

France's government, as part of a plan called New Industrial France Initiative, has decided to allow automakers to test self-driving cars on the country's public roadways, bringing France in line with other Western states. The project involves favoring the development of industrial and manufacturing sectors in the country, which will bring extra earnings to its gross domestic product.



Autonomous cars are not the only transportation-related item on the 34-point plan called "Nouvelle France Industrielle," which was unveiled in 2013 and is an ongoing project. It also involves the support of aircraft development, satellite propulsion, the next TGV trains, and supporting areas of research that will bring improved autonomy for electric vehicles, as well as an internal combustion car with an average fuel consumption of less than 2 L/100 km.

France's road network has seen autonomous cars at work before, but those were made by domestic automakers who were required to obtain special permits. With the new move, the country hopes to stimulate its economy with driverless vehicle testing.

As authorities in other countries have already stated, autonomous vehicles are a solution that will reduce road fatalities and make road traffic safer than ever.