Transportation Research Center Inc.

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Backgrounder

Largest independent vehicle test facility and proving grounds in North America

Smart mobility leader, broad range of capabilities, and strong industry alliances

East Liberty, OHIO — To become the largest independent vehicle testing facility and proving ground in the U.S. it takes a well-developed infrastructure with an extensive variety of road surfaces; on-site development of leading-edge and emerging technologies; 40-plus years of engineering expertise and industry knowledge; a long-time partnership with a major automotive research university; strong global connections and hardworking industry experts.

It also takes a secure location – operating 24/7 – with approximately 4,500 acres of road courses, wooded trails, a 7.5-mile (12.1 km) High-speed Oval Test Track (one of the largest in the world), a 50-acre Vehicle Dynamics Area, or "black lake," and the right mix of testing areas and facilities. With nearly 1,000 clients – OEMs, governments and manufacturers from around the world – TRC's the place to test and validate almost any vehicle imaginable, future or current model year, any time of year.

Nestled in the rolling hills of northwestern Ohio, TRC lies within the heart of the I-75 automotive corridor, less than 40 minutes from Columbus and approximately 2.5 hours from Detroit. This region is known for its continuous growth and future advancement in automotive manufacturing, research and development.

Hot, cold, rainy, overcast or sunny, TRC offers a wide range of driving conditions, with wet spring weather, hot summers and icy cold, snowy winters. The team conducts programs designed to test for safety, energy, fuel economy, emissions, durability, noise, crash, crash simulation, performance and more. They also test a wide range of vehicle types and equipment, including trucks, buses, recreational vehicles, motorcycles, electric vehicles, passenger cars and components – and they even test road surfaces. Private workrooms and garage spaces are available for lease on a daily to yearly basis to maximize productivity, convenience and comfort for its customers.

Finding the right solutions for manufacturers' complex needs

TRC provides research and development, as well as compliance and certification testing, for vehicles and components, crash avoidance and crashworthiness testing, emissions testing, dynamic testing and durability testing. It is the home of the only federal vehicle research and test laboratory for the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) in the country.

The partnership with PMG Technologies Inc., manager of Transport Canada's sole motor vehicle test center, allows TRC to deliver turnkey solutions to both established OEMs and start-ups already selling or looking to expand to the North American market – providing vehicle development, verification, validation and certification per FMVSS and CMVSS requirements. The TRC and PMG partnership – a "Compliance Alliance" – is the North American foundation for a planned global alliance of government-owned, or linked, proving grounds around the globe. The future consortium will provide global coverage for automotive testing regardless of an OEM's country of origin.

Through its experience working with various OEMs, governments, and a variety of manufacturers from around the world, TRC project managers, engineers and support staff have extensive knowledge and expertise, testing nearly every type of vehicle, equipment and component, including:

- Passenger vehicles
- Commercial vehicles
- Recreational vehicles
- Motorcycles
- All-terrain vehicles
- Heavy-duty vehicles
- Military vehicles and equipment
- Utility vehicles
- Automated and autonomous vehicles
- Agricultural vehicles and equipment
- Alternative powertrain systems
- Aircraft and aerospace systems
- Unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs)
- Construction equipment
- Lawn and garden equipment
- Components and systems

Validating the future of transportation: TRC and state of Ohio lead nation in smart mobility

Emerging technologies and infrastructures – the future of transportation – has always been a part of TRC's heritage. From the 1970s to today, TRC continues to utilize and build on its expertise and extensive experience in automotive research and development to provide engineering solutions to the next generations of mobility.

TRC is closely aligned with The Ohio State University, a world-renowned research university with experts in advanced automotive technology, as well as the city of Columbus, Ohio, a U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) "Smart City."

TRC's latest endeavor is its part in one of the biggest transformations in the automotive industry in more than a century – automated vehicles. Columbus, Ohio is leading the nation in smart mobility – and the TRC team is helping to make it a reality.

In June 2016, out of 117 cities, Columbus was granted $40 million by the U.S. Department of Transportation to become a "Smart City," "a fully integrated, first-of-its-kind city that uses data, technology and creativity to shape how people and goods move in the future." (https://www.transportation.gov/AV)

Driverless vehicles will intermingle with human-driven vehicles with an enhanced infrastructure that will allow them to talk to each other in a very consistent and reliable way. One of the nation's first intelligent corridors will run from East Liberty, Ohio (home of TRC) to Columbus, along Route 33.

The foundation for that infrastructure is being put in place right now. TRC will provide the contained proving grounds to test the new smart mobility technology, vehicles and infrastructure as well as a team of experts to prepare for deployment on public roads, with public safety a top priority.

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