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Jan 12, 2009 - 08:27 AM

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### Volvo Maps Driver Behaviour As Part Of EU Research Project

Posted by: MSulka on Dec 22, 2008 - 05:59 AM

*Auto News*

### Volvo Maps Driver Behaviour As Part Of EU Research Project

A fleet of 100 Volvo V70 and XC70 vehicles will take part in a three-year European Union research project called EuroFOT (Field Operational Tests) enabling Volvo Cars to monitor the behaviour of drivers and their reaction to complex traffic situations.

The initiative involves 28 partners from the automotive industry and academia, including the SAFER research centre at Chalmers University of Technology in Gothenburg, which will help assess the data collated by the Volvos taking part in European field tests.

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Each Volvo will be equipped with cameras that record the driver's head and eye movements, together with a data logger that records the information from the safety features in the car.

Other cameras will film the driver's view of the road, also behind the car. The information and the videos are saved on a hard disk from where the researchers can analyse patterns.

The overall ambition is to develop a safer, cleaner and more efficient road transportation system in Europe. Sweden has a leading position in the world when it comes to advanced collection of field data. Knowledge from an ongoing national FOT project, where Volvo Cars is a part and which is organised by SAFER research centre at Chalmers in Gothenburg, will be used in the EuroFOT project.

"In order to move towards a crash-free future, we need to learn more about what kind of mistakes and situations that might lead to accidents," says John-Fredrik Grönvall, senior Research engineer and leader of the Field Operational Tests (FOT) at Volvo Cars.

About three million kilometres of everyday driving will be recorded and analysed by the researchers. The cars will be equipped with preventive safety features that already are available on the market today (see note to editors).

"In Sweden, 150 Volvo vehicles will be included in the project; 100 cars and 50 trucks equipped with advanced logging devices. In addition, 275 vehicles in Europe will get less advanced equipment and another 1,000 responses will be secured by letting the drivers fill in a survey," says Trent Victor, research leader for Road User Behaviour at SAFER.

"This project gives us an opportunity to prove the effectiveness of today's range of preventive safety features and it will also help our engineers develop future safety solutions," continues John-Fredrik Grönvall.

"There will always be a need for individual flexibility and therefore a need for cars," says Helena Gellerman, project manager for SAFER. "The car industry has always been in the forefront with new technology. By competing successfully with the public transportation, they help pushing the borders towards a safer and more environmental friendly society."

Volvo Cars has studied and learned from real-life traffic accidents since the early seventies in order to continuously assess the vehicle's ability to protect its occupants in the event of an accident. The introduction of active safety systems, driver assistance systems and preventative safety systems requires new and entirely different research methods, hence its involvement in the research project.

The Swedish partners in EuroFOT are investing 72 million SEK over a three year period. The project kicked off in May 2008 and the total budget is 200 million SEK.

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**Thu, January 15 2009**

F1 - LAUNCH - Toyota

**Fri, January 16 2009**

F1 - LAUNCH - McLaren

**Mon, January 19 2009**

F1 - LAUNCH - Renault R29

F1 - TRACK DEBUT - Williams FW31

**Tue, January 20 2009**

F1 - LAUNCH - BMW

**Fri, January 23 2009**

GP2ASIA - RACE - Bahrain

**Sat, January 24 2009**

GRAND AM - RACE - 24 At Daytona

GP2ASIA - RACE - Bahrain

**Sun, January 25 2009**

GRAND AM - RACE - 24 At Daytona

A1GP - RACE - Taupo

**Fri, January 30 2009**

WRC - RALLY - Ireland

**Sat, January 31 2009**

WRC - RALLY - Ireland

**Sun, February 01 2009**

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**Thu, February 05 2009**

MOTOGP - TEST - Sepang

**Fri, February 06 2009**

MOTOGP - TEST - Sepang

**PaddockTalk - Auto Show Feed**

Associated Press

The Detroit Auto Show opened on Sunday with new hopes because of new technologies, including fuel cell. The AP's Amy Sancetta takes a look at some of the new cars hitting the market. (Jan. 12)

Associated Press  
Video Essay: New technology highlight auto show

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AP Top Stories

Associated Press  
Electric vehicles take center stage in Detroit

CBS NEWS  
New Cars For '09

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A New Year For The Economy

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- [Automobili Lamborghini Increases Worldwide Sales Again In 2008](#) (01/11/09)
- [Lamborghini Presents Highly Individualized Super Sports Cars At The Detroit Auto Show](#) (01/11/09)
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