Only one week more! Over a hundred people are coming to the tenth Podcar City Conference, this time in Antwerp, Belgium. We look forward to hear about the latest developments in autonomous public transportation, innovation in design, ticketing and payments, mobility as a service and not least how to plan and prepare for a true sustainable city using zero carbon vehicles for all transportation needs.

We are also happy to announce a Government keynote at Podcar City Antwerp. Mr Philippe Muyters is the Minister of Innovation and Technology and will attend the conference with a keynote speech at 5.30 pm on Tuesday. Mr Muyters is a member of the N-VA party.

Peter Van Laer, Managing Director, Crossroad, is pleased to be part of the Podcar City Conference. “The initiative fits perfectly with our knowledge and experience in mobility services. Our public transport experts will be present to share their knowledge on new ways of moving people, both during the Conference and in support of the Design Challenge.”

The most important part of a conference is to have a great program. We are very happy with the work done by Professor Peter Hellinckx of the University of Antwerp, Ms Ingrid Evers from Crossroad, Belgium, Mr Ingmar Andreasson from Logistikcentrum, Sweden, Mr Ron Swenson from INIST, USA, Professor Shannon McDonald at Southern Illinois University, USA and Mr Fons De Mey, Crossroad, Belgium.

FULL PROGRAM AT PAGES 6-10
Rail systems’ expansion, even high speed rail in California, has begun to explode in North America and it is critical that the cities to be served find the optimum feeder systems. The challenge is to transport intercity passengers from these central terminals to employment, government buildings, event venues, airports, universities, and other major trip generators. If unused rail corridors or other right of ways (ROW) exist, and the demand is heavy, the choice might easily focus on light rail but that is often not the case. Rather, restricted access and lack of available ROWs around the stations pose a major challenge. Automated Transit Networks (ATN) including the unique subset described as Podcars, might be the answer in those crowded metropolitan centers.

Podcars suspended from a rigid guideway create a stable ride, transporting up to six passengers per car running approximately 60 seconds apart. These can be dispatched to individual stops along the guideway by the computer controls at the boarding location or in the cars. Automatic skip-stop dispatching allows cars to pass those stopped in boarding areas. This electrically powered system is automated, driverless (though with real-time camera surveillance) and requires minimal maintenance, so, once built, are quite economical and safe. Most significantly for urban planners, the system can be suspended over current boulevards on relatively light, median-strip anchored pilings instead of requiring a new ROW. The concept of ATN has been around since the 1950s, but presently only a limited number of installations exist around the world that embody the full set of operational features. These are in Morgantown WV USA; Heathrow Airport, London; Masdar City, Abu Dhabi; Rotterdam, Netherlands; and Suncheon Bay, South Korea.
Organizers:

Sponsors and cooperating organizations:

Understanding that ATN's are designed to reduce congestion, improve mobility, and reduce environmental impacts, San Jose State University's (SJSU) Mineta Transportation Institute (MTI) has conducted several objective research studies on this technology and has co-sponsored international Podcar City Conferences since 2009.

MTI Research Associates Dr. Burford Furman and Mr. Ron Swenson, who lead SJSU’s Spartan Superway project, together with Mr Larry Fabian and Mr Peter Muller, authored the MTI report titled “Automated Transit Networks (ATN): A Review of the State of the Industry and Prospects for the Future” which explains ATN technology in the larger context of Automated Guideway Transit (AGT), looks at the current status of ATN suppliers and developers, and the prospects of a US-based ATN industry. In addition, the study summarizes proceedings from the Podcar City Conferences held between 2007 and 2013, and documents the U.S./Sweden Memorandum of Understanding on Sustainable Transport. Finally the study discusses how ATN might meet first and last mile needs of existing transit systems; explains the opportunities and challenges in planning and funding ATN systems; considers ATN procurement concepts; and concludes with a summary of the challenges and opportunities for ATN technology. The study is intended to be an informative tool for planners, urban designers, and those involved in public policy to provide a background on ATN to use for policy development and added research.

