

## Google's self-driving cars are programmed to exceed speed limits by up to 16km/h

By Joe Miller, Technology Reporter



Dmitri Dolgov told Reuters that when **surrounding** vehicles were breaking the speed limit, going more slowly could actually present a danger, and the Google car would **accelerate** to keep up. Google's driverless **prototypes** have been widely tested on roads in the US. The UK will allow driverless cars on public roads from 2015.

Google first **announced** its driverless car **division** in 2010, and has been testing its technology in modified cars built by other manufacturers. The cars have travelled on more than 700,000 miles of open road, mostly in California.

In May, the US tech firm said it would start building its own self-driving cars. The bubble-shaped vehicles will seat two people, **propulsion** will be electric, and to begin with they will be limited to 25mph (40km/h) to help ensure safety.

In July, the UK government announced that driverless cars will be allowed on public roads from January next year. In addition, ministers ordered a review of the UK's road **regulations** to provide appropriate guidelines.

This will cover the need for self-drive vehicles to **comply** with safety and traffic laws, and involve changes to the Highway Code, which applies to England, Scotland and Wales. Commenting on Google self-drive cars' ability to exceed the speed limit, a Department for Transport spokesman said: "There are no plans to change speed limits, which will still apply to driverless cars".

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