

American Center for Mobility, State of Michigan Celebrate Grand Opening

Leaders announce partnership with Microsoft to advance automated vehicle research, testing

YPSILANTI TWP., Mich. April 4, 2018 – Gov. Rick Snyder, along with business, government and academia leaders throughout Michigan, today celebrated the grand opening of the American Center for Mobility (ACM) and welcomed Microsoft as the exclusive data and cloud provider for the mobility center at the historic Willow Run site in Ypsilanti Township.

John Maddox, ACM president and CEO, announced that Microsoft will provide the Center with cloud resources and data infrastructure to advance the testing and development of connected and automated vehicles (CAV) as well as mobility technologies.

“We are excited to collaborate with Microsoft in our efforts to lead the world in the safe development of CAV technologies and to enable the safe deployment of these vehicles onto the nation’s roads,” Maddox said. “By adding Big-Data to our diverse and growing group of stakeholders and world-class partners, ACM is staking its claim as the preeminent global hub for mobility companies to develop and test their connected technologies and vehicles in a safe and controlled environment.”

Snyder said the Center’s grand opening combined with the announcement that Microsoft is the exclusive data and cloud provider, represents a pinnacle moment for the state in the mobility revolution.

“Intelligent vehicle technology is evolving rapidly and Michigan is the world leader in making sure the mobility technologies driving the future are safely developed, tested and eventually deployed,” Snyder said. “This important partnership with Microsoft will provide the American Center for Mobility with the proper digital capabilities to help translate testing data into technology innovations that will make transportation safer for all and fuel further economic growth across the state.”

ACM will collaborate with Microsoft to design a cloud-based Data Management & Analytics Platform (DMAP) solution to collect, store and analyze data from tests conducted at the Center. The solution will be based on the trusted Microsoft Azure cloud platform, which offers extensive capabilities for quickly developing and deploying new use cases. Using Azure and the DMAP solution will enable ACM and its partners to accelerate the development of (CAV) technologies, apps and industry standards, to create a safe environment for testing, validating, and enabling collaboration across all members.

“Vehicles are quickly becoming datacenters on wheels, and the opportunity to use the vast amounts of information generated to fuel innovation is unprecedented,” said Kevin Dallas, corporate vice president, artificial intelligence & intelligent cloud business development, Microsoft. “We’re proud ACM has selected Microsoft Azure as its exclusive cloud provider for its intelligent capabilities and the enterprise-grade security and compliance required to develop comprehensive solutions that help drive the future of mobility.”

Microsoft joins a long list of companies supporting ACM, including its founders AT&T, Visteon Corporation, Toyota, Ford and Hyundai America Technical Center Inc., and sponsors Subaru of America,



Inc., and Adient. In addition to serving as the Center's exclusive data and cloud provider, Microsoft will also hold a position on ACM's Industry Advisory Board (IAB).

Located on a 500-acre site that once housed a World War II bomber plant, the American Center for Mobility opened its doors for testing in December. One of 10 federally designated proving grounds for developing and testing self-driving vehicles, the Center provides a myriad of real-world environments with the ability to test under a range of driving environments and infrastructure that includes a 2.5-mile highway loop, a 700-foot curved tunnel, two double overpasses, intersections and roundabouts.

Today's announcement and grand opening celebration coincide with the start of ACM's next phase of construction that will add an urban intersection by this summer, followed by a series of building facades and additional urbanized infrastructure expected by the end of the year. The expansion project also includes a headquarters and lab with demonstration space.

The Center is a joint initiative with the State of Michigan founded in partnership with the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT), the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC), the University of Michigan, Business Leaders for Michigan, Ann Arbor SPARK and Ypsilanti Township.

The American Center for Mobility is part of PlanetM, a collaboration that represents Michigan's unique and vast ecosystem, connecting resources and opportunities for its consortium of members. Made up of private industry, government and institutions of higher learning, partners in PlanetM share the common goal of leading the development of smart solutions that will change the way people and goods are transported across all modes of transportation.

To learn more about how Michigan is leading the transportation revolution or to become member, visit PlanetM.com. To learn more about ACM, visit www.acmwillowrun.org.

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Editor's Note: Please find additional comments from Michigan elected officials and ACM Founders listed below with approved attribution.

