

2022 LA Auto Show: How autonomous driving is arriving in LA

By Chris Schlueter Langdon, 2023-03-02

Los Angeles Auto Show

The Los Angeles Autoshow is known for being one of the premier auto shows in North America, showcasing the latest and greatest innovations in the automotive industry. Dating all the way back to 1907, the LA Autoshow is now recognized for showcasing cutting-edge technology and more environmentally friendly vehicles, including electric cars, hybrid vehicles, and alternative fuel vehicles. Major automakers use the LA Autoshow to unveil their latest models and concept cars. Additionally, the show features a variety of outdoor and indoor driving exhibits, interactive displays, and special events, making it a popular attraction for car enthusiasts and industry professionals alike.



Figure: Autonomous for downtown LA, boosting VW with a reborn Bulli & Scout brand

From LA Confidential* to LA Autonomous?

The LA Autoshow 2022 showcased numerous innovations that continue to evolve and significantly impact the mobility sector, for example:

1. Trendsetter California continues to lead the nation in mobility. The LA Autoshow underscores how the Golden State is paving the way for **autonomous driving**, **electrification**, and **mobility services**. 2022 government statistics indicate that California, with 10 percent of the nation's cars, now accounts for over 40 percent of all zero-emission cars in the US. California's 1 million electric vehicles sold annually surpasses the total sales in the next ten states combined.
2. **Motional** showed up in LA with its all-electric **Hyundai Ioniq 5 robotaxi**. This is the first time a robotaxi has been presented at the LA Autoshow and offered many members of the public their first look at a fully autonomous vehicle. Motional, an American independent vehicle company founded in March 2020, is a joint venture between automaker Hyundai Motor Group and auto supplier **Aptiv**. At the show, Motional and Lyft announced the planned launch of a fully driverless ride-hail service in Los Angeles. The LA service will use Motional's Ioniq 5-based robotaxis and will be the first time that residents in Los Angeles can request an autonomous vehicle (AV) via the Lyft app ([link](#)).
3. **Waymo**, a Google company operating the world's first autonomous taxi service in Arizona, is preparing for its first beachhead in Los Angeles. Waymo is set to test driverless rides with employees in Los Angeles, [link](#). Waymo also revealed a prototype for an all-electric, driverless robotaxi developed in cooperation with **Geely Auto Group**. The vehicle is called the **Zeekr M-Vision** and is based on the **SEA-M** platform, a development of Geely's Sustainable Experience Architecture (SEA) for autonomous vehicles ([link](#)).
4. **Volkswagen** seeks to capitalize on its California dreaming heritage with a new VW Bus and by reviving the Scout brand. The new Bus is called "**ID. Buzz**" and is the newest successor to the iconic late 1960s Volkswagen Type 2. The puttering hippie bus "wasserboxer" engine has been replaced with a state-of-the-art zero-emission electric drivetrain. The ID.Buzz vehicles on display are European production models, their US cousin will be manufactured a bit longer to allow for third row seating. VW also relaunched an entire brand in the light truck sector. Instead of entering the highly competitive full-sized truck and SUV segment under the Volkswagen brand, the company is reviving the **Scout** brand, which it acquired with the acquisition of Navistar trucks in 2022. Scout is an American automotive marque originating from the off-road vehicle International Harvester Scout, produced in the 1960s until 1980. Scout will launch with an all-electric truck and SUV to be built in the US.

References

* LA Confidential is a 1997 American crime film with actors Guy Pearce and Academy Award winner Russel Crowe based on James Ellroy's 1990 novel about the intersection of police corruption and Hollywood celebrity (IMDb, [link](#)). The movie was a critical and commercial success with a gross of \$126 million against a \$35 million budget and a Rotten Tomato score of 99% (Rotten Tomatoes, [link](#)).

Boston, W. 2022. Volkswagen Is Bringing Back the Scout, the SUV Pioneer, as an EV - Move is part of VW's effort to boost its US presence. The Wall Street Journal (2022-05-10), [link](#)

State of California. 2022. California Leads the Nation's ZEV Market, Surpassing 1 Million Electric Vehicles Sold. Office of Governor Gavin Newsom (2022-02-25), [link](#)