Apple sees autonomous cars as 'core' technology

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Apple CEO Tim Cook, seen at the Apple Worldwide Developer Conference on June 5, 2017, says autonomous driving systems will be a core technology for the company in the future

Apple views autonomous driving systems as a "core technology" for the future, chief executive Tim Cook said in an interview aired Tuesday.

Cook told Bloomberg television that Apple wants to move into the

automotive sector because "there is a major disruption looming" from new technologies.

The auto sector, Cook said, is being transformed by artificial intelligence and autonomous driving technology as well as by the development of better electric cars and the growth of ridesharing.

"We are focusing on autonomous systems," he told Bloomberg.

He said Apple sees this as "the mother of all AI projects" and that this is "a core technology that we view as very important."

While Apple has given no indication of specific projects for autonomous vehicles, it has joined the list of companies with permits to test self-driving cars in California, according to state records.

The California-based tech giant is expected to focus on software systems, letting partners manufacture vehicles, but would understandably want to be able to test its navigation technology in cars.

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