"This grand opening is important news for our state," said Senator Stabenow. "I'm very pleased that we have secured funding in the recently-passed federal budget. The new Center is a great example of a public-private partnership that will ensure Michigan maintains its global leadership in developing and testing safe autonomous vehicles. The Center will guarantee our competitive advantage in developing the vehicles of the future."

U.S. Senator Debbie Stabenow (MI)



“Today marks an exciting new chapter in the development of connected and self-driving vehicles right here in Michigan, and I’m thrilled that this world-class facility is now open to help shape the next frontier of mobility,” said Senator Gary Peters. “I’m proud to have been a part of this project every step of the way, and I look forward to seeing the American Center for Mobility continue to grow as Michigan and the United States lead the world in the development and demonstration of these revolutionary, life-saving technologies.”

U.S. Senator Gary Peters (MI)

“This is an exciting day for Michigan and the future of mobility in this country,” Congresswoman Dingell said. “The grand opening of the world-class American Center for Mobility at Willow Run is a significant step forward in ensuring Michigan continues to lead the nation and the world in the safe testing and deployment of automated vehicles, which have the potential to reduce congestion, improve mobility for seniors and those with disabilities, and save lives on our roadways. This state-of-the-art proving ground is critical to ensuring the safe validation of these vehicles, which will transform mobility for decades to come. Today is a testament to what we can accomplish when we all work together, and I am proud that we can now say the American Center for Mobility is officially open for business.”

U.S. Congresswoman Debbie Dingell (MI-12)

“The ACM redevelopment provides the hope for a better future for our community, our children and grandchildren. We will be forever grateful to those who helped make it a reality. It was faith and a great team of individuals who didn’t really know each other – from the federal, state and county officials to the community who shared a common goal. It would be wonderful if we had this team approach for all goals and challenges we face.”

Brenda Stumbo, Ypsilanti Township Supervisor

“The cross-industry collaboration at ACM will pave the way for innovations that change how we think about driving,” said Mike Troiano, vice president, Internet of Things Solutions, AT&T. “As the exclusive cellular network provider at ACM, we are in a prime position to support automated vehicles through today’s network and the evolution for tomorrow.”

Mike Troiano, Vice President, Internet of Things Solutions, AT&T

“We are proud to be associated with what promises to be the premiere national facility for mobility and advanced automotive testing and product development,” said Sachin Lawande, president and CEO, Visteon. “The Center is ideally positioned to fulfill the need to further develop, test and validate new connected and automated vehicle (CAV) technologies that offer great promise for the nation’s transportation system. Teaming with ACM will help advance our own autonomous driving platform while bringing significant benefits to consumers, transportation users and transportation operators.”

Sachin Lawande, President and CEO, Visteon

“Toyota’s partnership with ACM will allow us to further research our mission of safer mobility for all. We now have a fully developed Research and Development operation in the heart of the auto industry in southeast Michigan which will allow for deep collaboration with ACM and other industry partners to reinforce this commitment.”

Shinichi Yasui, R&D Executive Vice President, Toyota



“We are very proud to partner with the ACM to help ensure safe testing and product development for future mobility,” said Jim Hackett, president and CEO of Ford Motor Company. “Our goal at Ford is to have a fully autonomous vehicle in operation by 2021. By partnering with the ACM, we are moving the needle with our Ford Smart Mobility plan to be a leader in autonomy, connectivity and mobility for our consumers. We want to make sure our autonomous vehicles adhere to the highest quality and safety standards. Partnering with the ACM will help Ford to achieve this goal through safe, rapid testing and deployment of this transformative technology that will inevitably save thousands of lives.”

Jim Hackett, President and CEO, Ford Motor Company

“Hyundai’s investment supporting ACM strengthens our long-term commitment to the advancement of safety and mobility through automated vehicle technology. Working together with industry, academia and government provides a collaborative environment to support new and innovative mobility solutions,” said Andy Freels, president, Hyundai America Technical Center Inc. (HATCI). “We are excited to be a founding member of the government-industry team at the neighboring ACM facility. As a founding member, we will help set the direction for CAV standards and test advanced technologies in a safe environment for the North American customer.”

Andy Freels, President, HATCI

“The American Center for Mobility is generating worldwide excitement as the automotive industry demands automated vehicle testing, and we’re proud to support this important work. Our team is already on-site and committed to ensuring the first phase of the facility is complete and opened for testing.”

Ralph Buckingham, Director Connected/Autonomous Technologies, Intertek