



A plan to allow self-driving trucks to deliver goods in the Netherlands could accelerate the introduction of driverless cars onto public roads.

Under a plan by a group of logistics and technology companies unveiled on Monday, trucks without drivers could begin delivering goods from Rotterdam, Europe's largest port, to other Dutch cities within five years.

The Netherlands is reviewing traffic laws to make large-scale testing of the technology possible on public roads, Infrastructure and Environment Minister Melanie Schultz van Haegen wrote to parliament in a letter outlining the plan.

Initial testing would start on computer simulations and the trucks will be tested on a closed track before ultimately driving out on public roads.

The goal is to make the technology commercially available within 5 years, according to one participant.

The Netherlands, a densely populated country, has a highly advanced infrastructure and is home to Europe's fourth largest airport, while Rotterdam port is a major European logistics hub.

The application was submitted by a consortium including the industry group Transport and Logistics Netherlands, DAF Trucks, Rotterdam Port and the Netherlands Organisation for Applied Scientific Research, or TNO.