Major cities in California, including San Jose in the heart of the Silicon Valley, are seriously considering Podcar technology as a first and last mile alternative. Such technology will require a concept study, alternative analyses, environmental clearance (EIR/S), and preliminary engineering before the project can be bid and built. That eight to twelve year cycle of study and construction means that California is already late in preparing the feeder systems to handle the deluge of high-speed rail riders arriving in 2025. Now is the time for action and Podcar technology is one of the promising alternatives that should be considered as this new integrated, sustainable transportation system for California and the nation is implemented.
Yes, it is true.

Uber will install 100 autonomous cars on the streets of Pittsburg for semi-public use (as taxis) this month. The XC90 is a large SUV with hybrid and all electric capability, suitable for urban environments with strong regulation on pollution. The project just started and we are excited to see how this will play out in the near future.

In Finland, close to the Vantaa International Airport, the Easymile system recently installed a demo facility with their autonomous minibuses. This one of several examples of the fast expansion and interest in this technology where companies such as Easymile lead the new age of transportation. We are looking forward to hear and read more about this project and other technology providers similar to this at the Podcar City Conference.

..and Volvo XC90 goes Pittsburg with Uber!

Organizers:

Sponsors and cooperating organizations:
ATRA’s primary purpose is to leverage advanced transit to improve the quality of urban life. To do this, we need to understand advanced transit and what we mean by quality of urban life. Let’s examine both of these concepts.

Fundamentally advanced transit is the transportation of people (and goods) in a way that is superior to conventional transit. It seeks to improve transit by applying some, or all, of the following techniques:

* Using small vehicles accommodating people traveling to one, or very few, destination stations
* Locating numerous stations on sidings (offline) so walking distances are short and vehicles not destined there can pass by without stopping
* Running the vehicles on a network of dedicated guideways linking all stations and separated from pedestrians and other traffic thus enhancing safety and alleviating surface congestion

In order to achieve a reasonable capacity and level of service at a reasonable cost, based on the above techniques, an advanced transit system will typically have:

* Driverless computer control of vehicles
* Short headways (time between vehicles)
* Typically facilitated by onboard switching

Since there is no requirement to apply all of the above criteria, advanced transit can take many different forms. Indeed driverless taxis may evolve to be a form of advanced transit. This leads us back to consider cars, transit and quality of life.

Some believe that automated taxis will remove the need for transit. However, history indicates that there is no one silver bullet. It is far more likely that automated taxis will attract some people from cars and some from conventional transit, and that advanced transit will do the same. Also, it is likely that automated taxis and advanced transit will both feed passengers to conventional transit.

In terms of quality of life, advanced transit has the possibility of enabling car-free communities where the surface is dedicated to walking and biking and, instead of being paved, areas not used by buildings could be mostly vegetated. The price to be paid for this will be (hopefully aesthetic) overhead guideways accommodating numerous quiet and iconic small vehicles. Driverless cars, on the other hand, may increase urban sprawl, vehicle miles traveled and area of pavement, making walking and biking more difficult.

I know which future I would prefer.

If you are not already a member, please join ATRA. Membership is an opportunity for you and or your organization to contribute to a better world by leveraging advanced transit to improve mobility and accessibility for all, while increasing safety and reducing energy use and pollution. ATRA membership works best for those that get involved and contribute.

Best regards,
Peter J. Muller, P.E., President
PROGRAM

The conference is divided into two tracks. Please see “Conference Track” first and after you will find “Auxiliary Tracks/Design Challenge” and “Rivium Monday Visit”

Conference Track: Podcar City 10 Program

MONDAY SEP 19 (Arrival)

6.30 PM Networking Event: Ice Breaker Reception @ Town Hall Antwerp
  Koen Kennis, Vice Mayor of Antwerp, ‘Welcome’

TUESDAY SEP 20 (Conference Day 1, University of Antwerp)

8.00 AM Registration

9.00 AM Welcome / Mobility in Antwerp
  Christer Lindström, 4Dialog, Ingrid Evers, Crossroad, ‘Conference Opening’
  Koen Kennis, Vice Mayor of Antwerp, ‘Antwerp Mobility Roadmap’

