

**Joint Declaration of Intent**  
**on the Cooperation in the Area of Automated and Connected Driving**

**between**

**The Federal Ministry of Economic Affairs and Energy**  
***(Bundesministerium für Wirtschaft und Energie)***

**– and –**

**The Federal Ministry of Transport and Digital Infrastructure**  
***(Bundesministerium für Verkehr und Digitale Infrastruktur),***  
**of the Federal Republic of Germany**

**– and –**

**The Ministry of Industry and Information Technology**  
**of the People's Republic of China**

**I. Background**

Automated and connected driving will be essential for future mobility and will transform the automotive industry towards new business models. It can greatly contribute to increasing traffic safety and efficiency as well as to the reduction of traffic-related emissions. The development and introduction of automated and connected driving also provides great opportunities for closer cooperation. This Joint Declaration of Intent between the abovementioned Ministry of Industry and Information Technology of the People's Republic of China and, the Federal Ministry of Economic Affairs and Energy as well as the Federal Ministry of Transport and Digital Infrastructure of the Federal Republic of Germany (together, the "**Partners**") sets forth the understanding between the Partners regarding cooperation in the area of automated and connected driving and related issues.

**II. Purpose and Basic Principles**

This Joint Declaration of Intent is subject to applicable laws and regulations in the People's Republic of China ("**China**"), the Federal Republic of Germany ("**Germany**") and the European Union. The purpose of this Joint Declaration of Intent is

- (i) to foster mutual understanding and exchange of information regarding the development of automated and connected driving in China and Germany,

- (ii) to promote cooperation between Chinese and German stakeholders in the area of automated and connected driving and
- (iii) to underline the Partners' commitment to create a level playing field and favourable market conditions for companies.

On this basis, the cooperation under this Joint Declaration of Intent aims at facilitating fair and non-discriminatory access for foreign companies to the respective domestic markets.

The Partners concur that "automated and connected driving" under this Joint Declaration of Intent covers automation and connectivity in the following sense:

"Automated" means all levels of automation as defined by the Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE) in its most recent Surface Vehicle Recommended Practice.

"Connected" means the capability of roadside infrastructure or of a vehicle to exchange information or data with other infrastructure, other vehicles, other devices and / or backend servers (e. g. V2X or ITS).

The cooperation under this Joint Declaration of Intent will be based on the following five principles: (i) non-discriminatory market access for foreign companies to the respective domestic market, (ii) transparency, (iii) reliability, (iv) equal treatment and (v) reciprocity.

In accordance with the above basic principles, recognising the differences in institutional organisations in China and in Germany, the Partners aim

- (i) to ensure for domestic and foreign companies equal rights of participation in standardisation bodies concerned with issues relating to automated and connected driving in their respective countries;
- (ii) to create conditions for equal access to and lawful usage of data, in particular in-vehicle and communication data (including, but not limited to, vehicle-to-vehicle and vehicle-to-infrastructure data and data necessary for the creation of high-definition maps).

### III. Specific Areas of Cooperation

Bearing in mind the aforementioned basic principles, the Partners have jointly decided on the following specific areas of cooperation:

1. Coordination and promotion of (on-going) international standardisation processes with regard to automated and connected driving. The aim is to facilitate the establishment and application of internationally harmonised standards. The Memorandum of Understanding between the China Automotive Technology and Research Center (CATARC) and the German Association of the Automotive Industry (VDA) to cooperate on Standardization and Regulation of Intelligent Connected Vehicles dated 20 January 2018 is an important step in this direction. The Sino-German Standardisation Cooperation Commission agreed at their annual plenary session on 29 May 2018 to pursue further exchange on the topic of automated connected vehicles with a view to identifying common standardisation interests in this area including options for closer cooperation.
2. Joint encouragement and promotion of harmonisation of technical requirements, in consistency with the respective transport safety needs, through multilateral fora such as the UNECE World Forum for the Harmonization of Vehicle Regulations (WP.29). The Partners will exchange about strategies and elements of type approval processes for intelligent and connected vehicles and relevant solutions.
3. Contribute to the development and application of non-discriminatory multilateral international standards and requirements for data access and storage, data transfer and cybersecurity relating to automated and connected vehicles and the corresponding infrastructure; these standards and requirements should reflect the reasonable interests of stakeholders such as vehicle manufacturers, other companies and consumers in the stored data.
4. Exchange on strategies, plans and experiences regarding the industry development as well as the deployment of automated and connected driving (e. g. automated and connected vehicles on public roads), revisions of road traffic laws, design of smart city use cases. Strengthen the exchange on policies and measures concerning the development of automated and connected driving. As regards participation in public road testing, the Partners aim to ensure equal conditions for domestic and foreign companies.
5. Exchange on the respective laws and regulations and their implementation with the aim to create a common understanding. The Partners aim at removing legal and regulatory market access barriers in the field of automated and connected driving.
6. Promote the development of international harmonised radio frequency solutions for automated and connected driving at the International Telecommunication Union.



7. Exchange of information regarding harmonised and interoperable solutions for communication technologies.
8. Exchange on equal access to national platforms for automated and connected driving as well as on equal access to supporting measures of the respective countries.

#### **IV. Form of Cooperation**

The cooperation under this Joint Declaration of Intent will be based on a consensus reached by the Partners. For the Chinese side, the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology of the People's Republic of China, as the leading ministry of the State Intelligent and Connected Vehicle Industry Development Committee of China, will be responsible for the organisation and coordination of the relevant ministries and agencies (these are in particular the current members of the abovementioned Committee) to participate in the cooperation under this Joint Declaration of Intent.

The Partners intend to keep the form of their cooperation pragmatic and simple, while at the same time strengthening the exchange on automated and connected driving, and to ensure the effective implementation of this Joint Declaration of Intent. This means that the Partners will take advantage of already existing working groups or other fora (e. g. the Sino-German Standardisation Cooperation Commission) should the specific area of cooperation mentioned under Section III fall within the scope of such working group or forum. Should no such working group or forum exist for a specific area of cooperation, the Partners will mutually decide on a case-by-case basis on how to address the issue in question.

The Partners have jointly decided to set up a high level dialogue mechanism (director general-level guaranteed). The dialogue will be jointly organised by the Partners with the participation of representatives from the relevant ministries and agencies from both countries.

The dialogue will take place once a year alternating between China and Germany. It will provide a forum to review the bilateral cooperation regarding automated and connected driving and to discuss remaining challenges and further prospects. Minutes of this dialogue will be consented between the Partners.

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**V. Reporting**

The effectiveness and implementation of this Joint Declaration of Intent will be evaluated annually by the Partners.

**VI. Contact Information**

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**VII. Duration**

This Joint Declaration of Intent comes into effect on the date of signature of all Partners. It should remain in effect until the cooperation under this Joint Declaration of Intent is discontinued by the Partners in mutual consent or on 9 July 2023, whichever is the earlier. Each Partner wishing to discontinue the cooperation under this Joint Declaration of Intent should do so by written notice to the other Partners at least three months prior to the intended discontinuation date.

Signed in duplicate in the Chinese, German and English language on 9 July 2018 in Berlin, Germany with all three language versions being equivalent. In case of any discrepancy or inconsistency between the language versions, the English language version should be used.

For the  
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