

9th International VDI Conference

Autonomous Trucks

From Innovation to Commercial Deployment

April 29-30, 2026, Aschheim near Munich

- Autonomous Trucking Ecosystems - Strategy & Partnerships
- Commercial Deployment & Scaling - Real-World Operations
- AI, Data & Simulation - Enabling Safe Autonomy
- Sensor Technology & LiDAR - Industrial-Ready Perception
- Software-Defined Vehicles (SDV) - OEM Transformation

+ International Best Practices

+ Panel Discussion

+ OEM Presentations

Meet international Experts from:



An event organized by VDI Wissensforum GmbH

www.vdi-international.com/01K0915026



08:30 Registration & welcome coffee

09:30 Chair's welcome and opening address

09:45 Autonomous Commercial Vehicles @ Daimler Truck

- It takes two to tango: The truck and its driver
- State and outlook of autonomous trucking at Daimler Truck
- The ecosystem of autonomous driving for commercial vehicles

Dustin White, Head of Strategy Autonomous Driving, Daimler Truck, Germany

10:15 Developing an Autonomous Truck Platform: From Engineering Readiness to Industrial Scale

- From prototype validation to a scalable, repeatable industrial platform
- Standardized vehicle architecture and modular interfaces enabling integration with multiple autonomy stack partners
- Manufacturing discipline, production-intent builds, and feedback loops from field operations to engineering
- Aligning safety, reliability, and fleet readiness for hub-to-hub deployment
- Platform thinking for scaling safe, driverless freight corridors

Shahrkh Kazmi, Chief Product Officer, Volvo Autonomous Solutions, Sweden

10:45 ☕ Networking & coffee break

I. AI, Data & Simulation as the Backbone of Autonomous Trucks

11:30 From ChatGPT to Generative World Models for Autonomous Driving (AD)

- Data helps AI models identify and extract meaningful features from input data
- Data for AI model training must be high performance, flexible, and scalable
- Quality and depth of training data significantly impact the success of AI models

Frank Kraemer, IBM Technology Systems Architect, Germany

12:00 Scalability and Limitations of Simulation-Based Validation Strategies for Autonomous Commercial Vehicles

- Comparison of open-loop, AI-generated and simulation-based testing
- Challenges of simulation-based validation regarding fidelity and availability
- Scalable and credible simulation workflows with cloud-based testing

Dr. Sami Bilgic Istoc, Senior Consultant, IPG Automotive GmbH, Germany

12:30 🍴 Lunch

II. Building the Autonomous Trucking Ecosystem

14:00 Turning Innovation into Impact: How Industry Ecosystems Leverage Driverless Trucks

- Learn how autonomous trucking lowers costs, mitigates driver shortages, and boosts long-haul safety
- Find out how the partnership between AUMOVIO and Aurora enables scalable autonomous truck deployment

- Discover how a mileage-based hardware-as-a-service model maximizes uptime and customer value

Ralph Grewe, Chief Engineer, Aurora Program, Business Area Autonomous Mobility, AUMOVIO, Germany

14:30 Software-Defined Vehicle (SDV): Leadership Problem or Execution Dilemma? Analysis of the state of the industry

- SDV as most discussed yet least fully realized transformation
- Deep Dive into the current state of the SDV transformation supported by case studies from both the passenger car and trucking sectors
- Highlighting concrete strategic actions OEMs can take to adapt legacy structures with software-centric cultures and leverage partnerships to accelerate progress
- Insights about SDV monetization pathways

Michael Herdrich, Consultant ADAS/AD & SDV, P3 Consulting GmbH, Germany

III. Sensor Technology & Sensor Fusion for Real-World Autonomy

15:00 Controlling the Uncontrollable – Perception and Control for Unequipped Semitrailers in Automated Terminals and Yards

- A novel sensor setup for automated handling of unequipped semitrailers
- Advanced control algorithms for precise backward maneuvering
- Real-world use-cases with fast Return of Investment
- Cross-OEM interoperability
- Opportunities for funding and collaboration

Dr.-Ing. Felix Keppler, Research Group Manager, Fraunhofer IVI, Germany

15:30 ☕ Networking & coffee break

16:15 LiDAR Testing in Adverse Conditions

- LiDAR Sensors
 - Performance Evaluation on Point Cloud Level
 - DIN SAE SPEC 91571 - new industry standard
 - Adverse Conditions – weather, dirt/dust, interference
- Prof. Dr.-Ing. Adrian Zlocki, Head of Automated Driving Department, Co-author: Amogh Sakpal M.Sc., both: fka GmbH, Germany

16:45 Fireside Chat - The joint L4 Program of TRATON & PLUSAI

Astrid Hagqvist, Product Manager Autonomy for On Road, TRATON, Sweden & Dr. Georg Kuschik, Director of Autonomy, PlusAI, Germany
Moderation: Gerhard Nowak, ifp consulting, Germany

17:15 End of conference day one

18:00  Get-together

At the end of the first conference day, we kindly invite you to use the relaxed and informal atmosphere at our conference dinner for in-depth conversations with other participants and speakers.

