

# AURORA

We Do Self-Driving Cars



# Content

Introduction to Aurora

Introduction to Aurora's Technology

Introduction to Safety Case Approach

# Aurora's Mission

Deliver the benefits of self-driving technology

Safely, Quickly and Broadly

# The Challenge

“ *[Autonomy is] the mother of all AI projects, probably one of the most difficult AI projects to work on.*

- **Tim Cook, CEO Apple Inc.**

“ *A self-driving car will be the most complex computer system the world has ever done.*

- **Jensen Huang, CEO Nvidia**

“ *[Publicly-disclosed AV technology investments] approach \$80 billion dollars. The trend indicates that investment in 2018 should be substantially more than the \$80 billion disclosed from 2014 to 2017, and continue upward for some period of time.*

- **Brookings Institute**

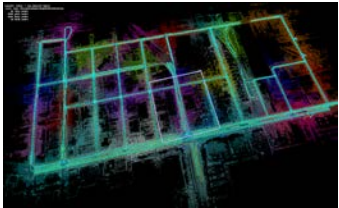
# The Product: a world class self-driving solution for our partners



Self-driving hardware design



Self-driving software system



Data services to support operation by our partners

# The Founders



## **Chris Urmson, Chief Executive Officer**

- Led Google's Self-Driving Car program growing from 6 to 600+ people
- Director of Technology for Carnegie Mellon's DARPA Grand and Urban Challenge Teams
- 60+ patents and 50+ publications
- PhD Robotics, Carnegie Mellon
- 15 years of experience leading automated vehicle programs



## **Drew Bagnell, Chief Technical Officer**

- Led perception and overall autonomy architecture for Uber SDV program
- Ran research lab as associate professor at Carnegie Mellon for over a decade: intersection of ML and robotics working both theory and fielding commercial systems
- Over 150 publications, including twelve best papers awards at the top venues in Robotics and Machine Learning (e.g. ICML, RSS, ICRA)
- PhD Robotics, Carnegie Mellon
- 20 years of experience developing and applying ML techniques to robotics

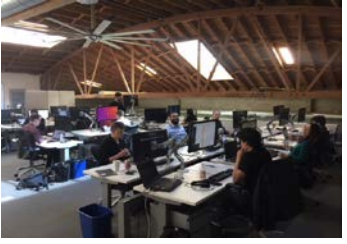
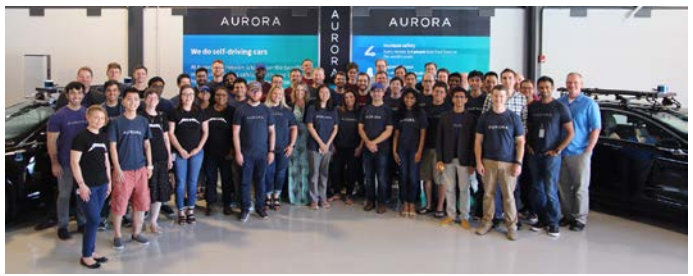


## **Sterling Anderson, Chief Product Officer**

- Led Tesla's Autopilot Program
- Launched Tesla Model X
- Four issued AV patents and 15+ publications
- PhD Robotics, MIT
- 10 years of mobile robotics experience, 3 years of experience delivering automotive products

# By the Numbers

- Founded in late 2016
- **150** people
  - Growing at ~ **3%** per week in 2018
  - **>400** years of autonomous vehicle experience
  - **>1,000** years of software development experience
- **3** sites with **70,000** sq feet of office and garage space
  - **30,000+** sq feet of R&D garage space
  - Diverse weather and road conditions testing across 10 towns/cities



