

# Driverless taxi offers transport revolution

A fully-automated cab system being installed at London's Heathrow Airport offers an on-demand and ecofriendly way of getting around. Propelled along guideways by computer controls, the podcar provides a possible solution to traffic jams and a glimpse into the future of personal transport

## ULtra (Urban Light Transport)

Length: 3.7m

Height: 1.8m

Weight: 820kg

Engine:  
**7kw electric motor**

Max. speed:  
**40km/h**

Front wheel drive

**Power:** Four rear mounted batteries, recharged via electrical contacts at station berths or other waiting points

**Range:** 10km

Wheel base: 2,140mm

- ▶ 1. Passenger selects destination
- ▶ 2. Central control allocates next available vehicle and determines route and timing
- ▶ 3. Trip completed non-stop

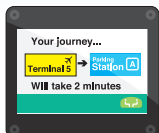
**Safety:** In-cabin cameras allow audio and visual contact with control centre

**Sliding doors**

**Passengers:** 4, plus luggage

*Emergency call buttons*

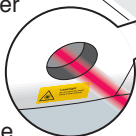
*Door controls*



*Information screen*



**Navigation:** Laser sensors read indentations on side of track, giving precise position of vehicle



**Track:** 2m wide

**Kerb:** 25cm high

**Touch screen point:** Waiting time expected to be less than one minute

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Source: Advanced Transport Systems