Pioneering the future of public transport.
Flanders is taking on the role of pioneer. In other countries driverless vehicles are already operational, but that is often in a separate lane with a steward on board. Here, the aim is to have the self-driving shuttle drive autonomously on public roads. This is cutting-edge technology that really appeals to the imagination. We are making an investment in the future, in greater efficiency and in a more attractive range of public transport”, says Ben Weyts, Flemish Minister for Mobility.

The story so far:
In 2015, Brussels Airport Company and De Lijn, the public transit operator of the Flanders region of Belgium, joined forces to investigate deploying self-driving electric shuttles at the airport. The airport was experiencing around 5% annualised growth in passenger numbers, and IATA had predicted a doubling of passenger numbers at Brussels Airport by 2036. The partnership had to find a sustainable and effective solution from an experienced partner, which is why they chose 2getthere's self-driving shuttle system in April 2018.

“As intermodal hub where various means of transport connect seamlessly with each other, Brussels Airport is constantly studying new possibilities for expanding this hub in a sustainable way. This technologically innovative project deploying a self-driving electric shuttle operating a fixed route, also fits in with our environmental commitment to keep the impact on our surroundings as low as possible”, says Arnaud Feist, CEO of Brussels Airport Company.

Joining forces.
The overall delivery of the project is broken into four stages, with the first being the proof of concept. During the autumn of 2019, testing of the solution will begin at 2getthere's test site in Utrecht, followed by the first self-driving 2getthere shuttle being trialed at the airport.

In this period, the team will perform all the necessary safety tests in various weather and typical traffic conditions. During the test period, no passengers, visitors or staff will be on board the vehicle. Once this testing has been completed successfully the project will move into the delivery stage at the site.

In the second stage, a fully operational self-driving shuttle system will be delivered between the main terminal and Brucargo, carrying passengers, staff and visitors. In the direction of Brucargo from the terminal, it will serve as the last mile transit for workers arriving by bus and train, whilst at the same time providing easy access to the terminal from discount parking for passengers and visitors.

The future.
After the initial delivery stages the transport system will be further extended to CANAC, linking the airport’s self-driving shuttle system with the air traffic control center. This will be completed in two stages, the first extending the network to the airports technical zone, Technics South and finally in the last stage to CANAC.

“This is an exciting project to sink our teeth into, as it is the first fully electric self-driving transit system to be deployed on public roads at a major international airport hub. We are looking forward to delivering a first class solution that will offer a more efficient and effective transit system for passengers, staff and visitors at the airport”, Robbert Lohmann, Chief Commercial Officer of 2getthere.
A little about us.

We deliver Autonomous Vehicle Systems for Smart Cities and Smart Airports. Our technology is based on 25+ years of experience with automated vehicles operating in variety of challenging environments. Depending on the requirements and configuration of the application, our driverless vehicles operate in mixed traffic, dedicated or segregated lanes. Our purpose and vision is to continually develop the landscape of automated transit technology by maintaining our entrepreneurial spirit and having a little fun along the way.