9.40 AM Operational Podcar Systems, moderated by Ingmar Andreasson
  Dennis Mica, 2getthere
  Gilbert Gagnaire, Easymile, ‘Reclaiming cities for People’
  Matthew Lesh, Local Motors
  Andries Louw, Milotek, ‘The Futran System – Breeding The Paradigm Shift’

11.00 AM Coffee Break

11.15 AM Enabling Technologies, moderated by Fons De Mey
  Richard Harris, Xerox, ‘Mobility as a Service – improved transportation’
  Geert Vanbeveren, Siemens, ‘Intermodal Transportation as the basis for MaaS’
  Serkan Arslan, Nvidia, ‘Enabling vehicles to See, Think, and Learn for Autonomous Transportation and Driving’

12.15 PM Digital Payments, moderated by Ingrid Evers
  Christel Marcelis, KBC Bank
  Andrew Slattery, Mastercard, ‘Transit – Smart Mobility’
  Roger Kesteloot, VVM De Lijn

1.15 PM Networking – Lunch at Venue

2.15 PM Podcar Project Developments, moderated by Magnus Hunhammar
  David Watkins, Arup consultancy, ‘Making the case for innovative transport systems’
  Johan Janse, JJAdvies, ‘Improving Accessibility of RTH-airport Through Integrating PRT in Passenger Handling’
  Ingmar Andreassson, LogistikCentrum AB, ‘Synergies between driverless cars and ATN Systems’
  Peter Muller, PRT Consulting Inc. / ATRA, ‘Nine Podcar Stories from the US’

Four of our Speakers

Mr Koen Kennis is Alderman (Vice Mayor) in Antwerp and responsible for transport, finance and tourism. Mr Kennis is a member of the Volksunie party.

Christel Marcellis is Head of Solutions and Sales Payments at KBC Bank and is also managing Product Management and Innovation Payments in Belgium.

Andrew Slattery is Co-Branding Manager, MasterCard Worldwide and is addressing the topic on “Transit - Smart Mobility” at the conference.

Roger Kesteloot is General Director of De Lijn, the Flemish Transportation Company in Belgium.
3.35 PM Safety & Security, moderated by Ingrid Evers
Richard Koch, Ricardo Rail, ‘Safety Cases for Autonomous Transport Systems’
Karel Van Oudheusden, Altreonic, ‘The long road from proof of concept to real-world autonomous driving’

4.15 Coffee Break

4.30 PM Panel Discussion – Politics-Legal-Technology, moderated by Marc Geenen
Ann-Christin Frickner, Kompass / Upplands Väsby
Steven Thiré, Lige
Stefan Bergstrom, City of Sundbyberg
Aphram Melki, City of Järfälla
Roger Kesteloot, De Lijn

5.30 PM Closing – Keynote
Philippe Muyters, Minister of Economy and Innovation, Flemish Government

6.00 PM Networking – Pre-dinner Drinks

7.00 PM Conference Dinner

WEDNESDAY SEP 21 (Conference Day 2, University of Antwerp)

8 AM Registration

8.30 AM Sustainability / Energy / Climate, moderated by Christer Lindström
Ron Swenson, INIST, ‘Mitigating Climate Change with Solar Powered Transit’
Eric Rosenfeld, San José State University, ‘Solar Power Installation for an Automated Transit Network’
Burford Furman, San José State University, ‘Spartan Superway - Development Update’
Jörg Schweizer, Univ. of Bologna, ‘How can PRT achieve higher capacities at lower costs? A concept comparison’

9.40 AM Urban Impact of Automated Transit Networks, moderated by Johan Janse
Arthur Scheltes , Goudappel Coffeng, ‘How automatic vehicles can contribute to the liveability of an area’
Shannon McDonald, Southern Illinois University, ‘Rouse, New Town Columbia MD and Pod Car Design’
Lieselot Vanhaverbeke, Vrije Universiteit Brussel, ‘SELFCAR: ScEnarios for mobility in Flemish Cities with Automated dRiving’

