

Autonomous driving of sign vehicles (following rotary snowplows)

Conduite autonome de véhicules de balisage (suivant des chasse-neige rotatifs)



Background

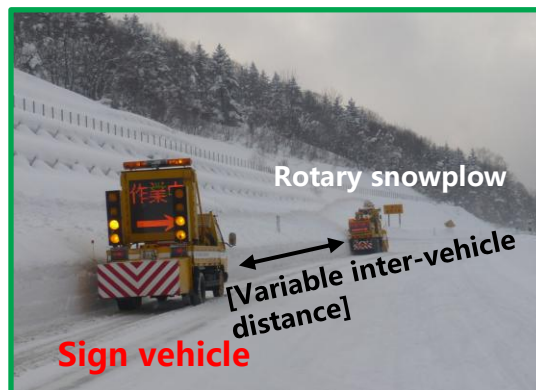
A wide variety of skilled ice operations

Declining workforce and retirement of skilled workers

[Enhancement of Snow and ice operation and further technology development efforts]

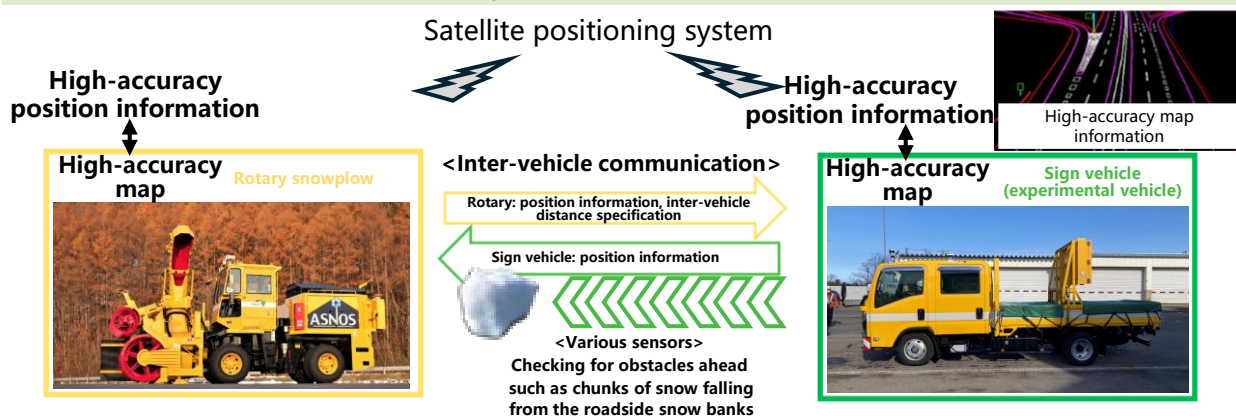


Automation of rotary snowplow operation



A technology is being developed to automate the operation of a self-driving sign vehicle following behind a rotary snowplow.

System overview



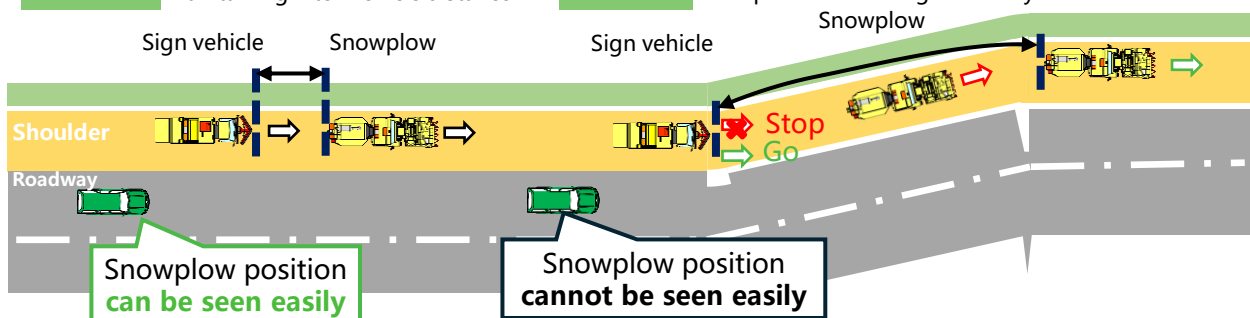
[Inter-vehicle communication] Changes the inter-vehicle distance according to road alignment.

Straight section

tracking the snowplow and enabling autonomous operation while maintaining inter-vehicle distance

Curving section

increase the following distance in low-visibility sections, and restart the sign vehicle when the snowplow enters a high-visibility section



On the roadway of an expressway



View from a trailing sign vehicle

Contributing to labor savings, efficiency improvement, and performance enhancement, this approach addresses the anticipated manpower shortage by reducing the number of operators from two to one.

