



Which industries will be impacted by self-driving?

Considering the changes self-driving will bring to the future, it is possible to elaborate on the effects it will have on different industries. Imagine a future with far fewer accidents by eliminating human driver errors, imagine significantly increased utilization of vehicle fleets and imagine human drivers replaced by virtual drivers. This line of thinking will lead to industries you might not consider at first. Let's take a look at a few examples. Fewer accidents will decrease the cost of insurance and customers will demand new insurance products based on another type of risk profile. Workshops will need to manage less bodywork and in turn, need to order less metal. Since the utilization of the commercial vehicle fleet will increase, fewer vehicles will need to be manufactured. Self-driving will also open new opportunities for the optimization of the passenger car fleets. New soft services will be needed to connect users, manage utilization planning and payments. The virtual driver will not need any sleep or rest and can just drop the passenger in a city center and drive to a parking lot in a less crowded place. However, a virtual driver cannot manually fill-up the vehicle with fuel or electricity, nor manually pay for it. Moreover, from an intrusion perspective, monitoring a trailer with transported goods cannot be done in the same way as by a human driver. Driver training might become a different and new type of training and certifications will be needed to manage an autonomous system, including the possibility of vehicles teleoperation. Authorities such as police, fire brigades etc. will need to approach driverless vehicles in a different way.

Vehicle OEMs and many Tier 1 companies are already impacted through ongoing research and development projects where automation will affect the total value chain. Automation is currently in use in confined areas such as in mines, harbors and agricultural areas; but, it will take a few more years for public road applications. The above line of thinking also indicates the future impact on many other essential industries, e.g. insurance, payment solutions, security, raw materials, infrastructure, gas stations, roadside restaurants, truck stops and hotels. What is more, it is becoming an arena for new emerging industries and many start-up companies.

The conclusion is that autonomous transport solutions will have a significant impact on many industries, for some it might even be a game changer!

This article was written by Fortos Autonomous Transport Solution practice. Please feel welcome to contact us to discuss the topic in greater detail or challenge our views.

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WANT TO KNOW MORE?

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