



Waymo will purchase up to 62,000 more Chrysler Pacifica hybrid minivans from FCA US starting later this year to begin a national expansion of the company's public driverless ride-hailing fleet, the two companies say.

In addition, Waymo are beginning discussions with FCA about potentially licencing Waymo's autonomous operations technology for use in a future FCA vehicle available to retail customers.

The partnership is an exponential expansion of the relationship between Waymo and FCA, which began in May 2016 with the purchase of 100 Pacifica hybrid minivans for use in Waymo's test fleet. To date, FCA has delivered 600 of the minivans to Waymo. It is unclear how quickly Waymo will take delivery of the additional minivans, but the company indicated that the sales from FCA will be as needed as the Waymo expands operations.

Waymo say they plan to launch the "world's first self-driving transportation service" later this year in Phoenix, with a planned expansion later to the San Francisco Bay area and beyond. The service will allow the public to request a driverless vehicle using Waymo's app, similar to human-driven ride-hailing services.

For FCA, the partnership with Waymo allows the automaker to receive the technological benefit of advanced self-driving technologies without the high costs of development or the embarrassing public failures that have plagued some other automakers. The announcement comes on the eve of FCA's latest five-year business plan, which is to be presented Friday in Balocco, Italy.