

News Release

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Vantec Europe supports groundbreaking autonomous logistics project at Port of Tyne

Vantec Europe is proud to be supporting a pioneering new initiative that is set to transform the future of freight logistics in the UK. In collaboration with the **North East Automotive Alliance (NEAA)**, the **Port of Tyne**, and autonomous vehicle technology provider **Oxa**, the project has secured government funding through the **CAM Pathfinder – Enhancements programme** to deliver **P-CAL (Port-Connected and Automated Logistics)**.

This innovative project will demonstrate **autonomous container transport** at the Port of Tyne, marking a UK-first in waterside port automation. The initiative is funded by the **Centre for Connected and Autonomous Vehicles (CCAV)** - a joint unit between the **Department for Business and Trade (DBT)** and the **Department for Transport (DfT)** - and delivered in partnership with **Innovate UK** and **Zenzic**.

Paul Butler, CEO at NEAA, said: “P-CAL addresses the unique demands of quayside operations, where vehicles must coordinate precisely with cranes and navigate a constantly changing environment. This project will showcase the future of freight logistics.”

A Leap Forward in Connected and Automated Mobility (CAM)

P-CAL builds on the success of previous government-backed projects such as **5G CAL** and **V-CAL** but takes a significant step forward by operating in a new and complex **Operational Design Domain (ODD)**. The project will deploy a **fully autonomous terminal tractor** to move containers between the dockside and the container compound, navigating a high-traffic, dynamic quayside environment.

Key challenges addressed include:

- Real-time coordination with cranes
- Seamless integration with Terminal Operating Systems
- Robust cybersecurity for safe, remote operations

Mike Biddle, Executive Director for Net Zero at Innovate UK, commented:

“This latest investment in the UK's CAM sector will enable the UK to continue at the forefront of this technology. It's a vote of confidence in the industry's potential.”

A Collaborative Effort

The project is being delivered by a consortium of industry leaders, including:

- **NEAA**
- **Port of Tyne**
- **Oxa**
- **Nissan**
- **Newcastle University**
- **Angoka**
- **Vantec Europe**
- **BP**
- **Womble Bond Dickinson**

Together, this group brings deep expertise in automation, cybersecurity, logistics, and legal compliance.

Driving Innovation and Sustainability

Running over nine months, P-CAL aims to demonstrate a **scalable, safe, and commercially viable autonomous logistics solution** that supports the UK's **Net Zero goals**, while enhancing operational efficiency and safety. The project is expected to:

- Reduce logistics costs
- Create high-skilled jobs
- Strengthen the UK's CAM supply chain
- Lay the groundwork for wider adoption of autonomous logistics across UK ports and distribution centres

Gavin Jackson, CEO at Oxa, added:

“What we're showcasing here—safely automating complex container movements in a dynamic port environment—will act as a blueprint for port terminals in the UK and beyond.”

This project reflects Vantec Europe's ongoing commitment to innovation, collaboration and sustainable logistics. We are proud to play a role in shaping the future of autonomous freight transport in the UK and beyond.

〈Pictures at the event〉



Image: One of three Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO) Terberg tractor units purchased by Vantec Europe for the V-CAL project.

Toward New Dimensions
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