



Michael Fleming

CEO and Co-founder of Torc Robotics

Michael Fleming is CEO of Torc Robotics, the company charged with commercializing Level 4 autonomous trucks in partnership with Daimler Trucks, the global leader in the market.

After competing as a student for Virginia Tech in 2004 and 2005 DARPA Grand Challenges, Fleming founded Torc to save lives by commercializing self-driving technology. In 2007, Torc developed its first-generation self-driving stack for team VictorTango, which finished in third place.

Since then, Fleming has led Torc in deploying its technology across the trucking, automotive, transit, mining and defense industries.

Torc was one of the first self-driving technology firms to implement its software stack on heavy-duty vehicles commercially. Torc's technology has been used for commercial applications in the automotive, transit, mining, and defense industries.

“There is a major difference between demonstrating the technology and commercializing it for self-driving products and solutions,” he explains. “We are fortunate to have great people and partners.” Fleming also has a relentless focus on the business case for the technology and finding solutions for real-world problems.

Torc's mission is to save lives through autonomous technology and believes that the fastest way to commercialize its self-driving technology is with partners who have strong business cases. Over the years, Torc has partnered with Caterpillar, the U.S. Department of Defense, and Transdev, the world's largest mobility provider.

In 2019, Daimler Trucks acquired a majority stake in Torc, presenting a new challenge: commercializing self-driving technology in the trucking industry with the world's largest truck OEM.

“Great things are not accomplished in short order, and we have always believed this race to be a marathon and not a sprint. The lessons learned and foundation we've created over the last decade has positioned us as one of the most experienced firms in the self-driving space,” Fleming said.

Fleming earned his B.S and M.S. in mechanical engineering from Virginia Tech in 2002 and 2003. He served as a research associate with Virginia Tech from 2004 to 2006. In recognition of this extraordinary

career achievement, he was inducted into Virginia Tech's Mechanical Engineering Society of Distinguished Alumni and the Junior Achievement Hall of Fame in 2019.