Swedish Families Help Volvo's Autonomous Car Project

Volvo Cars have started developing its autonomous drive cars with help from Swedish families who will test its cars on the public roads of Gothenburg and feed back their impressions to Volvo Cars engineers.

The first two families, the Hains and the Simonovskis from the Gothenburg area, have now received the Volvo XC90 premium SUVs with which they will support the Drive Me project. Three more families will follow early next year and over the next four years, up to 100 people will be involved in Drive Me.

Both families will contribute to Drive Me with invaluable data by allowing engineers at the company to monitor their everyday use and interaction with the car, as they drive to work, bring the kids to school or go shopping for groceries.

Volvo Cars plans to have a fully autonomous car commercially available by 2021 and the data derived from Drive Me will play a crucial role in the development of these autonomous cars. "It feels and will use their experiences to





The Hain Faimly (left) and the Simonovski families from the Gothenburg area.

great to be a part of this project," said Alex Hain, 45 years old. "We get the chance to be part of developing technology that will one day save lives."

Drive Me will involve real customers testing the different stages of driver assisted and eventually fully autonomous technology.

"Drive Me is an important research project for Volvo Cars," said Henrik Green. Senior Vice President for the company's R&D department. "We expect to learn a lot from engaging these families

shape the development of our autonomous driving technology, so that by 2021 we can offer our customers a fully autonomous car."

The Hains and the Simonovskis have received Volvo XC90s fitted with Volvo's latest driver assistance technology as well as an array of cameras and sensors to monitor their behavior and provide the car with information on its surroundings.

During these first stages, the families will keep their hands on the steering wheel and supervise the driving at all times when using their cars. But, over time, all participants in the Drive Me project will gradually be introduced to more advanced assisted driving cars, after receiving special train-

Even then, testing these more advanced cars will initially take place in controlled environments with supervision from a Volvo Cars safety expert. No technology will ever be introduced if there is any question over its safety.

This means Volvo Cars continues to develop autonomous cars with the same care and thoroughness that has helped it establish its position as the builder of some of the world's safest cars.

The Hain family comprises Alex and Paula (45 years old), and their daughters Filippa (17) and Smilla (14). The Hains were the first people chosen to take part in Drive Me earlier this year.

They are now joined by Sasko Simonovski (44) and his wife Anna (41), and their children Elin (10) and William (8).

Additional families will be added going forward as the proj-

Tata Rolls Out India's First Fuel Cell Bus; Other Vehicles

Tata Motors of India has launched the future of mass public transportation at its Pune facility and took another step in the direction of green technology and mobility solutions.

The company launched the Starbus Electric 9m, Starbus Electric 12m and the Starbus Hybrid 12m range of buses which are designed, developed, powered by alternate fuels and made in India. The company says will be a good for smart cities. The company also showcased the country's first Fuel Cell bus (12m), LNG Powered bus (12m), and an 18m Articulated bus.

The Hydrogen Powered Starbus Fuel Cell bus is a zero-emission mass transport solution, for inter-city commute and has been developed in partnership with ISRO (Indian Space Research Organisation). Combining hydrogen gas and oxygen, the fuel cell produces electricity to power the electric motor, with water and heat as a byproduct.

This is the first time an Indian



direction. As far as Electric buses are concerned, Tata Motors finds a rival in the form of Ashok Leyland who recently revealed the Circuit series of all-electric buses which was in fact India's first of

Ravindra Pisharody, Executive Director - Commercial Vehicles,

sistently been developing and manufacturing products that can contribute to CO2 reductions across all road transport segments and with early investments in new technologies, we are geared up to further strengthen our market leadership. With our new range of Future ready buses, we will

mass public transportation, with a commitment towards striking the right balance between sustainable growth and profitability."

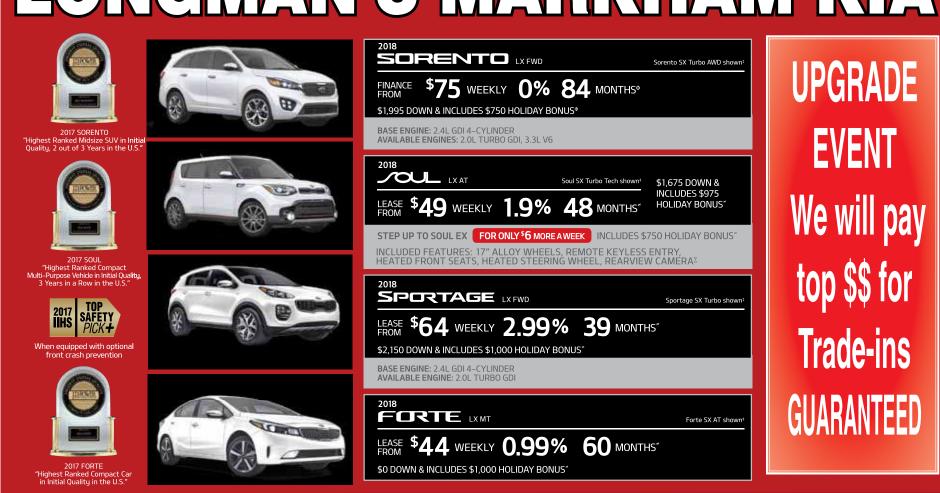
Speaking at the launch. Guenter Butschek, Chief Executive Officer & Managing Director, Tata Motors, said, "Tata Motors has always been at the forefront

of the clean and green emission efforts of the Indian automobile industry. We are committed to develop automotive technologies and operate manufacturing facilities that are environmentally sustainable. In line with our mission 'to innovate mobility solutions with passion to enhance quality of life', we have worked on various alternate fuel technologies for the widest range Smart Buses for Clean & Green Cities. In our journey for quest for excellence, we will further our efforts towards launching and developing cleaner and more efficient vehicles, reducing the environmental

Tata Motors currently designs, develops and manufacturers its buses in Pune, Dharwad, Pantnagar and Lucknow. Besides its partnership with ACGL of Goa for bus bodies, Tata Motors also has a joint venture with Marcopolo S.A. of Brazil, one of the largest bus body manufactures' in the world, for fully built bus (FBV) solutions.

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