09:00 Opening Remarks Day Two

09:10 Panel Discussion

Panelist:

Dominik Schindler, Head of Innovation, Hellmann Worldwide Logistics

Rickard Legnestam, Commercial Program Manager, Hub-to-Hub, Volvo Autonomous Solutions

Dustin White, Head of Strategy Autonomous Driving, Daimler Truck

10:00  Networking & coffee break

IV. Commercial Deployment & Industrial Scale

10:45 Real-World Driverless Truck Deployment: Learnings from launching to scaling 24/7 customer deployments

- Overview of Kodiak's Commercial Deployment with Atlas Energy Solutions
- How to move from operations with a safety driver to no human in the cab
- Learnings from deploying a customer-centric solution and what it takes: Technology, Safety, Product

Andreas Wendel, CTO, Kodiak AI, USA

11:15 Real-World Learnings on the Road to Factory-Built Autonomous Trucking

- Important learnings and feedback from customer fleet trials and how they help shape product development, refine safety validation, and guide the roadmap toward commercial launch
- Why deep partnerships between tech developers and OEMs are key to large-scale commercialization
- Practical considerations for seamless integration into logistics networks

Dr. Georg Kuschik, Director of Autonomy, PlusAI, Germany

11:45 Explainable Compliance in Autonomous Driving – Turning Traffic Legislation into an Operational Asset

Ke Zhu, Senior Manager Technology & AI, HELLA Ignite GmbH, Berlin

12:15  Lunch

V. Operating Autonomous Fleets at Scale

13:45 Autonomous Fleets at Scale: Mastering 24/7 Operations with Real-Time FMS

- Operational Excellence: Strategies for maximizing fleet efficiency
- Practical methods for handling exceptions and providing Remote Assistance to ensure vehicles stay productive 24/7
- Insights from successful projects, architecture & lessons learned

Akshay Singh, Principal Product Manager Autonomous Trucks, Embotech AG, Switzerland

14:15 Real-World Data: The Critical Path to L4 Autonomous Trucks

- Real-world data as the foundation for scalable L4 autonomous trucking
- Inceptio's data assets built through large-scale deployment and real-world operation
- Inceptio's roadmap and current progress in L4 truck development

Zhizhuo Jin, Senior Staff Software Engineer, Inceptio Technology, Shanghai, China

14:45 Data Loop for AI development in safety-critical applications according to ISO/PAS 8800

- Overview of Big Data Loop and its elements
- Standard Landscape for AI and safety and placement of "ISO/PAS 8800 – Safety and AI"
- MLOps pipelines as a key success factor for regular assurance case argumentation
- The triad of standard, process, and technology for safe AI

Andreas Bossert, Engineering methods and processes, Senior Expert Engineer, ITK Engineering GmbH, Germany

15:15 Closing Remarks

15:30 End of conference

Reasons to attend

Meet international experts from the trucking industry.

Learn where the industry is headed and how to stay ahead of the curve.

Discuss technical challenges, current developments, and the newest solutions.

Prepare for two days full of insights, contacts, and new ideas.

8th International VDI Conference

Smart Farming

Date and venue:

April 29-30, 2026
Munich, Germany

Renowned speakers will present their results on the following topics:

- AgTech Trends & Market Development
- Automation & Farming Technologies
- Optimizing the Use of Robotics, AI & more
- Ag Data Interoperability and Standards
- Standardized Safety Testing under the New EU Machinery Directive and AI Act
- Reaching full Autonomy on the Farm
- + Interactive Round Table Discussions

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11th International VDI Conference

Connected Off-Highway Machines

Date and venue:

April 29-30, 2026
Munich, Germany

Renowned speakers will present their results on the following topics:

- Software-Defined Off-Highway Machines
- Autonomous Mobile Machines
- Simulation, Validation & Verification of Off-Highway Systems
- Standardization, Interoperability & Digital Data Ecosystems
- Functional Safety, Cybersecurity & Regulatory Compliance
- Safety-Critical and Defence-Oriented Off-Highway Applications
- + Interactive Round Table Discussions

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Autonomous Trucks

Supporting Experts

Lars Stenqvist, Volvo Group, Sweden
Timothy Carter, Heidelberg Materials, Germany
Michael Wiesinger, Kodiak AI, USA
Gerhard Nowak, ifp consulting, Germany
Lauren Kwan, PlusAI, USA



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If you want to meet with and reach out to the first-rate experts attending this VDI conference and to powerfully present your products and services to the well-informed community of conference participants, please contact:

Vanessa Ulbrich
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Phone: +49 211 6214-918
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Exhibitor List:
dSPACE Group SE & Co. KG
MobileTronics GmbH



Upcoming Events

International VDI Conference
Cyber Security for Vehicles
June 9-10, 2026 in Munich

Registration

Terms and Conditions

Registrations: Registrations for conference attendance must be made in writing. Confirmation of your registration and the associated invoice will be mailed to you. Please do not pay your conference attendance fee until you have received our invoice and its invoice number to be stated for transfer. German VAT directives apply. Please state your VAT-ID with your registration.

Conference venue
NH München Ost Conference Center
Einsteinring 20
85609 Aschheim, Germany
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**You will find more hotels
close to the venue at**
www.vdi-wissensforum.de/hrs

Hotel room reservation: A limited number of rooms at the conference venue has been reserved for the benefit of the conference participants. Please mention the hotel name and refer to "VDI Conference" when booking by email to reservierungen@nh-hotels.com. For more hotels: www.vdi-wissensforum.de/hrs

VDI Wissensforum service package: The conference package includes the conference documents (online), beverages during breaks, lunch and the get-together on April 29, 2026.

Conference attendance conditions and terms can be found on our website: www.vdi-wissensforum.de/en/terms-and-conditions/

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Please submit your topic to:
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Register online!

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Yes, I will participate as follows:

Participation Fee + VAT

VDI Conference 29.-30.04.2026
(01K0915026) € 1990

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