

Press release

Versailles, 06 June 2019

VEDECOM is exporting its know-how to Australia as part of an autonomous vehicle scientific cooperation project

VEDECOM Research Institute subsidiary VEDECOM Tech delivered a level-4 connected and autonomous vehicle to QUT (Queensland University of Technology, Brisbane, Australia) on 6 June 2019. There will be a demonstration in Brisbane in August 2019. At the same time, the VEDECOM Research Institute is launching a scientific cooperation project with QUT. This partnership will allow France and Australia to accelerate their research on autonomous vehicles in tandem.

First contract outside of Europe for VEDECOM Tech

The contract is based on VEDECOM Tech manufacturing and delivering an SAE level 4 autonomous vehicle, based on the Renault Zoé. This is the first supply contract for a French demo model outside of Europe.

The model has evolved from the VEDECOM autonomous vehicle unveiled at ITS Strasbourg 2017. It is close to the technical definition of the vehicles showcased at the *mobilité@Vedecom* day in April 2019. It can be both driverless and make it possible for the driver to take back control, if necessary. It can also communicate with other connected vehicles, infrastructure and road infrastructure system operators to share safety messages and alerts. To ensure optimal safety and performance, the model boasts the latest VEDECOM scientific results on perception, localisation and journey planning.

The vehicle was handed over to QUT on 6 June 2019 at the *mobilAB* - the VEDECOM headquarters in Versailles Satory - which is collection of laboratories and workshops alongside test tracks. On 13 August, VEDECOM Tech will make a demonstration for the University of Queensland in the presence of Queensland Ministry of Transport representatives.

A scientific partnership preparing for the future

This contract sounds the starting pistol on an cooperative research programme between Queensland University of Technology (QUT) and VEDECOM Institute, both on the cutting edge of autonomous vehicles. VEDECOM already has several demo models that can run on the open road. Queensland will have a level-4 autonomous vehicle for the first time. QUT researchers can work on the vehicle functions, fittings and sub-systems (artificial intelligence, sensors, software, etc.). They will be able to carry out and adapt test plans comparable to VEDECOM test plans on a vehicle with a similar technical definition, which will ensure more in-depth scientific cooperation.

"We are proud to have been able to develop this autonomous vehicle in just a few months", enjoyed Rémi Bastien, Chairman of VEDECOM, "and to expand our scientific excellence into Australia, in a new partnership with QUT, which seems to offer great potential".

Mark Bailey, Minister for Transport and Main Roads (TMR), says that the vehicle will form part of the “Cooperative and Highly Automated Driving” (CHAD) pilotⁱ, which will be delivered by QUT in partnership with TMR and the iMOVE Australia cooperative research centre. *“This is the next big step toward having automated vehicles in Queensland. This vehicle will be tested on our roads to assess driver behaviour and vehicle interaction with infrastructure and other road users. Preparation is key. We must ensure our road network, infrastructure, legislation, regulation and licencing processes are aligned to support and integrate automated vehicles with our transport network, and be ready for the future.”*

“This unique research infrastructure, born from a strong international collaboration, will enhance Australia’s capacity to assess the safety impacts of CAV, said QUT’s Centre for Accident Research & Road Safety - Queensland (CARRS-Q) director Professor Andry Rakotonirainy. It will facilitate multidisciplinary investigations into how road users accept, adopt and cooperate with new automated systems.”

About VEDECOM

VEDECOM is an institute for energy transition (ITE) founded on unique cooperation between firms in the automotive and aviation sectors, mobility ecosystem infrastructure and service operators, academic research bodies and Ile-de-France local authorities. The role of VEDECOM is to forge closer ties between academia and industry. The institute helps them to achieve a high standard of innovation in the area of mobility and, in particular, in electric vehicles, autonomous and connected vehicles and shared energy and mobility infrastructure and services. VEDECOM is a part of the French government’s PIA future investment plan. Its founding members are Cetim, ESIGELEC, ESTACA, IFPEN, IFSTTAR, PSA Group, Renault Group, Safran, UVSQ and Valeo.

Key figures in 2019 : over 50 members, 3 research areas and 1 training program, 200 employees, 14 R&D projects, 12 European projects, over 300 publications, 37 patents, 24 copyrighted projects, 70 thesis, 1 business subsidiary, VEDECOM Tech, created in February 2017.

About VEDECOM Tech

VEDECOM Tech, created in February 2017 as the business and innovation subsidiary of the VEDECOM Research Institute, is a transport solutions expertise company creating synergy between public and private ecosystems. It brings VEDECOM research to the market by developing partnerships with transportation stakeholders (industrial groups, start-ups, SMEs, research institutes, etc.).

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ⁱ For more information on the TMR’s Cooperative and Automated Vehicle Initiative (CAVI) and the CHAD pilot, log on to <https://www.qld.gov.au/transport/projects/cavi/cavi-project>