

Beat: Sports

IN JAPAN INTRODUCTION SELF-DRIVING VEHICLES DUE TO RISE ACCIDENTS OLD DRIVERS

IF SUCCESSFUL FOR 2020 TOKYO OLYMPICS

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USPA NEWS - From March 2016, the taxis will take about 50 residents of Fujisawa, a large coastal town near Tokyo, from their homes to supermarkets along the city's main roads in journeys of about 3km. If the Fujisawa trials are successful, the cars could be used to ferry spectators around at the 2020 Games...

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Japan's cabinet office, Kanagawa prefecture and Robot Taxi Inc. on Thursday October 1, said they will start experimenting with unmanned taxi service beginning in 2016. The service will be offered for approximately 50 people in Kanagawa prefecture, just south of Tokyo, with the auto-driving car carrying them from their homes to local grocery stores.

According to the project organizers, the cabs will drive a distance of about three kilometers (two miles), and part of the course will be on major avenues in the city. Crew members will be aboard the car during the experiment in case there is a need to avoid accidents. (Wall Street Journal)

Robot Taxi Inc., a joint venture between mobile Internet company DeNA Co. and vehicle technology developer ZMP Inc., is aiming to commercialize its driverless transportation service by 2020. The company says it will seek to offer unmanned cabs to users including travelers from overseas and locals in areas where buses and trains are not available. (Wall street Journal)

"This time, the robot taxi experiment will be conducted on actual city streets. I think this is quite amazing," [?] the governor of Kanagawa prefecture, Yuji Kuroiwa, told reporters at the vehicle's recent media launch, according to the Japan Times.

Shinjiro Koizumi "" son of former prime minister Junichiro Koizumi "" who is a ruling party MP for Kanagawa, told reporters: "There are a lot of people who say [self-driving cars] are impossible. But I think this will happen faster than people expect." [?]

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