



**Dr. Maarten Sierhuis**  
***Director of Nissan Research Center, Silicon Valley***

Maarten leads a team of researchers at Nissan's Research Center in Silicon Valley, tasked with developing autonomous vehicles (AVs), connected vehicles (CVs) and Human-Machine Interaction and Interfaces (HMI2). As a former NASA research scientist, he spent the bulk of his career creating autonomous technology for space exploration. Now he brings his expertise down to earth to help shape the future of motoring and how people will interact with intelligent cars capable of driving themselves.

Maarten is responsible for developing the Artificial Intelligence (AI) software for Nissan's AVs. The role also entails researching the technology required to create connected vehicles, and to allow people to interact with AVs. Finding the talent to bring these dreams to reality is a key aspect of his job.

Born in the Netherlands, Maarten has lived all over the world, including periods in the U.S., Nigeria, Suriname, Saudi Arabia and Italy. He was educated in the Netherlands, reading computer science as an undergraduate at the Polytechnic University in The Hague, before achieving a PhD in Artificial Intelligence at the University of Amsterdam. He has worked at IBM, NYNEX and PARC. However, his most notable achievements were during a 12-year career at NASA, where he created a computer language that was used to develop an intelligent system for all communication between Mission Control and the International Space Station. He also developed an autonomous system to monitor and give advice to astronauts during spacewalks.