

Regional Technology Development Site (RTDS) Case Study

Ottawa L5 and [Aurrigo](#)

Background on the Project

In the spring of 2019, Aurrigo was one of the first companies to begin testing its vehicles at Ottawa's custom-made private test facility; Ottawa L5.

Leaders in first and last mile autonomous technology, Aurrigo design, manufacture and deploy autonomous vehicles globally. Headquartered in Coventry, United Kingdom, Aurrigo has offices in Adelaide in Australia and in Houston Texas, landed in Ottawa in the spring of 2018.

The UK company develops and manufactures the driverless PodZero. With an operating speed of up to 24km/h, multiple battery options up to eight hours or 80 kilometers, PodZero transports both people and cargo. It can be designed to be wheelchair accessible and incorporate features to help visually impaired passengers. And, to ensure the safety of everyone on the road, PodZeros are monitored through Aurrigo's control room.

Aurrigo, which develops self-driving pods for the "first and last mile" of transportation, has signed a deal to test and validate two of its pods at Ottawa's L5 Connected and Autonomous Vehicles (CAV) test facilities. Managed by Invest Ottawa (IO), the private Ottawa L5 site provides a safe testbed for autonomous vehicles and the systems that support them. Industry leaders such as Ericsson, Nokia and BlackBerry QNX have outfitted the site with millions of dollars in connectivity technology.

Aurrigo's pods have been deployed recently in Asia and a few Scandinavian countries and Ottawa's climate offers Aurrigo a four-season testing ground available in few other locales. With weather conditions less than ideal in Ottawa with sleet, snow, freezing rain and more, the testing at Ottawa's four-season testing ground is in full swing.

A team from Aurrigo's UK office recently spent two weeks mapping out the 16-kilometre private test track in Ottawa's south end. There, Aurrigo will test the pods' sensors and responses to signage and various communication arrays in a controlled and monitored environment. Aurrigo's pods are first being tested at the private test site off Woodroffe Avenue and later will be tested at the public track in the Kanata North tech park.

A Description of the Support Invest Ottawa/Ottawa L5 have provided

Aurrigo has been able to take full advantage of the Ottawa L5 infrastructure and four-season climate. In Ottawa at the private test facility, Aurrigo is able to test on the 16 KM of paved roads and test interactions with high-definition cameras and sensors will taking advantage of present smart traffic intersections, pedestrian cross walks, one-way traffic lanes, bike lanes, speed bumps and more.

Aurrigo is benefiting from the test environment but also benefiting as a result of the connections being made within Ottawa's CAV ecosystem. As an example, the UK leader is working with

SmartCone Technologies Inc. and additional partners to create a first and last mile passenger shuttle system on the public roads in Durham Region to help reduce traffic congestion. This specific project will include multiple technology companies each specializing in specific areas of specialty including a public safety infrastructure, autonomous shuttle manufacturer, wireless technology provider, AV software platform and shuttle service provider. The ideal outcome of this project is to have a fully functioning business model and proven solution for addressing traffic congestion issues in downtown areas around the Province of Ontario and abroad.

Invest Ottawa and the Ottawa L5 team have been instrumental in introducing and building partnerships with regional small and medium sized businesses such as SmartCone and introducing Aurrigo to other leaders in Canada such as Blackberry QNX. The strategic discussions and interactions with the ecosystem partners are creating opportunities in addition to the on-going track test results.

Testimonial About the Value of the Partnership,

"Ontario is a hotbed of autonomous vehicle development," says David Keene, CEO, Aurrigo. "There's a critical mass of high-tech companies, high-tech workers, universities, technical colleges and research centres. And the government not only understands how fast this technology is developing, it's prepared to move just as quickly to help companies succeed."

"Invest Ottawa and Ottawa L5 have been instrumental to the Canadian success of Aurrigo. Invest Ottawa provided the necessary guidance and help in opening an office in Ottawa that has exceeded our expectations," says Chris Keefe, VP Autonomous Programs Director – North America, Aurrigo. "Many introductions have led to partnerships on multiple occasions and Aurrigo has been able to expand its reach in Canada due to the amazing staff and their support."

Outcomes to Date

Working at the Ottawa L5 site with our three pods has led to some instrumental learnings by which Aurrigo are making advancements to the tech on their vehicles. Ottawa L5 has purchased two Aurrigo pods and collaborations formed with other companies testing at Ottawa L5 has already resulted in new business.

What the Future Holds

The future for Aurrigo Canada is bright! The company fully expects to have a staff of dozens in the coming years to help implement autonomous technology in Canada and beyond and is working to build the PodZero in Ontario.