

# Google spinoff to test fully driverless cars in California

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Google's robotic car spin-off Waymo is poised to become the first to test fully driverless vehicles on California's public roads.

The regulatory approval clearing the cars to begin navigating the state's highways and streets without a backup human driver behind the wheel comes nearly a decade after Waymo began as a secretive project within Google.

Its fully autonomous cars have been giving rides to passengers in Arizona since last year. That [pilot program](#) is supposed to be transformed into a ride-hailing service open to all comers by the end of this year.

Waymo intends to start in California by confining the rides in [driverless cars](#) to its own employees before launching a pilot program similar to the one in Arizona.

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