

Groundbreaking endurance tests

Driving robots complement test drivers behind the wheel

The engineering team at the Nardò Technical Center (NTC) is not only working on new ways of testing autonomous driving functions, but also the future of automotive endurance tests. In February, a production vehicle covered hundreds of kilometers on the circuit and the neighboring test tracks. There was no human driver behind the wheel; instead, a robot was in command of the steering wheel and pedals. The robot accelerated to up to 130 km/h on the circuit and covered 600 kilometers in a single night shift. During the tests, the sports car was connected to another vehicle via a direct wifi link. This enabled the engineers to observe all parameters in real time as well as to intervene by remote control in case of an emergency. Professional test drivers will remain indispensable for vehicle validation in the future, but robotic drive automation will make it easier to perform similar tests in a more reproducible manner. The margin of error is so small that even the smallest deviations from the target values can be detected. "These driverless tests are groundbreaking," says Davide Palermo, manager of the ADAS Center of Competence at the NTC. "We have made a great leap forward—in terms of the complexity of test automation, vehicle set-up, parameter tuning, and intense activity on the track."



Turbo for Talents

Summer camp for youths in Nardò

The Nardò Technical Center continues its commitment to the local community through its partnership with the A.C. Nardò soccer club. This year, the program focuses on the prevention of bullying and initiatives to spread important educational values such as fitness, fairness, integrity, respect, and trust. The commitment in Nardò is part of the Porsche corporate program Turbo for Talents, which aims to promote the social and personal development of young people through high-quality sports training.