# Aurora Experience

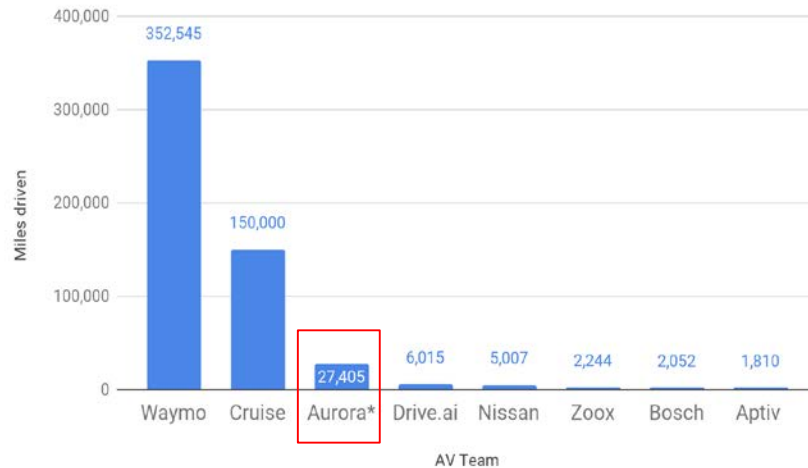




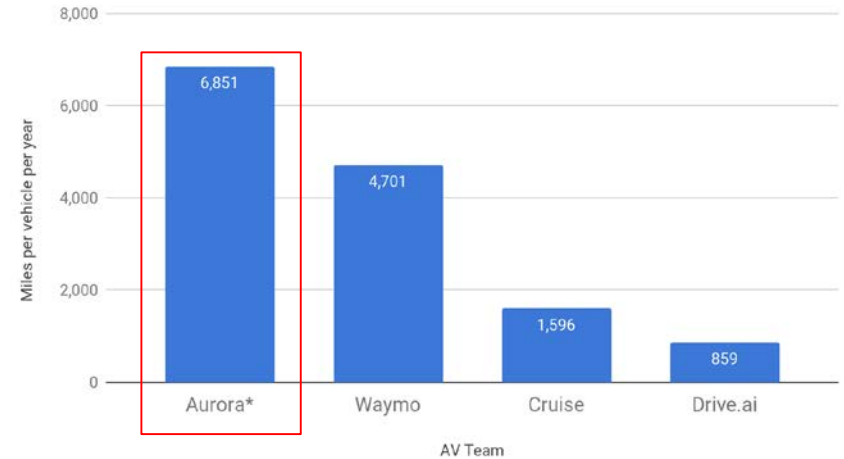
# Year One (2017)

- Aurora's self-driving system was designed **from the ground up** starting Jan 2017
- Public road testing **began** ~September 2017
- With only **four months, four vehicles** and **fewer than 100 employees**, Aurora drove more autonomous miles\* than any other group that submitted a California DMV report other than Google and GM

