

The European Commission, through the H2020 framework program, has awarded a funding grant of nearly €20 million for a 29-partner strong consortium to develop and demonstrate driverless heavy-duty vehicles in harsh weather conditions for real-logistics operations. With EasyMile as coordinator and software provider, the large-scale All Weather Autonomous Real logistics operations and Demonstrations (**AWARD**) project aims to bring disruptive change to the trucking industry, fleet operators, and the whole logistics sector.

The Commission has outlined the growing need for connected and automated driving systems for heavy commercial vehicles, citing their great potential. They can improve safety and efficiency of freight transport and make vehicle operations more comfortable. Positive impacts can be expected when highly automated systems are used in logistics operations going from hub-to-hub, including both operations in mixed traffic and in confined areas.

EasyMile will provide its proven driverless software, working with heavy-duty vehicle manufacturers, tier 1 and 2 technology providers, end-users, and logistics operators from factories, warehouses, ports, and airports, as well as labs and regulation entities. A cost-benefit analysis will demonstrate the added value and economic viability of automated systems in real logistics operations for users and stakeholders.

Autonomous driving has the potential to revolutionize heavy-duty freight operations, making them more efficient and flexible. With its partners, the project will make the promise of driverless solutions a reality by addressing challenges such as harsh weather operations, which are essential to real-world full-scale freight operations.

The Department of Logistics at the University of Applied Sciences Upper Austria is in charge of three main issues: bring-in logistics stakeholders' requirements, set-up business models out of the project results and evaluate the impact for the logistics domain. More specifically, it will support:

- Identification of end-users' needs and requirements
- Development and alignment of testing and evaluation methodologies as well as user and stakeholder evaluation
- Assessment of economic viability in terms of market opportunities, barriers and solutions, cost-benefit analysis, emerging business and operating models

Maturity and mix of partners

The maturity and mix in the cooperation between leading companies and innovative, growing ones recognized for their real-world applications and expertise, as well as research organizations, paves the way for the replicability and sustainability of the project results.

The Austrian project partners include:

- [BRP-ROTAX GmbH & CO KG](#)
- [DB SCHENKER Österreich](#)
- [Linz Center of Mechatronics](#)
- [Logistikum der Fachhochschule OÖ](#)
- [Austrian Institute of Technology](#)
- [AustriaTech](#)
- [Automobil Cluster OÖ](#)
- [Business Upper Austria](#)

Austrian project volume: 2.85MEUR

Project duration: 2021-2024

Project website: <https://award-h2020.eu/>

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