

BMW and Daimler will cooperate on automated driving. Representatives from the two traditionally-rivalrous companies signed an agreement for a long-term strategic cooperative focus on joint development of next-generation technologies for driver assistance systems, automated driving on highways, and automated parking—all to SAE Level 4. In addition, further talks are planned to extend the cooperation to higher levels of automation in urban areas and city centres.



A key aim of the pact is quick market launch of the technology, which is expected to feature in passenger car systems for private customers from 2024. The two companies will each implement the technologies in their respective series products independently. The accord will see more than 1,200 specialists working together, often in mixed teams. They will be based at locations including the BMW Autonomous Driving Campus in Unterschleissheim, near Munich; the Mercedes-Benz Technology Centre (MTC) in Sindelfingen, and the Daimler Testing and Technology Centre in Immendingen.

BMW Group have been working on highly automated driving since 2006 and established a non-exclusive platform with technology specialists, suppliers and OEMs to take it to series maturity. Since 2017, work in this area has been consolidated at the Autonomous Driving Campus in Unterschleissheim, just north of Munich, and the industrialisation of the technology is being advanced with the support of partners.

Daimler have been working on series development projects not only for specific Level 3 vehicles but also for Levels 4 and 5. They've programmed their system in-house all along, and 2019 will see the launch in San José, California, of their first pilot programme, with Bosch, on L4/L5 self-driving vehicles in urban environs.