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BETTER CYCLING OPTIONS THANKS TO RESEARCH INTO AUTONOMOUS VEHICLES

Snow, ice, wet leaves and gravel. There are lots of reasons why fewer people cycle in winter. Semcon will be responsible for part of the technical solution in a new research project aiming to examine how autonomous work vehicles can improve the accessibility of footpaths and cycle paths. More people may be persuaded to cycle all year round.

The purpose of this project, headed by research institute RISE, is to examine options for automated road management, including snow clearance and maintenance of cycle paths and other facilities. There is much to be gained from such a project:

- greater accessibility
- fewer accidents
- reduced costs to society
- improved quality of maintenance work

One important element of this project involves looking at how work vehicles interact with their surroundings – cyclists and pedestrians, for example – and traffic management centres.

“This project will give us the opportunity to operate in a wider context and look at a system solution where our cutting-edge technical expertise from previous projects will come in very handy. We will also help to ensure that more cyclists can cycle safely,” says Anne Piegsa, the team manager coordinating Semcon’s participation in the project.

Semcon is contributing expertise in the fields of autonomy and software to the research project. This includes the sensor systems and smart algorithms that interpret the surroundings and what the vehicle “sees”, but it also includes how the vehicle navigates independently on the basis of this information. Smaller tractors are the type of vehicle that the project will be using, and these can be deployed for various tasks all year round depending on their equipment levels.

The research project, which is being financed by InfraSweden2030 and the project partners, will be continuing for just over two years. The objective is to conclude the project with actual demonstrations. The project also involves looking more closely at the need to adapt infrastructure for automated road

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management, as well as the options for autonomous management and maintenance of roundabouts and junctions, for instance.

This project is being implemented as part of a partnership involving the academic community, authorities, service companies, contractors and product developers. Partners besides Semcon include the Swedish Transport Administration, RISE, Chalmers Industriteknik, Skanska, Peab, Svevia, Svensk Markservice, AstaZero, Lundberg Hymas, Alkit Communications and Teade.

[Read more about Semcon's offer in Applied Autonomy](#)

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