Introduction

The automotive industry faces the most significant changes in its history. Electrification and digitalisation are the new challenges. The latter trend will lead to new driver assistance systems, partially and fully automated vehicles, and connected mobility systems, bringing unprecedented comfort and safety to the users of vehicles.

New technologies are expanding traditional automotive engineering with new sensors, information and software technologies. The Austrian automotive supply industry makes up a significant share of the Austrian gross national product. The value of automotive parts and components exported from Austria is higher than the accumulated value of imported vehicles. The automotive sector accounts for about 14% of all researchers in the industrial sector, which is the highest share of researchers in Austrian industry. It is therefore important to initiate strategic support of the necessary research and development activities in order to secure Austria’s competitiveness in this field.

The experts within the Austrian Federal Ministry for Transport, Innovation and Technology from the mobility sector and the ICT sector initiated the creation of this Austrian RDI roadmap for the development of components, parts, services, infrastructure, pilots and test areas for automated vehicles. ECSEL Austria is coordinating this activity.

Digitalisation has stimulating effects for other sectors in the transport industry as well. Drones will change from remotely controlled systems to partially or fully automated devices. Trains and airplanes are already in process of being converted to more and more automated vehicles, and similar effects are expected for inland waterways. Digitalisation not only affects the vehicles themselves, but also transforms the related infrastructure. Intelligent vehicles take advantage of IT cloud services which get their information from sensors and communication systems along the roads.

We would like to thank all of the experts from Austrian industry and academia working together in several workshops to create this Austrian Research, Development and Innovation Roadmap for Automated Vehicles to ensure the continuation of Austria’s success in the mobility domain.

Josef Affenzeller  
Chairman ECSEL-Austria

Johannes Massoner  
Deputy Chairman ECSEL-Austria

The Austrian RDI Roadmap for Automated Vehicles serves several purposes:

- Joint view: to give a joint view of experts and stakeholders from ICT and mobility, necessary to tackle the challenges of automated vehicles
- Contribution to European activities: to prepare the ground for an Austrian contribution to establish a European platform for leadership in automated vehicles
- Input for future policy and funding: to provide input for the future Austrian technology as well as transport policy, and particularly for future RDI funding programs
- Guidance for SMEs: to serve as a guide for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), thus expanding the related Austrian ecosystem
- International visibility: to send a strong signal at the international level with regard to the Austrian strengths and RDI interests in the area of automated vehicles

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