



Press Release

Germany's first autonomous vehicle hits the roads

Deutsche Bahn's self-driving bus to begin operating scheduled services on public roads from today in Bad Birnbach, Bavaria • Digitalization offers opportunities for public transportation in rural areas

(Bad Birnbach, October 25, 2017) A red and white minibus glides silently through the streets of Bad Birnbach, a spa town in Lower Bavaria. Drivers and pedestrians notice not only that the electric bus is quiet and environmentally friendly, but also that nobody is driving it. There is not even a steering wheel or gas pedal. Only one staff member is on board, who can intervene if necessary. The vehicle rolls over public roads on the approximately 700 meter long route from the town center to the thermal baths.

Working together with the district of Rottal-Inn and the market town of Bad Birnbach, DB has brought the first regular autonomous bus service to German streets in close collaboration with the vehicle developer EasyMile and TÜV Süd. In 2018, the route will be extended to link the town center and rail station.

"We have just entered a new age of completely automated transport," said Dr. Richard Lutz, CEO of Deutsche Bahn, after the test run. "Just like the first railway line in Germany more than 180 years ago, back then between Nuremberg and Fuerth, we have demonstrated pioneering spirit. We are the first company in Germany to bring autonomous vehicles to the roads and to local public transport. Our aim is to further integrate road and rail so as to enable individual mobility even in rural areas without the need to own a car."

"For the district of Rottal-Inn, the autonomous bus is a flagship project that sends a clear signal," said district administrator Michael Fahmüller. "People especially in rural areas like this still depend on cars. With the regular autonomous bus services starting today in Bad Birnbach, the town is showcasing the mobility of the future and a more flexible form of local public transport, particularly for rural areas. We are proud to be playing this pioneering role."

DB not only plans to get its customers to their destinations without drivers, but also to enable passengers to request a bus whenever they need one. On-demand services - with and without drivers - are being brought together under DB's new "ioki" brand.

Notes to editors:

Additional details are available on the fact sheet or at [deutschebahn.com/autonomerbus](https://www.deutschebahn.com/autonomerbus)

More information on ioki can be found at www.ioki.com

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