

If all goes according to extensive, expensive plans, an autonomous Audi TTS Coupé Quattro named Shelley will charge—with no driver behind the wheel—up a narrow 20-kilometre, 156-turn course to the top of Pikes Peak, a 4300-metre-high mountain in Colorado. Shelley is named after French driver Michele Mouton, the first woman to win the Pikes Peak rally in 1985. The car is a direct result of work at the VW Group's Automotive Innovation Laboratory, a collaboration between VW's Electronics Research Laboratory and Stanford University in the US to advance car technology.



### “Autonomous Audi” TTS Coupé Quattro without driver

The project is meant to explore the best capabilities of current and future technologies to assist drivers and enhance the experience behind the steering-wheel for future driving generations. Dr Burkhard Huhnke, executive director of the Electronics Research Lab, has noted that the technology found in this special TT could help drivers to respond more effectively to changing traffic conditions, thus reducing road congestion and accelerate their reactions to hazards.

He also suggested that the technology could return time to car owners by taking care of routine driving chores such as locating an assigned space in a car park.

"We believe developing a car that can perform as well and respond as rapidly as a 'professional', such as a race or rally driver, will eventually be able to drive its way around incidents in a way that a 'normal' driver couldn't," he went on.

"While a less-experienced driver may freeze or make the wrong correction, the Autonomous TTS would take over or guide the driver to escape from a critical situation. It could also compensate if a driver is inattentive to conditions or distracted but, of course, it won't prevent all accidents."