

Helix to Develop Antennas for Driverless Cars



Helix Technologies, a UK-based developer of high-performance, ceramic-based helix antennas, has closed its Phase B funding round with GBP 650,000 of financing provided by private investors. The company plans to use the proceeds to fund the continued development of its antennas for a wide range of applications including autonomous vehicles, drones, Internet of Things and machine-to-machine communications.

The use of a dielectric ceramic core gives its antennas some excellent properties including unsurpassed gain/efficiency per unit of volume and more effective and predictable behaviour in a wide range of challenging user scenarios. The company believes that the driverless car segment, both GNSS and V2X DSRC applications, represents the most immediate and compelling need and business opportunity for its helix antenna technology.

Self-driving cars

The support of investors allows the company to develop innovative solutions for this exciting growth market, said John Yates, managing director of Helix Technologies. The first self-driving cars are widely forecast to be on the market between 2019 and 2021. Any navigation and communications equipment used on board will have to fulfil the highest-possible standards on safety, integrity and accuracy.

The company expects to have prototypes of its V2X DSRC antenna available by Q2 2018 and its NEXTGEN GNSS antenna by Q3 2018. Helix believes that its dielectric-loaded helix antennas will provide significant performance advantages over incumbent antenna technologies for next-generation GNSS and V2X applications.

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