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Hi IoT Feedback on Review of 'Guidelines for trials of automated vehicles in Australia'

We sincerely thank National Transport Commission (NTC) and Austroads, for their concerned interest regarding the safe trial and deployment of Automated Vehicles on our roads. We at Hi IoT believe that keeping a human in the loop is always the safest way for trial and deployment of Automated Vehicles. We strongly suggest that, human monitoring or remote controlling of the AV is essential during the transition phase from non Automated to Automated Vehicles. On road situations like, policeman using a hand signal to pull over a car can be easily dealt with, along with the problem of Trolley Effect.

The Tele-operation / monitoring of Automated Vehicles, will offer a solution to the transition phase uncertainties, which many of the companies and also the government authorities, in pursuit of Level 4 or Level 5 of Autonomy are facing today. We believe, in case of inevitable circumstances; whether to save a cyclist or a stray dog, a humane decision could only be made by a human mind rationalizing the circumstances at the very moment. The Human Integrated Autonomous Vehicle technology would prove its worth in challenges like changed traffic conditions, due to maintenance work, or extreme weather conditions, like floods or bushfires or even a need cross over a red signal to let an ambulance go through. At the same time as ensuring the safety of the occupants, we are ensuring the safety of others in the community.

The Teleoperators / Monitors will also need to be made liable, along with other parties involved in operating the automated vehicles safely on our roads.

Following are few evidences of Teleoperated Automated Vehicles by Remote drivers to mitigate risk and thus satisfy insurance requirements.

United States – California

The California Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) and the Office of Administrative Law approved regulations governing the driverless testing and public use of autonomous vehicles on California roads on February 26, 2018.

Nissan- Seamless Autonomous Mobility (SAM)

Nissan launched "Seamless Autonomous Mobility (SAM)" system developed with NASA to realize a fully autonomous mobility. It partners in-vehicle artificial intelligence (AI) with remote human support to help driverless autonomous vehicles make decisions in unpredictable situations

We would like to emphasise again that, safe Teleoperation by a Remote Driver or Humane Monitoring of an automated vehicle shall be an integral clause in the end to end purpose-built national law for automated vehicles.

Thank You