

Waymo have entered into partnership with Renault and Nissan to pursue development of self-driving systems for a range of vehicles that will both carry passengers and haul packages.



The companies plan to work together exclusively to develop technology for vehicles that may be deployed in France and Japan. The collaboration marks the first step, and executives say it's too early to place a timeline on when any vehicles might be ready for testing or commercial deployment.

Waymo, the commercial spinoff of Google's self-driving car project based in Mountain View, California, already maintain partnerships with Fiat Chrysler Automobiles, Jaguar Land Rover, the AutoNation dealership group, ride-hailing network Lyft, and others.

The partnership with Renault and Nissan bolsters Waymo's bid to commercialise self-driving systems across a variety of applications and offers access to an alliance that sold more than 10.7 million vehicles in 2018. The tie-up expands Waymo's technology imprint beyond North America for the first time.

Renault and Nissan will create joint-venture companies in France and Japan, respectively, that are dedicated to developing self-driving mobility services. Together with Waymo, the companies will explore market opportunities and research commercial, legal and regulatory issues related to autonomous technology.

In the future, the partners may explore joint work in other markets. But the companies say those long-term plans don't include China.

The partnership adds more momentum to Waymo's aspirations to be a leader in AV tech. The company have said they've re-started testing of self-driving truck technology in the vicinity of Phoenix, Arizona.