10.40 AM Coffee Break

11.00 AM Multimodality, moderated by Matthew Lesh
Hilde Adams, VIM / BAAV, ‘Office on wheels’
Gary Hsueh, Arup consultancy, ‘Report from the Automated Vehicles Symposium 2016’
Peter Defreyn, VIM, ‘A study into the option of using the traffic sign database for setting up sustainable route navigation’

Organizers:

Sponsors and cooperating organizations:

Three of our Speakers

Ann-Christin Frickner Larsson
is the head of the league of Governments association “Kompass” focusing on new modes of transportation for cities in Sweden.
She is also an elected official and member of the center party, Sweden

Gary Hsueh is a Senior Transportation Planner for Arup. His focus is on the intersection of multi-modal transportation and technology. Gary has more than 13 years of experience working in transportation and land use planning across a range of scales and modes.

Joerg Schweizer has special competences in the field of Sustainable Transportation and in particular in micro-simulation techniques of bicycles and innovative public transport systems such as Personal Rapid Transit (PRT).
Three of our Speakers

Prof. Dr. Lieselot Van Haverbeke is Assistant Professor at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel, at the department of Business Technology and Operations (BUTO) and the research group Mobility, Logistics and Automotive Technology (MOBI).

Michael Berisch is researcher at the German Space Agency (DLR) and is working on A Hybrid Approach to Large Scale Simulation Based Traffic Assignment.

Dick van Sluis is vice Mayor of Capelle aan den IJssel and has been involved in the planning and execution of creating a more sustainable city in the Netherlands.

12.20 PM Networking – Lunch

2.00 PM City of Things, moderated by Peter Hellinckx
   Pieter Ballon, IMEC / iMinds
   Jérôme Lefebvre, Addax Motors, ‘Electric light commercial vehicles’
   Michael Behrisch, DLR (German Space Agency), ‘Planning automated public transport using traffic simulation’
   Jorik Rombouts, Rombit, ‘Romcore Smart Cities: the user-friendly city’
   Bernhard Mueller-Bessler, Promotives, ‘Digital Maps / Central or distributed intelligence in routing’

3.40 PM Coffee Break

4.00 PM Simulation / Modeling / Optimization, moderated by Joerg Schweizer
   Christer Lindström, 4Dialog, ‘4D Gamification Technology for On-demand Vehicles and Station Design’
   Nathan Koren, Podaris, ‘Innovation and collaboration: Why innovative transport needs better planning and design’
   Eugene Nishinaga, Transit Control Solutions, ‘A Control Solution Suitable for Large Scale ATN Applications’
   Waldemar Grabski, Warsaw University of Technology, ‘Eco-Mobility and Empty Vehicle Management’

5.20 PM Closing, moderated by Joerg Schweizer
   Winning Design Challenge Team, ‘Prototype Pitch’
   The Martin Lowson Student Paper Award
   Walter Kulyk, Formerly US DoT, ‘Conclusions’

5.45 – 6.45 PM Networking – Closing Reception
   Marc Van Peel, Vice-Mayor for the Port of Antwerp and the personnel of the City of Antwerp – President of the Antwerp Port Authority

Auxiliary Tracks: Rivium Park Shuttle Visit Program

MONDAY SEP 19 (Optional Visit Rivium Shuttle, Rotterdam)
10.00 AM Registration
10.30 AM Transport – Bustrip Antwerp – Rotterdam
12.00 PM Networking – Lunch from LunchBox
1.00 PM Session on Rivium Shuttle @ Rivium World
   Dick van Sluis, Vice Mayor Capelle aan den IJssel, ‘Lessons Learned from the perspective of the city’
   Peter Krumm, Connexxion, ‘Lessons Learned from the perspective of the operator’
   Carel van Helsing ten, 2getthere, ‘Lessons Learned from the perspective of the supplier’

