



With an eye on future generations of DAS , Mercedes-Benz say they are the first automaker to introduce a new proving method into their test driving portfolio: safety-critical driving maneuvers that cannot be precisely reproduced by human drivers are now being handled by autopilot on closed test tracks.

Automated driving supports the development, testing, and validation of assistance systems and other vehicle safety features. Testing at the limit can now be carried out without danger to development engineers, delivering clear eventual benefits to Mercedes-Benz customers.

Because the tests are carried out with the highest degree of precision, future assistance systems can be developed and validated to Mercedes-Benz' quality standards despite increasing levels of complexity.

The current status of active safety technology is defined by intelligent assistance systems that turn the vehicle into a thinking partner—one that can see and feel, and that can react in the event of danger.

Mercedes-Benz will fulfill requirements for reliable functionality and operational safety in future assistance systems through the automated driving of test maneuvers on dedicated proving grounds. Prototypes used for this purpose are usually series-production vehicles equipped with robots for steering, acceleration, and braking. An onboard computer controls the autopilot so that a preprogrammed course is followed exactly – even if several vehicles are involved in one maneuver.

All Mercedes-Benz models can be equipped with the technical equipment for automated driving. Moreover, a large variety of different safety systems and equipment can be tested.