



Driverless safety vehicles on the motorway

Munich, October 26, 2016

Munich/Bergisch Gladbach, 28 October, 2016: Motorway maintenance and road workers are sometimes exposed to high-risk working conditions. Safety vehicles with highly visible warning equipment are designed to minimise these risks. However, these vehicles are still often involved in serious rear-end collisions in motorway bottlenecks. MAN has therefore joined seven other partners from the fields of industry, research and administration to develop a prototype driverless safety vehicle that follows the machinery used in mobile roadworks, protecting them from moving traffic.

MAN Truck & Bus
Dachauer Straße 667
D-80995 Munich

Should any questions arise, please contact:
Nikolas Waldura
Phone: +49 89 1580-2001
Presse-man@man.eu
www.mantruckandbus.com/press

The 'aFAS' research project and the Federal Highway Research Institute (BAST) gave an interim presentation on 28 October 2016. Two years have passed since the German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (BMWi) launched the project which focuses on the use of driverless automated vehicles in public traffic areas. The aim of the 'aFAS' project is to create an automated truck carrying appropriate warning signs that can be operated without a driver. The prototype is to be tested in Hessen, on motorway hard shoulders.

The driverless operation component of this initiative presents a significant challenge for the project partners, with particularly high demands being made with respect to the functional safety of the vehicle and the quality of the vehicle technology. The steering and braking systems, sensors, environment detection and control software components must meet strict criteria for safety-related systems in motor vehicles.

As far as is possible, series components are being used in the project for both the standard control system and the implementation of functional safety features. The environment is surveyed using close-to-production cameras and radar systems, including devices for detecting objects, lanes and open spaces. The sensor technology is supported by wireless transfer of relevant information between works vehicles and safety vehicles.

MAN Truck & Bus is one of Europe's leading manufacturers of commercial vehicles and supplier of transport solutions, with revenues of approximately €9 billion a year (2015). The product portfolio includes trucks, buses and diesel engines, as well as services related to passenger and cargo transport. A subsidiary of Volkswagen Truck & Bus GmbH, MAN Truck & Bus employs more than 35,500 people worldwide.



Further information is available in the latest project press release on the aFAS website at www.aFAS-online.de/veroeffentlichungen.

E_aFAS_01

The prototype from MAN is to be tested on the hard shoulder of motorways in the German state of Hesse.

E_aFAS_02

The display shows the current status of the system. A visual sensor monitors activities from the "driver's point of view".

E_aFAS_03

The sensors are backed up by wireless transmission of the relevant information between the working vehicle and the impact protection vehicle.