2 – 3.30 PM Visit: Rivium Shuttle
4 – 5.30 PM Transport – Bustrip Rotterdam – Antwerp

Organizers:

Sponsors and cooperating organizations:
Auxiliary Tracks: Podcar City Design Challenge Program

TUESDAY SEP 20 (Design Challenge Day 1, University of Antwerp)

8.00 AM Registration

9.00 AM Welcome / Mobility in Antwerp [Merged with Conference Track session]

10.00 AM Discover – Intro to the Design Challenge, moderated by David Suijkerbuijk
   Chris Coeck, Port of Antwerp
   Onno Pruis, Movin, ‘Opportunities for POD – it all starts with a vision!’
   Fons De Mey, Crossroad, ‘Smart Mobility - What Does Belgium Have To Offer’

11.30 AM Dream – The Future of Mobility in Antwerp

12:30 PM Lunch

1.00 PM Design – Building Prototypes, part 1

6.00 PM Networking – Pre-dinner Drinks Poster Pitch

WEDNESDAY SEP 21 (Design Challenge Day 2, University of Antwerp)

8.00 AM Breakfast

9.00 AM Design – Building Prototypes, part 2

12.00 PM Lunch

12.45 PM Destiny – Jury Presentations

5.15 PM Closing [Merged with Conference Track session]

5.45 – 6.45 PM Networking – Closing Reception [Merged with Conference Track session]

MONDAY MEETING 10 AM FOR THE BUS TO RIVIUM PARK

Antwerp Bus Parking
Juction of Plantinkaai – Ernest Van Dijckkaai

Just 2 blocks west of
City Hall toward the water

Organizers:                                                                                                   Sponsors and cooperating organizations:

Three of our speakers

Mr Geert Vanbeveren is Head of Sales and Business Development for Innovative Technologies at Siemens AG, Mobility Management and has previously worked with smart grid applications.

Carel Van Helsdingen is the CEO and founder of 2Getthere and will discuss “Lessons learned from the perspective of the supplier”

Nathan Koren is the CEO of Podaris, UK and is specializing in design and planning of innovative transportation systems for better collaboration and understanding.
TRAVEL INFORMATION

Conference Venue September 20-21
Lange Winkelstraat 40 in Antwerp
Parking in the vicinity of the conference venue:
- Antwerp Shopping – Molenbergstraat 7 in Antwerp;
- Sint-Jacob – Sint-Jacobsmarkt 81–83 in Antwerp.

The conference venue itself has no parking. Paid parking on the street is also possible.

CITY HALL (Ice breaker reception on 19 September 18h30)
Address: Grote Markt 1, 2000 Antwerpen.
Parking in the vicinity of City Hall:
- Grote markt, Ernest Van Dijckkaai 3.

CONFERENCE HOTEL
Hotel Lindner
Lange Kievitstraat 125 in Antwerp
Parking in the vicinity of the conference hotel:
- Antwerpen Centraal, Van Immerseelstraat 2.

For public transport, we refer you to the website of De Lijn, the public transport operator in Flanders:

www.delijn.be

REGISTER NOW!
GO TO WWW.PODCARCITY.ORG/ANTWERP

CONFERENCE VENUE AND REGISTRATION

The conference will be held September 19-21 2016 at the University of Antwerp. Register at podcarcity.org

OFFICIAL CONFERENCE HOTEL

The Hotel for the conference is Hotel Lindner. To order a room with discount you email to

reservations.antwerpen@lindnerhotels.be

and in the email refer to

* Block ID nr. 8417210 and code ‘PCC10’;
* First and last name;
* Check-in and check-out date;
* Credit card details (card number and expiration date) to guarantee the reservation.

Every guest will get an individual mail as confirmation. Reservation after 15 August is still possible, but on availability.

€110 Single, €145 Double + €2,39 tax/pp/n
Wifi & Breakfast included
Electric charging is available at parking
Parking is €18/day

Organizers: KOMPASS
Sponsors and cooperating organizations: Lijn
http://www.universityofantwerp.be
http://www.crossroad-astra.be