Connecting Austria

What is needed to safely and efficiently set up a semi-automated truck platoon, to maintain a platoon and to go back to a regular transport mode? Connecting Austria is answering this question by exploring four use cases in three years. Key objective is an evidence-based evaluation of energy-efficient truck platoons.

The lighthouse project Connecting Austria brings technology leaders and end-users together to demonstrate and evaluate four use cases for semi-automated and energy-efficient truck platoons. For every single vehicle in a platoon as well as for the platoon itself, specifications of feedback control systems and motion patterns are set up. They can serve as functional rules for approval of platoons regarding traffic law and safety, and they allow the design of control strategies for intelligent traffic lights and infrastructure. The specification of feedback control systems for truck platoons will be done on a general level in order to be able to apply them for the whole traffic infrastructure.

Regarding climate and sustainability targets, Connecting Austria aims at delivering evidence-based simulation and projection of effects of energy-efficient and semi-automated platoons for the whole traffic infrastructure including all participants on the road. This sustainability aspect is of fundamental value for the Austrian logistic providers to maintain international competitiveness.

The national lighthouse project’s unique contribution is the specific focus on infrastructure issues and on parameterized traffic perspectives when evaluating energy-efficient and semi-automated truck platoons. Connecting Austria boosts Austrian strategic strengths as pioneer regarding C-ITS infrastructure and strengthens international success stories such as ECo-AT, Wien-ZWA, coordination activities in C-Roads and the European Green Car Initiative.

Within the project Connecting Austria, four use cases are specified in the field of connected and semi-automated truck platoons. The focus is on two or three trucks forming a platoon. It is planned to have several testing grounds in Salzburg, Upper Austria and Vienna.

Contact details: Dr. Matthias Neubauer, MBA
+43 5 0804 33273, matthias.neubauer@fh-steyr.at