# General Motors' Cruise to Begin Testing Robotaxis in Phoenix with Safety Drivers



General Motors' Cruise autonomous vehicle division announced it will initiate testing of robotaxis in the Phoenix, Arizona area starting this week, with human safety drivers on board. This testing phase is planned to expand into neighboring cities including Scottsdale, Tempe, Mesa, Gilbert, Chandler, and Paradise Valley. The tests aim to evaluate the vehicles' performance in autonomous mode while ensuring safety drivers can intervene if necessary.

This move comes after Cruise's operations were halted in San Francisco in October, following an incident where a Cruise vehicle was involved in dragging a pedestrian. Subsequently, the California Public Utilities Commission criticized Cruise for not fully disclosing incident details, leading to a suspension of its license in California and significant operational and leadership changes within the company.

Cruise's choice of Phoenix for resuming tests was noted for its favorable conditions compared to San Francisco, such as wider streets and less traffic, which are expected to be less challenging for autonomous vehicle navigation. This testing phase represents a cautious approach by Cruise towards improving and validating their technology post the setbacks experienced in San Francisco.