

March 12, 2019
Marubeni Corporation
ZMP Inc.

Self-Driving Vehicle PoC at Chubu Centrair International Airport Restricted Area

The First Ever Self-Driving RoboCar Mini EV Bus in Japan

From March 18th-20th, AIRO, a Joint Venture Company of Marubeni Corporation (hereinafter “Marubeni”) and ZMP Inc. (hereinafter “ZMP”), conducted a Proof of Concept (hereinafter “PoC”) for a self-driving vehicle at Chubu Centrair International Airport.

Against a backdrop of dramatic increase in the demand for air travel, airports and ground-handling companies face two main obstacles: over-capacity airport transportation and a labor shortage for ground handling work. With Marubeni’s expertise in the ground handling business and ZMP’s technical capabilities in the field of self-driving vehicles, the two companies decided to work together to create AIRO, which was then selected as one of the companies to perform a PoC for self-driving vehicles in restricted areas of Chubu Centrair International Airport.

In this PoC, a ZMP manufactured self-driving bus called, “RoboCar Mini EV Bus” drove itself through a circuit of passenger routes at the airport. This EV (electrical vehicle) type of bus is a new addition to ZMP’s RoboCar series, having been revealed in Japan for the first time ever during the PoC.

Our goal for this PoC was to collect data and explore potential problems so that we can quickly progress to actual application. We strive to promote our business toward the eventual commercialization and sale of this product and any additional related services.



EV Bus used in PoC
(ZMP RoboCar Mini EV Bus)

<Reference>

- January 24th, 2019
Verification Testing of Autonomous Vehicles Within Restricted Areas at Narita International Airport
<https://www.marubeni.com/en/news/2019/release/20190124E.pdf>
- December 7th, 2018
Establishment of joint venture for the commercialization of autonomous driving at airport
https://www.marubeni.com/en/news/2018/release/20181207_eng.pdf

<Press Contacts>

Marubeni Corporation Corporate Communications Dept. ([TEL:03-3282-7732](tel:03-3282-7732))

ZMP Inc. Robolution Division ([TEL:03-5844-6210](tel:03-5844-6210))