Nissan, NASA to work on self-driving car technology

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January 9, 2015

TOKYO (AP) — NASA researchers will be working with Nissan’s research unit in Silicon Valley. They are teaming up to advance the technology behind cars that won’t require a human driver.

A five-year partnership was announced Thursday. The goal of the partnership is to one day apply the technology to commercially sold cars. Nissan aims to bring self-driving vehicles to consumers by 2020.

Nissan executives say these self-driving cars could lead to improved safety. The safety technology includes cars that know through sensors they are about to crash. The car will brake on its own, even if the driver doesn’t do a thing. There are also cars that can park themselves.

The most advanced technology could replace human drivers altogether. However, there are still many challenges to driverless cars being used on roads.

Other automakers are working on self-driving cars as well. Companies such as Google are also getting involved.