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Shaping the future of driverless vehicles



GATEway Project has begun research into public acceptance of, and attitudes towards, driverless vehicles. The trials, which will see an autonomous vehicle driving in a complex urban environment, are not about robotising existing forms of transport, such as the car, but examining ways to optimise mobility for the urban environment using new modes of transport enabled by automation.

In the latest phase of the GATEway Project (Greenwich Automated Transport Environment) a prototype shuttle will begin driverless navigation of a 2km route around the Greenwich Peninsula, using advanced sensors and state-of-the-art autonomy software to detect and avoid obstacles whilst carrying members of the public participating in the research study.

The GATEway Project is a world-leading research programme, led by TRL and funded by government and industry. It aims to demonstrate the use of automated vehicles for 'last mile' mobility, seamlessly connecting existing transport hubs with residential and commercial areas using a zero emission, low noise transport system. Research findings from the project will guide the wider roll-out of automated vehicle technology in all forms of surface transport, including cars, lorries and buses.

Uniquely, the focus of the study is not the technology but how it functions alongside people in a natural environment. This first trial will explore people's pre-conceptions of driverless vehicles and barriers to acceptance through detailed interviews with participants before and after they ride in the shuttle.

The prototype shuttle, dubbed 'Harry' (in honour of navigation visionary John Harrison), uses a state-of-the-art autonomy software system, called Selenium, which enables realtime, robust navigation, planning, and perception in dynamic environments. *Visit: www.gateway-project.org.uk*

Revolutionary technology for marine industries

CorteCros, subsidiary of Cortec Corporation, has released a new educational video demonstrating the efficiency of a technological breakthrough line of environmentally friendly corrosion protection products for marine market – Bull Frog. CorteCros's team wanted to make Bull Frog technology more accessible and provide the company's customers with a better understanding of how the corrosion of sea vehicles can be prevented with a few simple steps.

It is well known that unfortunately various types of destructive attacks can occur to structures, ships and other equipment used in sea water service. The term 'aqueous corrosion' describes the majority of the most troublesome problems encountered in contact with sea water, but the atmospheric corrosion of metals exposed on or near coastlines and hot salt corrosion in engines are equally problematic, and like aqueous corrosion require a systematic approach to eliminate or manage them. The Bull Frog line of products offers contemporary technology that has been perfected and proven in marine applications around the world. A wide range of products protect clients' investments and help them perform at their optimal level. Bull Frogs's Vapor Corrosion Inhibitors (VpCIs) replace conventional and hazardous petroleum-based rust preventatives. They bond with metal surfaces to form a protective 'Molecular Umbrella', sealing out air and moisture that cause rust and corrosion. Most importantly, they save time and labour involved in applying and removing traditional protective coatings.

These formulations conform to today's highest environmental standards and utilise the newest chemical technology available. They alleviate concerns in the areas of health, safety, flammability and pollution control. Bull Frog products from an ISO 9001 & ISO 14001 certified manufacturer are available in Croatian marinas and will soon be available in all larger European marine chains, including Montenegro, Italy and other Mediterranean and pan-European countries.

Visit: www.bull-frog.com/whats_new/

Award for TechnipFMC's innovative subsea technology

TechnipFMC, a longstanding engineering partner of Sulzer, has won the Hydraulic Institute Award for Innovation and Technology for its innovative products and solutions. The global leader in oil and gas projects, technologies, systems and services was recognised during a ceremony at the Institute's Centennial Celebration Gala in Florida, USA.

The awards committee recognised TechnipFMC as an innovator in subsea technology. Such innovations have included streamlining subsea operations via combining processes: the introduction of improved research and development strategies such as rapid prototyping and the utilisation of condition performance monitoring. In addition, the Institute also commended the business's commitment to reducing subsea topside dependencies.

Sulzer has worked in partnership with TechnipFMC on a number of high profile offshore

projects – with the businesses considered as premium suppliers of high performance subsea pumps and motors respectively.

The two subsea experts work in tandem to deliver fully integrated systems for the most challenging environments, servicing the demanding applications that provide our energy resources.

Visit: www.sulzer.com

