

# RoboCup 2009 GRAZ

June 29 - July 5 2009  
Stadthalle Graz  
www.robocup2009.org



## “Knight Rider” in Graz: An autonomous car drives the guests of honour of the RoboCup 2009 to the Stadthalle – without driver and without remote control

**Autonomous car drives State Minister Kristina Edlinger-Ploder, Mayor Siegfried Nagl and Graz University of Technology Rector Hans Sünkel to the robotics world championships**

Cult of the 1980s “Knight Rider” and “K.I.T.”, the intelligent, speaking car. Although it doesn’t quite work yet from the language point of view, as regards autonomous driving, the futuristic ideas of television-series makers have been fulfilled. A driverless vehicle takes people from A to B thanks to smart GPS and laser scanning technology. Or in this case, from Inffeldgasse to Fröhlichgasse. The guests of honour of RoboCup 2009, the autonomous-robot world championships hosted by TU Graz, will be chauffeured to the Graz Stadthalle by a driverless VW estate car at 9.30 am on 1st July, thus marking the opening of the RoboCup 2009. State Minister Kristina Edlinger-Ploder, Mayor Siegfried Nagl and Graz University of Technology Rector Hans Sünkel can lie back and relax and enjoy this unusual journey.

A car that can master urban traffic by itself and without a driver – the dream of all those with bad parking skills or missing driving licences. And not too far fetched, at least regarding technology. The latter is now so advanced that an adapted mass-production car can drive into a town autonomously, that is, without the interventions of a driver. And exactly this will be demonstrated in the course of the RoboCup 2009, the intelligent-robot world championships. State Minister Kristina Edlinger-Ploder, Mayor Siegfried Nagl and Graz University of Technology Rector Hans Sünkel will be driven by a driverless VW Passat from the TU campus at Inffeldgasse to the opening celebration at the Stadthalle. The driver’s seat will remain vacant, but an engineer will be sitting in the front passenger seat for safety reasons, so that he can intervene at any moment. The corresponding stretch of road will be cleared a short while before to ensure the autonomous car an unimpeded path.

### How the family estate car can go it alone

What is special about the exhibited autonomous car is that it looks just like a normal standard car with no trace of robotics or artificial intelligence. Hidden in the car body, however, are three laser scanners – two integrated in the front v environment, in other words, road conditions – buildings, other road users and

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pedestrians in a radius of 200 meters, thus integrating the car into the traffic flow. The car can orient itself with the help of a small GPS antenna on the roof. The control system for the electronic steering, transmission and brakes as well as electronically controlled acceleration are all integrated in the car.

The demonstration car is also competition savvy. The LUX research team of the Hamburg-based "Ibeo Automobile Sensor GmbH" company participated in the US American "Darpa Urban Challenge 2007" with this modified car, which involved over 150 kilometres of autonomous urban driving.



The passengers of the autonomous car: State Minister Kristina Edlinger-Ploder and Hans Sünkel, rector of Graz University of Technology (© TU Graz/Lunghammer)

## Autonomous Driving

**Time:** Wednesday, 1st July 2009, 9.30 am

**Route:** Inffeldgasse 16 – Sandgasse exit – right into Muenzgrabenstrasse – left into Froehlichgasse – trade fair grounds Hall B

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