

Area X.O — Drive the Future

Hexagon | AutonomouStuff

The Story

Hexagon | AutonomouStuff chose Ottawa for an international office as part of its mission to empower the future of autonomy. The company saw potential in Ottawa's futureplex — Area X.O.

AutonomouStuff, part of Hexagon's autonomy and positioning division, offers hardware, software solutions and vehicle platforms with the goal of enabling customers for on- and off-road autonomy applications. This division of Hexagon is a global technology leader, pioneering end-to-end solutions for assured positioning on land, sea and air.

"We deploy software that allows our customers to reach their vehicle autonomy goals," says David Van Geyn, open autonomy engineering manager for AutonomouStuff.

The Obstacle

AutonomouStuff had highly advanced software, but it needed a safe and real-world place to test it — a place that had roads and intersections and, ideally, different climatic conditions throughout the year. Mapping the solution and reacting to the surrounding environment were two challenges the company faced and Ottawa's Area X.O, with its advanced test track, offered the perfect solution to those problems.



The Solution

Ottawa offered the solution thanks to Area X.O, but also because of the autonomous engineering talent the city boasts.

Van Geyn says having access to Ottawa's talent, having a test track at the company's door and becoming part of the eco-system were all compelling reasons to choose Ottawa.

AutonomouStuff was one of the first companies to move into Area X.O — it set up offices in late 2019 — and the convenience, infrastructure and ecosystem have helped this division further its software solution. Having its own garage at Area X.O has also helped ease concerns about working onsite during a pandemic.

The Update and the Future

The company plans to continue to deploy advanced software for a customer in the U.S. for which much of the testing will be done in Ottawa. Van Geyn says another team within the company is also planning to do some data collection on the farming and agriculture side of things as the Smart Farm continues to develop at Area X.O.



Testimonial

“Area X.O is a significant development that recognizes the potential of autonomous systems to impact both on-road and off-road applications, providing engineers with a testbed to develop autonomy that improves safety for motorists and makes a variety of industries more efficient and sustainable.”

- **John Buszek, Hexagon | Vice-President of Core Autonomy at AutonomouStuff**

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