



AUTONOMOUS NUSMART SHUTTLE **BEGINS PASSENGER SERVICE TRIAL**

29 July 2019 – It's all systems go!

After 1.5 months of road testing, the fully autonomous NUSmart Shuttle will begin passenger service tomorrow at the National University of Singapore's (NUS) Kent Ridge campus. This trial is part of a year-long study aimed at gauging the commercial viability of providing safe autonomous shuttle bus services.

The NUSmart Shuttle, an EasyMile EZ10 autonomous shuttle, runs entirely on electricity and carries up to 12 people. It will operate from Mondays to Fridays at 20-minute intervals between 10.20am and 11.20am as well as between 2.20pm and 3.20pm during the initial phase of the trial. The operating hours will be extended progressively during the trial. Each 1.6km trip starts from the innovation 4.0 (i4.0) building and the shuttle will travel between Heng Mui Keng Terrace and Business Link, making stops opposite the Hon Sui Sen Memorial Library and BIZ 2 building. The service will be free to all commuters. During the initial phase of the trial, the shuttle will not operate when it rains to enable the vehicle to calibrate its internal systems. A wet weather service may be available at a later stage.

The NUSmart Shuttle is able to accommodate a wheelchair and has an in-built access ramp for mobility challenged passengers. During the year-long trial, a Safety Operator will be on board when the shuttle is on the move to address enquires from commuters and to ensure safe operation of the vehicle.

Operating along a predefined route, the shuttle is equipped with a full range of sensors to detect and avoid potential obstacles. It relies on its own internal array of software and hardware technologies for its navigation on the roads, without any assistance from external infrastructure. Harnessing the latest developments in robotics and Artificial Intelligence, the EasyMile EZ10 autonomous shuttle is the most widely deployed autonomous shuttle in the world with over 230 deployments in more than 26 countries.

The trial, which is also in line with NUS' ongoing efforts to build a smart, safe and sustainable campus, is the first autonomous shuttle bus to be operated by a land transport operator in real mixed traffic conditions, alongside regular buses, cars and motorcycles. Funded and imported by Inchcape Singapore, which also provides technical expertise on vehicle type approval, the NUSmart Shuttle will be operated by ComfortDelGro's wholly-owned subsidiary, ComfortDelGro Bus Pte Ltd.

ComfortDelGro Managing Director and Group CEO, Mr Yang Ban Seng, said: "This passenger service trial provides us with an opportunity to observe how passengers respond to an autonomous vehicle. The operational experience gained will also be invaluable as we prepare for a future where autonomous and artificial intelligence becomes an integral part of our daily commute."

EasyMile Business Development & Partnership Manager for Asia Pacific, Mr Alexandre Pequignot, said: "As a pioneer in autonomous vehicle technologies, EasyMile is proud to support its partners in testing the integration of our autonomous shuttle for public transportation. We have supported more than 230 deployments worldwide in various environments and this project will give us more insights for future deployments in Singapore."

Managing Director, Inchcape Singapore, Ms Jasmmine Wong, said: "As a leading automotive distributor, we are constantly learning, innovating and staying abreast of future mobility developments. This initiative allows us to remain at the forefront of autonomous mobility solutions and turn them into a commercial reality in the near future."

NUS Senior Vice President (Campus Infrastructure) Professor Yong Kwet Yew said: "Autonomous vehicles have great potential as a promising mobility solution. NUS is pleased to host the autonomous shuttle trial on the Kent Ridge campus, which will involve our staff, students and visitors. The knowledge and experience gained from this trial will bring us closer to the day when autonomous vehicles become a common safe mode of transport, and with citizens who are comfortable with embracing new technologies, we can then further entrench Singapore's standing as a smart nation."

Background



ComfortDelGro Corporation

ComfortDelGro is one of the world's largest land transport companies with a total fleet size of about 43,000 buses, taxis and rental vehicles. Headquartered in Singapore, the Group also has operations in Australia, the United Kingdom, China, Ireland, Vietnam and Malaysia.



EasyMile

EasyMile is a pioneer in driverless technology and smart mobility solutions.

The fast-growing start-up develops software to automate transportation, revolutionising passenger and goods transportation. It has already deployed over 230 driverless projects with more than 320,000 people transported over 600,000 km. Clients include the world's largest transport operators, city authorities, airports, corporations, business parks, and universities.

EasyMile has a global presence with headquarters in Toulouse (France) and regional offices in Denver (USA), Berlin (Germany), Adelaide (Australia) and Singapore. The Company employs over 170 highly-skilled and passionate employees.



Inchcape plc

Inchcape plc is the global distribution and retail leader in the premium and luxury automotive sectors. We are present in 32 national markets and operate as a key strategic partner to the world's foremost premium and luxury car brands. Inchcape Singapore is the sole distributor for Toyota, Lexus, Hino and Suzuki in Singapore.



National University of Singapore

The National University of Singapore (NUS) is Singapore's flagship university, which offers a global approach to education, research and entrepreneurship, with a focus on Asian perspectives and expertise. We have 17 faculties across three campuses in Singapore, as well as 12 NUS Overseas Colleges across the world. Close to 40,000 students from 100 countries enrich our vibrant and diverse campus community.

Our multidisciplinary and real-world approach to education, research and entrepreneurship enables us to work closely with industry, governments and academia to address crucial and complex issues relevant to Asia and the world. Researchers in our faculties, 29 university-level research institutes, research centres of excellence and corporate labs focus on themes that include energy, environmental and urban sustainability; treatment and prevention of diseases common among Asians; active ageing; advanced materials; as well as risk management and resilience of financial systems. Our latest research focus is on the use of data science, operations research and cybersecurity to support Singapore's Smart Nation initiative. For more information on NUS, please visit www.nus.edu.sg.

