

# Musk says Tesla close to developing fully autonomous car

July 9 2020

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Tesla founder Elon Musk said Thursday that the world's recently crowned most valuable auto company could achieve a fully autonomous

car by the end of 2020.

Musk, who has made premature predictions about the advent of completely [autonomous cars](#) before, offered the updated timetable in a pre-recorded message to a Shanghai tech fair.

"I'm extremely confident that 'Level 5', or essentially complete [autonomy](#), will happen, and I think will happen very quickly," Musk said.

"I remain confident that we will have the basic functionality... complete this year."

In years past, Musk had said Tesla may develop the technology for a completely [autonomous vehicle](#) by 2018, and then last year he said it may come by early 2020.

The California-based electric carmaker became the world's most valuable auto manufacturer earlier this month and its shares have soared this year thanks to strong output figures despite disruptions from the coronavirus epidemic.

The complexity and autonomy of self-driving car technology is classified up to "Level 5". Lower levels feature some combination of autonomous decision-making by the vehicle, along with as-needed [human intervention](#).

But Level 5 denotes a car that requires no human intervention at any time, allowing the passenger to sleep or watch a movie while the car handles all navigation as well as adjustments to avoid collisions.

Tesla already enables partial autonomy for its cars, but analysts say the road to full autonomy faces considerable legal and regulatory hurdles,

not to mention getting consumers to feel comfortable entrusting their cars with full control.

Tesla is racing with Waymo, Uber and traditional automakers to bring autonomous vehicles to market.

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Citation: Musk says Tesla close to developing fully autonomous car (2020, July 9) retrieved 17 April 2024 from <https://techxplore.com/news/2020-07-musk-tesla-fully-autonomous-car.html>

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