2017 miles driven in CA



Miles per vehicle



\*Annualized

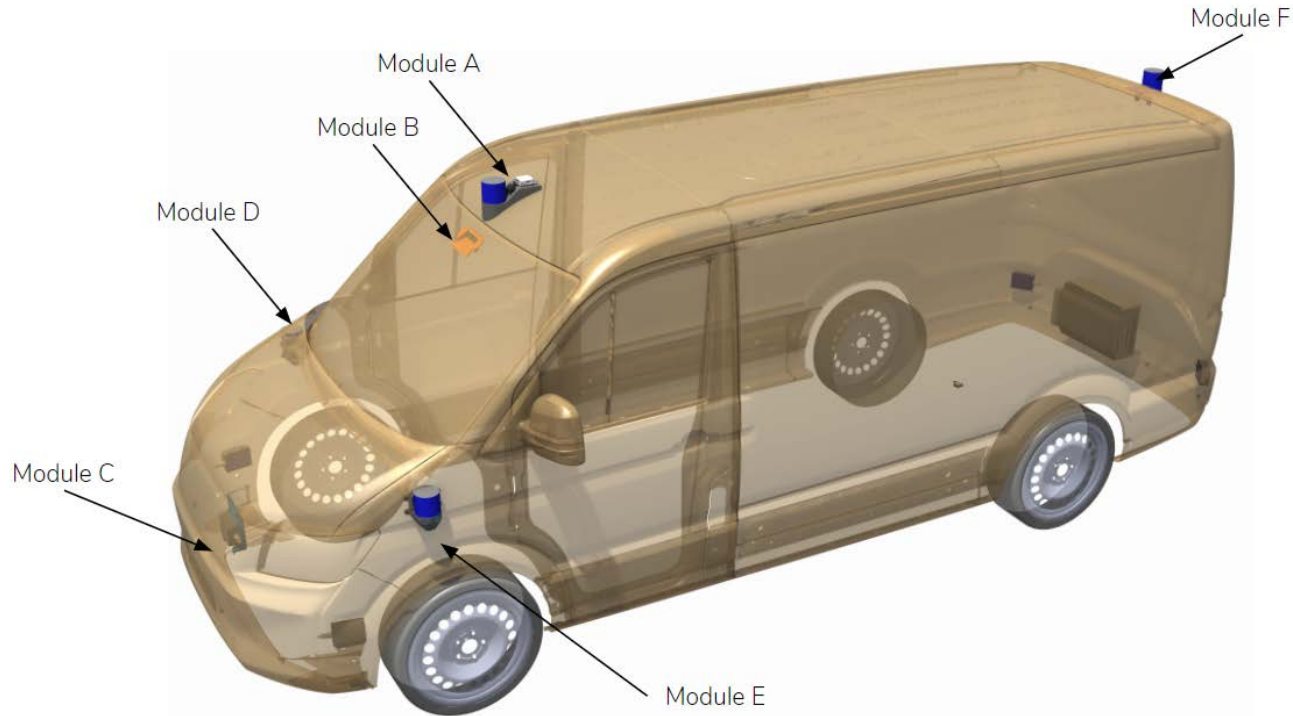
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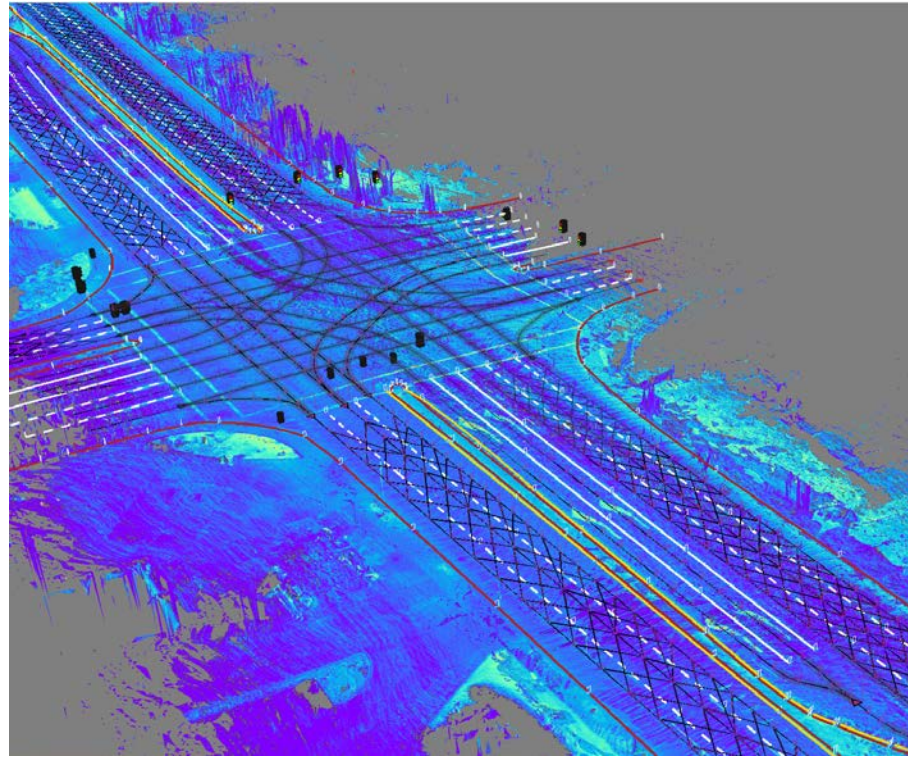
Roadmap for our Partnership

# Sensors



- Standard system consists of multiple lidar units, multiple cameras, multiple long -range radar units, an IMU, and a siren sensor
- Grouped into 6 distinct modules plus corner installations around the vehicle (generic vehicle pictured)
- Designed to provide sufficient coverage and range for generalized on-road operation up to 75 mph

