

Mobileye expect to launch a trial of robotaxis next year in Israel. Intel CEO Officer Bob Swan rode a Mobileye autonomous car through Jerusalem congestion Sunday with pedestrians crossing the street and traffic going both ways, on and off ramps and through roundabouts.



Intel announced last October that Mobileye, along with VW Group and Champion Motor Group, are working to commercialise a robotaxi service. Swan said the plan is to deploy the self-driving ride-hailing service in Israel first, then expand globally. Software development is expected to be completed by the end of this year. The Mobileye operation is a bright spot among Intel's business lines as the company head for its first annual sales decline in four years.

Swan also said Intel are launching a 20-week program to aid early-stage Israeli startups working on artificial intelligence and autonomous system technologies. The program, called Ignite, is part of a strategy to re-invent "what it means to power a world where computing is really pervasive and contributes profoundly to our quality of life," Swan said.

Intel started operations in Israel in 1974 and together with Mobileye now have more than 12,000 people here, making it one of the country's largest employers. Last year Intel exported USD \$4bn worth of products from Israel, and Finance Minister Moshe Kahlon said in January the company are planning a new \$11bn plant in Israel.

Ignite will start operations later this year with as many as 15 hardware, software, and services companies.