

# WEB SUMMIT 2018: BYTON'S LUXURY AVS TO LAUNCH IN 2019

By Livvy Houghton and Kathryn Bishop

08 : 11 : 2018 Automotive : Autonomous Car : Mobility



Byton

China – Intelligent electric vehicle start-up **BYTON** has earmarked late 2019 for its first autonomous vehicle (AV) to hit the road.

Speaking at Web Summit in Lisbon, the company's CEO and co-founder Dr Carsten Breitfeld said the vehicles will launch first in China before landing in the US and Europe in 2020. 'Our first car will have level three autonomy, which means the passengers must still be prepared to take over [the wheel] in some instances,' Breitfeld explained. 'This is not because of the technology, but because of legislation and the environment in which the car will be driving. Certain conditions will be... enough to operate an entirely autonomous journey.'

At present, BYTON is working on three concept cars built around the same platform, beginning with the seven-seater M-BYTE SUV, and the five-seater K-BYTE sedan. The company, which debuted its intuitive, biometric **Shared Experience Display interior** at CES 2018, is also exploring how to create a 'first class, plane-style experience' for single passengers using AVs for ride-sharing. 'What if we could create a product for shared mobility that looks different? It's about breaking the UX of ride sharing, which we're working on in LA at the moment, and will show more of in the next year,' Breitfeld told the audience at Web Summit.