

Glid Technologies Launches Autonomous Road-Rail Vehicle Project on California's Skunk Train Route

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Glid Technologies, a Utah-based company, has announced the launch of an innovative autonomous road-rail vehicle project on the historic Skunk Train route in California. This initiative aims to revolutionize low-emission logistics and leverage underutilized railway infrastructure along the 40-mile corridor connecting Willits and Fort Bragg.

In partnership with Mendocino Railway, Glid Technologies will deploy its Glider M hybrid model and a fully electric autonomous variant of its dual-mode vehicle. These specialized vehicles are engineered to seamlessly transition between roads and rail lines, boasting a substantial carrying capacity of up to 80,000 lb (36,000 kg) for trailer freight transport.

Glid's autonomous road-rail vehicle features patented technology enabling it to autonomously connect to a trailer's kingpin and axle, facilitating a driverless transition onto railway tracks. The company's cab-less flatbed design is specifically tailored for efficient trailer freight movement.

The primary focus of Glid's technology is to modernize freight logistics, targeting the transportation of waste, agricultural goods, minerals, and military cargo. By deploying these autonomous vehicles, Glid aims to decarbonize rural supply chains and provide more cost-effective logistics solutions for underserved areas.

The autonomous road-rail vehicles can be remotely monitored and controlled from a central hub, offering operational flexibility. The fully electric variant will complement the Glider M Alpha, a biodiesel-hybrid model already developed for the same route.

The leadership team behind Glid Technologies includes experts with backgrounds from prominent companies such as SpaceX and Canoo. The company has reported a signed order from an unnamed

logistics provider, indicating commercial interest in its innovative technology.

While real-world demonstrations are anticipated, this pilot program on the Skunk Train route represents a significant step forward in freight automation. The coming months will be crucial in validating Glid Technologies' capabilities and the potential of its autonomous road-rail vehicle technology.