

12 October 2015

Joint News Release

First fully-operational self-driving vehicle in Asia set to ply Gardens by the Bay in mid-2016

Public can try out the Auto Rider during a two-week trial this December

As early as this December, visitors to Gardens by the Bay can look forward to hopping on board the first fully-operational self-driving vehicle in Asia during a two-week trial that is open to members of the public.

2 The product of collaboration between Gardens by the Bay and ST Engineering, the Auto Rider is scheduled for public trial in December 2015 and targeted for full-scale deployment in mid-2016. The project is co-funded by the Ministry of National Development and National Research Foundation, with technical advice from A*STAR's Institute for Infocomm Research (I²R).

3 Each vehicle has a capacity of 10 people, comprising seats for six passengers and standing room for four passengers or one wheelchair. As the Auto Rider is fully enclosed and air-conditioned, passengers will be able to get around the Gardens in comfort and convenience, come rain or shine. It will strengthen connectivity within the Gardens and enhance mobility for the elderly and persons with disabilities.

4 During the public trial in December 2015, two Auto Riders will ply a 1.5km-long loop in the Gardens. The vehicles will operate for two hours a day from 4pm to 6pm, with eight 15-minute slots available for visitors to register, free-of-charge, on a first-come-first-served basis. For the duration of the trial, there will be a trained staff stationed in each vehicle to guide passengers as well as gather insights on commuter behavior, passenger feedback, and the performance of the vehicle.

5 Following the public trial, the vehicles will undergo further tests and refinement, before being deployed in the Gardens. The eventual route and specific mode of operation will be finalised based on the assessment of results from the public trial and vehicle tests.

6 Permanent Secretary for Transport Mr Pang Kin Keong, who is Chairman of the Committee for Autonomous Road Transport in Singapore (CARTS), said, "We are excited to witness the very progressive step Gardens by the Bay is taking to enhance its visitor experience and improve productivity. We look forward to more organisations following in its footsteps to tap self-driving technology to transform their operations."

7 CEO of Gardens by the Bay Dr Kiat W. Tan said, "Having the Gardens accessible to all is critical in making Gardens by the Bay a place where people from

all walks of life can come to enjoy. The Auto Rider will strengthen our people-mover system by enhancing connectivity within the Gardens and providing visitors with an alternative mode of getting around. As the first of its kind in the region, it demonstrates the potential of mobility concepts enabled by self-driving technology, and represents a leap forward for Gardens by the Bay which strives to be at the forefront of sustainability with innovative technologies and practices.”

Annex A: Features of Auto Rider at Gardens by the Bay

Annex B: Details of public trial

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