# Wayve and Uber to trial Level 4 autonomous vehicles on London’s complex roads



Wayve and Uber have announced a significant partnership aimed at launching public-road trials of Level 4 (L4) fully autonomous vehicles in London. This initiative positions the UK as the largest market for Uber's autonomous vehicle pilots, underscoring London's complex urban landscape as a testing ground that differs markedly from previous locations in the US. The combination of Wayve's innovative Embodied AI platform and Uber's extensive global mobility network represents a critical advancement in the quest for practical applications of autonomous vehicle technology across Europe.

The partnership has been bolstered by the UK government's recent announcement of an expedited framework for self-driving commercial pilots. This regulatory shake-up is viewed as a pivotal move towards establishing the UK as a leader in autonomous technology. Wayve and Uber will work in conjunction with the UK Government and Transport for London to navigate the permitting and regulatory requirements necessary for the trials.

The trials themselves will be conducted in some of the most demanding driving conditions, where traditional vehicle navigation systems, heavily reliant on HD maps and pre-programmed rules, may falter. Alex Kendall, CEO and Co-founder of Wayve, expressed optimism regarding this initiative, stating, “This is a defining moment for UK autonomy. With Uber and a global OEM partner, we’re preparing to put our AI Driver technology into real service on the streets of London…” This ambitious project will build on Wayve's recent success demonstrated during their Global Roadshow, where their AI model adapted efficiently to diverse driving environments across 90 cities.

Simultaneously, Wayve's partnership with Uber extends beyond trial phases. Uber's investment—part of a larger $1 billion funding round led by SoftBank, which also includes contributions from major players like Nvidia and Microsoft—aims to accelerate the development of advanced driver assistance systems alongside the pursuit of autonomous capabilities. This funding is expected to enhance consumer vehicles and demonstrates a collective commitment to driving progress in UK AI capabilities.

Despite these advancements, the landscape of autonomous vehicle technology in the UK poses unique challenges. While Wayve and Uber advance their partnership, companies such as Oxa illustrate the ongoing complexities faced by the industry. While Oxa showcases cutting-edge technology with successful navigation in controlled environments, it also illustrates the limitations facing many current systems, particularly in unpredictable urban settings.

The road ahead for Wayve, Uber, and the UK's autonomous vehicle ambitions is filled with both opportunities and hurdles. By leveraging inventive approaches like Wayve's AV2.0—where AI learns from real-world experience similar to a human driver—there is hope for a future where autonomous mobility becomes a routine part of urban life. As Alex Kendall concluded, “It’s what gives us the confidence to launch a driverless ride-hailing service with Uber…” indicating that this partnership may serve as a crucial springboard for broader acceptance and integration of autonomous vehicles in urban environments both within the UK and around the world.

