Variations on a theme

Felipe Jiménez, José Manuel Menéndez and José F. Papí herald the Launch of the Spanish Thematic Network on Intelligent Vehicles (RETEVI)

Intelligent transportation systems, intelligent vehicles and their implications on infrastructure and users are gaining an increasing importance as they offer a growing potential in line with the improvement in the technologies that enable them.

In this regard, the market growth of vehicle semi-automation and connectivity applications is considerable. Also noteworthy is the large amount of news related to prototypes and research carried out by vehicle manufacturers, component manufacturers and other players entering the sector.

The autonomous vehicle not only brings a technological leap, but also a social leap in automotive design and mobility, with implications for public transport and freight transport over short and long trips. Despite the progress made in recent years, many research areas remain open if we are to achieve the highest levels of automation, levels 4 and 5, such as an analysis of the interaction with the driver and the interaction with other users, a reliable recognition...
things (different types of sensors of different types sending real-time data through communication networks) and the use of social networks become widespread among the population. The intelligent vehicle can and should draw on that possibility, and the future evolution of cooperative services should facilitate the synergy between vehicles and infrastructures.

To strengthen the link between vehicles and infrastructures, and therefore promote innovation synergies in both fields, the Technical University of Madrid has joined the Smart Transportation Alliance (STA), a non-for-profit collaborative platform whose mission is to lead actions improving methods, technologies and standards associated with transportation infrastructures. In this regard, the joint activity of the Spanish RETEVI Network and the STA platform follows very closely the guidelines set by the Final Report prepared by the Platform for the Deployment of Cooperative Intelligent Transport Systems in the European Union (C-ITS Platform), created by the European Commission (DG MOVE) in November 2014.

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More information about the Spanish RETEVI Network can be found at www.retevi.es.