Continental Offers aContact Tires Specifically for Autonomous Vehicle Fleets and Robotaxis

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First aContact tires will soon be on the roads in US cities such as Las Vegas and San Francisco

- Original equipment tires for autonomous fleets are extremely safe, durable and efficient

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Hanover, Germany, August 14, 2025. Continental has rolled out an original equipment tire line for use on driverless vehicles. The aContact tire family combines specially developed tire technologies that meet the varying requirements and areas of application of autonomous vehicle fleets. The tires are well suited to robotaxis, shuttle vehicles, autonomous delivery services and, in the future, self-driving private cars. Continental's aContact tires will soon be hitting public roads for the first time in US cities such as Las Vegas and San Francisco.

> Self-driving robotaxis will soon be part of our everyday mobility – alongside traditional cars, cargo bikes and e-scooters," says Meletis Xigakis, Head of Research and Development for the original equipment business at Continental Tires. "To ensure maximum efficiency, it is crucial they are equipped with tires made specifically for the job. That is where our aContact product line comes in, combining technologies that have been adapted and customized for the ordering manufacturer or

mobility provider – promoting safety and optimizing performance and efficiency.

Tire development has entered a new era with partially automated and autonomous driving, and Continental once again is at the cutting edge. For years, the technology company has been exploring innovative vehicle concepts and the demands these place on tires, ranging from extremely lightweight vehicles with alternative drive options to self-steering cars. When vehicles are steered by AI-powered algorithms rather than humans, this alters the way they behave on the road. Self-steering cars, for example, usually drive at lower speeds and under strictly controlled conditions. For that reason, tires fitted to robotaxis often need to operate for extended periods of time.

aContact: emphasis on safety and energy efficiency

In major automotive markets like China and North America, autonomous driving is already a reality. In Chinese cities such as Shanghai and Beijing, as well as US cities like San Francisco and Los Angeles, robotaxis are already a familiar sight. Many manufacturers ranging from agile start-ups to established carmakers are hard at work developing technologies for emerging robotaxi fleets.

Continental supplies its customized aContact options to several customers that operate or will operate self-driving vehicle fleets. This calls for different aContact quality requirements and technological specifications, depending on the area of application. Safety features are always paramount, however, including short braking distances and superior handling – including in wet conditions. Aside from that, the demands placed on the vehicle can vary widely: for example, if it has to operate in hectic commuter traffic, or if it is used to shuttle airport passengers back and forth along a clearly defined route. Continental takes all of these variables into account and adapts the rubber compound and tread design accordingly. Customers can also special-order tires with a highly robust sidewall construction that extends their service life. Lower rolling resistance is another common request, as this maximizes the range of autonomous electric vehicles. Tires for self-driving cars usually have a relatively narrow and tall construction profile, which reduces air resistance as well as lowers rolling resistance. Taller tires are also better equipped to carry the load of heavy vehicle bodies and battery packs, which positively impacts

handling and driving stability. To make the driving experience as quiet as possible, Continental also makes a targeted effort to minimize external rolling noise when developing its aContact tires.

Continental is committed to developing tire technologies for autonomous driving with a focus on safety, efficiency and sustainability. Top priority is also given to customer requirements and specific fields of application – as is the goal of making the products more environmentally friendly throughout their entire life cycle. With that in mind, Continental continually invests in innovative materials and technologies, as well as in resource-saving production process.

Manager Communications Technology, Innovation & Original Equipment

Head of External Communications

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Website: https://www.continental.com/
Primary Email: silke.bernhardt@conti.de

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