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Yandex Launches Food Delivery Robots

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Yandex's self-driving delivery robot has started dispatching fast food orders. **Yandex**

Russia's Yandex has started using its self-driving robot to deliver fast food orders, the company announced Wednesday.

The small six-wheeled autonomous robot — dubbed Yandex Rover — has started delivering orders from Yandex's food delivery service, Yandex Eats, to customers in one of Moscow's central business districts.

Just like a human courier, after an order is placed, the robot makes its way to the restaurant, picks up the food, and then delivers it to a specific location. Users can track the robot's journey and then "unlock" the food through the Yandex Eats app.

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"Rovers can deliver restaurant meals, groceries and orders from online stores and will slowly but steadily become a normal part of city life," said Dmitry Polishchuk, the CEO of Yandex's self-driving group.

For now, the robot is only delivering from a handful of restaurants in a small area, but the company said it will expand the service in the future. It is also available in Innopolis, a hi-tech development park on the outskirts of Kazan, some 750 kilometers east of Moscow. It is one of the places where Yandex has been testing its self-driving vehicles and robo-taxi services.

Yandex is investing heavily into self-driving technology — its autonomous cars are in the top three globally for number of miles driven, the company announced over the summer.

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