

SINGAPORE

Singapore to test first autonomous electric buses

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Fully engaged in the sustainable transport development strategy initiated by the Land Transport Authority of Singapore, the public transport operator SMRT, in coordination with the Nanyang Technological University (NTU), is preparing to test two electric vehicles autonomous.

A partnership agreement, signed in January 2018 between various Singaporean stakeholders and Volvo Bus, aims to put into circulation two autonomous electric buses. According to the terms of this agreement, the tests must be carried out within the SMRT fleet. They concern Volvo 7900 12-meter, 100% electric models in the software platform from which Volvo and NTU develop an autonomous driving solution. It is the ABB equipment that provides the charging infrastructure according to the OppCharge standard.

The first bus is integrated into the Cetran program (Center of Excellence for testing and research on autonomous vehicles). The objective is to study the interactions between an autonomous vehicle and other road users. After an internal battery of tests, the model is now ready for testing in real traffic conditions. It can accommodate 80 people and is able to travel 25 km at full load.

The second bus is dedicated to the study of the capacity of an autonomous bus to move without driver in the enclosure of the warehouse to go to recharge its batteries, to pass to the washing or to park at the end of its service. The study will span two years with a focus on Singapore's ability to count 50% of autonomous buses in its fleet by 2050.