

AI-enhanced digital tool for engineering design review process

Public report

Project within Scania CV AB (R&D)
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Fordonsstrategisk
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FFI in short

FFI, Strategic Vehicle Research and Innovation, is a joint program between the state and the automotive industry running since 2009. FFI promotes and finances research and innovation to sustainable road transport.

For more information: www.ffisweden.se

1. Summary

The world-leading provider of sustainable transport solution, Scania, is looking to leverage the use of AI and automation in order to have company engineers focus on more innovative tasks and at the same time shorten lead times in the area of cable harness introduction. The Danish based AI company, Go Autonomous, has offered to create a solution. After a few workshops and several follow-up meetings a proof of concept tool has been demonstrated. While the tool can do many of the things that have been requested from Scania, there are certain limitations on how well the tool can perform. Ultimately, Scania has decided not to move forward with a further collaboration on this tool and project, partly due to the demonstrated tool, but also due to internal policies and restrictions. The participants from Scania's team have gotten a better understanding of how AI works and its limitations.

2. Sammanfattning på svenska

Scania önskar använda AI för att granska elkonstruktionsunderlag och på så sätt frigöra tid för sina ingenjörer (för att fokusera på mer produktiva och kreativa aktiviteter) som i dagsläget behöver avsätta en hel del tid på detta. Samtidigt förväntas ledtiden för framtagning av kablage minska om man lyckas få fram ett bra verktyg. Det Danmark-baserade AI-företaget Go Autonomous har erbjudit sig att ta fram en lösning som skulle kunna fungera som granskare i stället för ingenjörerna på Scania.

Efter, workshops och flertalet möten så har Go Autonomous demonstrerat sin lösning. Dock finns det några begränsningar i hur väl verktyget fungerar. Detta tillsammans med restriktioner i Scantias policy om vilken data som får delas och systemåtkomst för externa parter gör att samarbetet för detta verktyg inte går vidare bortom detta projekt. Deltagarna från Scantias sida har fått bättre insikt gällande vad man kan förvänta sig från AI-lösningar.

3. Background

Scania, a world-leading provider of sustainable transport solutions, is looking to leverage the use of AI and automation in order to have company engineers focus on more innovative tasks and at the same time shorten lead times in the area of cable harness introduction.

Today there is a review process for cable harness introductions that involves many people cross-functionally. The human factor and miscommunication between parties tend to lead to missed deadlines, which in turn, causes postponed product introductions. A huge step to counter this is through a proposed digital tool from Go Autonomous, a provider of AI solutions based in Denmark.

4. Purpose, research questions and method

The purpose of this project is to create a tool that can, to the greatest extent possible, handle Scania's engineering design review process with as little input as possible from our engineers that normally conduct these reviews. This means that the tool, upon seeing an electrical drawing, has to be able to suggest improvements to the document under review if it's not up to a minimum standard.

The way both working parties, within this project, intend on doing this, is to have a couple of workshops where we get to know each other, but more importantly, how this process is conducted today in order to get a tool that can meet our demands. Furthermore, follow-up meetings will be booked to check on progress, or if questions have arisen that need to be answered. Eventually, the subject matter experts at Scania will have to test the tool during a test phase and feedback the developers at Go Autonomous for further improvements.

5. Objective

The goal of the project is to have a solution that can handle the review process in a fast and reliable way, thus, freeing up resources that can focus on more productive type of work.

6. Results and deliverables

A proof of concept tool based on an existing platform from Go Autonomous was developed. During the test phase, the design engineers came with a lot of feedback. While the tool was able to do certain things that the project had hoped for, there were still limitations in how well the tool worked when carrying out the tasks. Furthermore, it was conveyed that training the AI model on more company data would come with additional costs. Ultimately, with the aforementioned sentence, combined with several company policies and restrictions regarding information sharing, it was decided to not move forward with Go Autonomous in this particular case.

On the Scania-side, several participants in the project have increased their understanding of the limitations of AI, how to set up and work with an external company regarding this technology, and moreover, learnt about business models in the AI industry.

After working with AI at Scania, and internally voicing concerns about the limited knowledge surrounding the technology and the importance of it, its limitations and what to expect of it, while not being the only ones doing so (working on an AI project), we have ultimately gotten the company to offer courses in AI that covers these topics for different roles within the company.

7. Dissemination and publications

7.1 Dissemination

How are the project results planned to be used and disseminated?	Mark with X	Comment
Increase knowledge in the field	X	It has shown us a lot of what AI can and cannot do.
Be passed on to other advanced technological development projects	X	While this tool, specifically, will not be used any further, the project experience has been valuable to Scania. It has shown that there is a knowledge gap of the limitations of AI and the company has set up courses in this regard to bridge the gaps.
Be passed on to product development projects	X	See above comments.
Introduced on the market		
Used in investigations / regulatory / licensing / political decisions		

7.2 Publications

No more publications more than this document are planned for this particular project.

8. Conclusions and future research

Due to company policies, and the limitations of the proof of concept tool, it was concluded that Scania would not proceed with a future collaboration with Go Autonomous for this particular case. However, all in all, the project has been very useful for the company when it comes to AI implementation by an external party. Lastly, Scania higher-ups will at some point need to address if it will accept one, several or no collaboration partners (do it all internally) in this field by openly stating which criteria's an external company needs to fulfill; the sooner, the better!

9. Participating parties and contact persons

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