this new security paradigm, which is the key element for having certifiable, more agile levels of trustworthiness to automotive services, and translates to long-term consumer confidence, which is a requirement for end-user adoption.

The CONNECT project which involves 17 partners from 9 European countries ranging from big industry, the automotive supply chain, SME's, to universities and research institutions will start on the 1st September 2022 and will receive EUR 5.996 Mio over a period of 3 years.

About Technikon:

Technikon is a private research service and engineering company in Austria which manages multinational teams in the organization, execution and assessment of EU-funded and nationally funded research projects. Technikon is Europe's leading private company coordinating and disseminating technology-based cooperative European research projects.

For more information about the CONNECT project, visit our web site or contact the coordinator directly:

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Funded by
the European Union