



Volvo Group

## Press release

# Volvo Group developing safety system at the world's most advanced test track

**Today marked the opening of AstaZero, the world's first full-scale test track for active automotive safety located in Borås, Sweden. The 2000,000 square meters testing area simulates cities as well as multilane motorways, and it is here that the Volvo Group will test and develop future safety solutions for heavy vehicles.**

When it comes to safety, the Volvo Group's vision is to have no Group vehicles involved in traffic accidents. The Group's safety experts have studied data from traffic accidents since the 1960s, and analyses show that many accidents can be avoided or mitigated before they even occur – by using so-called active safety systems.

Active safety systems prevent accidents by supporting the driver, for example, by providing information or reacting before the driver does. Examples of active safety systems developed by the Volvo Group include collision warning with emergency brake and lane change support.

The AstaZero proving ground has been built and developed in close cooperation with the Volvo Group, with the purpose of testing active safety innovations in full-scale test environments. The testing area, which covers some 2000,000 square meters, is reminiscent of a gigantic movie studio containing nearly six kilometers of rural road with intersections, street lights and bus stops, as well as a city environment where vehicles can be tested in authentic scenarios involving other vehicles in heavy traffic, cyclists and pedestrians, a multilane motorway and an area for high-speed testing. The infrastructure enables connected vehicles to communicate with each other as well as with the surroundings.

“The Volvo Group is the leading provider of safety solutions for heavy vehicles, and AstaZero gives us a unique advantage when developing the safety systems of the future. By using the proving ground's sophisticated equipment and advanced test environments we will become even better at mitigating real life accidents, says Peter Kronberg, Safety Director at the Volvo Group.

“The cooperation between the industry, the public sector and academia is becoming increasingly more important for Sweden. It is by combining our resources that we will solve the problems of today's society”.

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During the opening of the track on August 21, the Volvo Group will hold a demonstration to show how its electronic stabilization system can prevent long trucks from overturning when taking curves at high speeds, how automatic braking can prevent collisions between a truck and a passenger car, and an autonomous wheel loader.

AstaZero's focus on safety is evident not only in its offering of advanced safety tests, but also in other areas. A group of frogs living in the area is known to move between its summer and winter habitats twice a year and must be able to continue doing so. So these small critters have been given a natural path to their summer home a safe distance from the road. AstaZero is owned by the SP Technical Research Institute of Sweden and Chalmers University of Technology. The Volvo Group is one of the facility's industrial partners.

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The Volvo Group is one of the world's leading manufacturers of trucks, buses, construction equipment and drive systems for marine and industrial applications. The Group also provides complete solutions for financing and service. Volvo, which employs about 110,000 people, has production facilities in 18 countries and sells its products in more than 190 markets. The Volvo Group's sales amounted to about SEK 270 billion in 2013, and its shares are listed on the OMX Nordic Exchange. For more information, visit [www.volvokoncernen.se](http://www.volvokoncernen.se) or [www.volvogroup.mobi](http://www.volvogroup.mobi) for those using a mobile phone.