# HD Maps



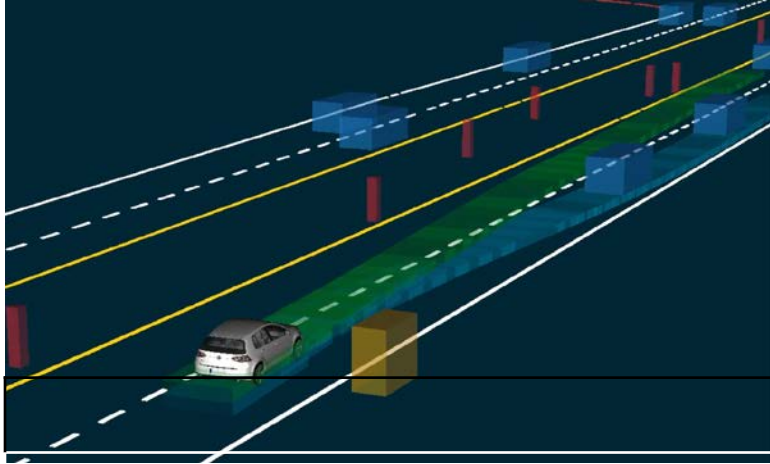
- A subset of our onboard sensors is sufficient for the collection of all data required to build an HD map
- HD Maps allow us to precisely localize the vehicle to within 10 cm
- System is largely agnostic to GPS; can maintain position in environments that deny it (urban canyons, rural areas, tunnels)
- Shown above is a subset of the maps produced, showing lane geometry, ground plane, traffic controls, intersections, speed limits

# Computer



- Central compute unit
- Aurora's design
- Autonomy sensors all connect direct to and our powered by this box
- Capable of self-driving operation with safety drivers this year

# Simulation



Low fidelity scene for planning simulation



High fidelity synthetic image for perception simulation

- Designed to test interactions - a discrete event where the vehicle has to do something other than drive within the lane at steady speed
  - Highway interactions with other vehicles: Cut -ins, Hard braking vehicles, Contested lane changes and merges
  - Urban interactions with other actors: Pedestrians crossing/jaywalking, Cyclists in lane and lane changing, Vehicles partially in lane and lane hogging, Contested movements at intersections
- Not monolithic
- 18K daily experiments, 58K interactions, and growing each month (~4K new experiments a month)
- Space of potential experiences on the road is huge.

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# Safety Case Approach

## Two tiered functional safety approach:

- Development Safety concept to be used to aid in development of the production system, and allow road testing.
- Production Safety Concept to be used when vehicles go to production release.

## Development safety concept:

- Will be used for development efforts through 2018
- Not intended for production release
- Requires Vehicle Operator
- Based on ISO 26262, but more tailored given this is not a production release system.

## Production Safety concept:

- Developed in compliance with ISO 26262.
- SAE3061 and ISO/PAS 21448(draft) will be used as informative reference.
- No Vehicle Operator required.

Separate safety concepts are required because the use cases and goals are different. For example:

- Operator must always be able to take control of the vehicle.
- Passengers/operators must not be able to interfere with operation of the vehicle.



# Safety Case Approach for Development

**Manual Control Is Assured** - Take over is always possible, the physical actuators take precedence over the electronic commands, even in the event that the Aurora Self Driving System does not relinquish control.

**Emergency Disconnect** - A mechanical interlock which returns the vehicle ECU's to their series production configuration. This can be used to ensure the system cannot interfere with the manual operation of the vehicle.

**Vehicle Operators** - A trained and attentive person who monitors the local environment and ensures the safe performance of the vehicle.

**Co-pilots** - Trained personnel who monitor the performance of the Aurora Self Driving System and alert the Vehicle Operator of system misbehavior that may not otherwise be indicated by the HMI system.

**Visual and Audio Alerts** - A simple HMI system is included that allows the Vehicle Operator to determine the state of the vehicle based on visible indicators and audio alerts.

**Operational Design Domain Constraints** - That limit exposure to undue risk as determined by a Hazard and Risk Assessment (HARA). Either through avoidance, or training of the Vehicle Operator to take over control when certain situations are encountered.

Thank you