

Response to the Automated Vehicles Bill Call for Evidence on behalf of Oxa

1. It is our pleasure to respond to this call for evidence. The Automated Vehicles Bill is a fundamental piece of legislation that will unlock a transport revolution, bringing both societal and economic benefits to the UK.
2. Oxa is a leading UK self-driving software developer headquartered in Oxford, with international offices in the United States and Canada. We were established in 2014, spun-out from Oxford University's renowned robotics programme. We were the first company to trial self-driving technology on UK public roads in 2016 after the publication of the Code of Practice for Automated Vehicle Trialling. That experience has culminated in the launch of our first commercial product. In March 2024, our self-driving software was used by our US fleet operations partner, Beep, to launch a passenger shuttling service in Florida. This is the first time a UK company has supplied third party self-driving software to a US company.
3. We launched in the US first because the legislation there provides a clear path to commercial deployment without a driver. The UK must pass the Automated Vehicles Bill to enable its world-leading self-driving technology industry to deploy similar services here; better connecting people and goods than ever before.
4. This Bill is the culmination of over four years' work and we are grateful for the time taken by both the Law Commissions and UK Government in ensuring industry - and wider stakeholders - have had the chance to input. This Bill is a sensible, comprehensive, and proportionate approach to legislation, with the potential to put the UK at the forefront of the automated vehicle revolution.
5. After Royal Assent, the collaborative and consultative approach championed by the UK Government must continue as secondary legislation is developed. Oxa stands ready to provide support as we have done since 2014.