

First driverless taxi hits the streets of Singapore

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The first driverless taxicabs have entered service in a limited public trial on the streets of Singapore. Developer nuTonomy invited a group of people to download their app and ride at no cost in a "robo-taxi" in a western Singapore hi-tech business district, hoping to get feedback ahead of a planned full launch of the service in 2018.



The trial rides took place in a Mitsubishi i-MiEv electric vehicle, with an engineer sitting behind the steering wheel to monitor the system and take control if necessary.

Nutonomy are one of several companies racing to launch self-driving vehicles, with automakers and technology firms striking new alliances.

Volvo have agreed a USD \$300m alliance with ride-hailing service Uber to develop a driverless vehicle; Israeli driving assistant software maker Mobileye NV say their vehicle, developed with Delphi Automotive, will be ready for production by 2019, and Ford say their self-driving car debut is slated for 2021.