### 📌 Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://highways-news.com/wayve-and-uber-partner-to-launch-l4-autonomy-trials-in-the-uk/?utm_source=rss&utm_medium=rss&utm_campaign=wayve-and-uber-partner-to-launch-l4-autonomy-trials-in-the-uk), [[2]](https://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20240829768166/en/)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://highways-news.com/wayve-and-uber-partner-to-launch-l4-autonomy-trials-in-the-uk/?utm_source=rss&utm_medium=rss&utm_campaign=wayve-and-uber-partner-to-launch-l4-autonomy-trials-in-the-uk), [[3]](https://www.ft.com/content/a5704e29-545c-45e6-b7e3-d0a8cda285c4)
* Paragraph 3 – [[6]](https://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20240829768166/en/), [[4]](https://www.reuters.com/business/finance/softbank-leads-1-billion-funding-uk-self-driving-startup-wayve-2024-05-06/)
* Paragraph 4 – [[5]](https://www.ft.com/content/6fb5ac0b-9490-42a0-8e33-e62a892c3881), [[2]](https://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20240829768166/en/)
* Paragraph 5 – [[1]](https://highways-news.com/wayve-and-uber-partner-to-launch-l4-autonomy-trials-in-the-uk/?utm_source=rss&utm_medium=rss&utm_campaign=wayve-and-uber-partner-to-launch-l4-autonomy-trials-in-the-uk), [[6]](https://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20240829768166/en/)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://highways-news.com/wayve-and-uber-partner-to-launch-l4-autonomy-trials-in-the-uk/?utm_source=rss&utm_medium=rss&utm_campaign=wayve-and-uber-partner-to-launch-l4-autonomy-trials-in-the-uk> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20240829768166/en/> - Wayve, a leader in Embodied AI for self-driving, announced a strategic partnership with Uber, the world’s leading mobility and delivery network. Uber has also agreed to make a strategic investment in Wayve as an extension of the company’s previously announced Series C fundraising round. With the additional funding and support from Uber, Wayve intends to accelerate its work with global OEMs to enhance consumer vehicles with Level 2+ advanced driver assistance and Level 3 automated driving capabilities, while also working towards the development of globally scalable Level 4 autonomous vehicles for future deployment on Uber. ([businesswire.com](https://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20240829768166/en/?utm_source=openai))
3. <https://www.ft.com/content/a5704e29-545c-45e6-b7e3-d0a8cda285c4> - SoftBank is leading a substantial $1 billion investment in Wayve, a UK-based self-driving car start-up, marking the largest European artificial intelligence deal to date. This funding, with contributions from Nvidia and Microsoft, aims to facilitate the deployment of Wayve's autonomous driving systems in vehicles within the next few years. This significant deal not only underlines the UK's growing AI capabilities but also highlights the country's ambition to become a global leader in AI research and innovation. ([ft.com](https://www.ft.com/content/a5704e29-545c-45e6-b7e3-d0a8cda285c4?utm_source=openai))
4. <https://www.reuters.com/business/finance/softbank-leads-1-billion-funding-uk-self-driving-startup-wayve-2024-05-06/> - Wayve, a British self-driving technology startup, has secured $1.05 billion in funding led by SoftBank Group, with contributions from Nvidia and Microsoft. This Series C funding round, the largest for a UK AI-focused startup, brings Wayve's total funds raised to over $1.3 billion. The investment aims to accelerate the development of Wayve's Embodied AI technology, which adapts to human driving behavior and can handle unpredictable situations. Wayve's CEO, Alex Kendall, mentioned that their technology is integrated into various vehicle platforms, including electric cars like the Jaguar I-PACE and Ford Mustang MachE, and will advance through over-the-air updates. Despite the challenges in developing truly autonomous vehicles, including the difficulty in predicting and handling unexpected incidents, the significant investment highlights confidence in Wayve's approach. Prime Minister Rishi Sunak praised the funding as evidence of the UK's leadership in the AI industry. ([reuters.com](https://www.reuters.com/business/finance/softbank-leads-1-billion-funding-uk-self-driving-startup-wayve-2024-05-06/?utm_source=openai))
5. <https://www.ft.com/content/6fb5ac0b-9490-42a0-8e33-e62a892c3881> - The development of autonomous vehicles in the UK faces challenges despite technological advancements demonstrated by companies like Oxa, an Oxford University spin-off. While the Ford E-Transit van navigates complex roundabouts effectively, it struggles with unmarked junctions, showcasing both the sophistication and limitations of current AV technology. Legal restrictions and funding gaps hinder progress compared to US and Chinese counterparts such as Waymo. Oxa has shifted its focus to level 4 autonomy within controlled environments like colleges and airports. Wayve, another UK start-up, leverages AI for driver assistance instead of fully self-driving vehicles. Both companies aim to innovate within industrial settings or through driver assistance, differing from the original vision of fully autonomous cars. Despite the financial disparity, the UK's strong intellectual capabilities in AV technology hold promise for future success. ([ft.com](https://www.ft.com/content/6fb5ac0b-9490-42a0-8e33-e62a892c3881?utm_source=openai))
6. <https://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20240829768166/en/> - Wayve, a leader in Embodied AI for self-driving, announced a strategic partnership with Uber, the world’s leading mobility and delivery network. Uber has also agreed to make a strategic investment in Wayve as an extension of the company’s previously announced Series C fundraising round. With the additional funding and support from Uber, Wayve intends to accelerate its work with global OEMs to enhance consumer vehicles with Level 2+ advanced driver assistance and Level 3 automated driving capabilities, while also working towards the development of globally scalable Level 4 autonomous vehicles for future deployment on Uber. ([businesswire.com](https://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20240829768166/en/?utm_source=openai))
7. <https://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20240829768166/en/> - Wayve, a leader in Embodied AI for self-driving, announced a strategic partnership with Uber, the world’s leading mobility and delivery network. Uber has also agreed to make a strategic investment in Wayve as an extension of the company’s previously announced Series C fundraising round. With the additional funding and support from Uber, Wayve intends to accelerate its work with global OEMs to enhance consumer vehicles with Level 2+ advanced driver assistance and Level 3 automated driving capabilities, while also working towards the development of globally scalable Level 4 autonomous vehicles for future deployment on Uber. ([businesswire.com](https://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20240829768166/en/?utm_source=openai))