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July / August 2012

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Fiat to launch new infotainment unit

Fiat will start the production of customisable and software upgradeable 5" infotainment systems as early as July 2012, starting with the Fiat 500L. The system will have Continental hardware and Microsoft software components.



The international automotive supplier Continental was commissioned by Fiat Group Automobiles to develop a new infotainment system. The system will be launched as a radio in its basic form but also as an advanced multimedia system (head unit).

Production begins in July 2012. The first Fiat model equipped with the Continental infotainment system will be the brand new Fiat 500 L, which is being produced in Serbia. The Continental infotainment system will then be rolled out across further models from Fiat/Chrysler.

▼ The hardware and the possible functions

The head unit will start series production in July 2012. With this new system, which began development in December 2010, the driver has access to analogue and digital radio or navigation functions on a 5 inch touch screen. There is also an option to connect digital music sources via USB and to use the hands-free function for smartphones through a bluetooth-interface.

The new head unit uses the Microsoft operating system Windows Embedded Automotive and features text-to-speech as well as voice recognition, allowing drivers to utilize functions of the infotainment-system without

taking their hands off the steering wheel.

The Continental head unit is designed to allow for new software functions to be installed on the system after the start of series production. Thus the system can be adjusted to the changing preferences of the driver over the vehicle's complete life-cycle.

Additionally the system defines new ecological benchmarks: the Fiat Group's eco:Drive, which will be integrated into the infotainment-system, can help the driver contribute to the reduction of consumption and CO2 emissions by up to 12% through analyzing driving parameters in real time (acceleration, deceleration, gear shift change and cruise speed) and giving suggestions for more eco friendly driving.

▼ International development and production

The new infotainment system was developed at Continental locations in Wetzlar (Germany), Regensburg (Germany), Deer Park (USA), as well as Guadalajara (Mexico) and Singapore. For Fiat/Chrysler the production will start in July 2012 in Brandys (Czech Republic), and will at a later date also take place at the Continental plant in Nogales, Mexico.

8 Jul 2012 - Source: Fiat

Ford uses Nokia's cloud for connected car project

Nokia's global location content – including NAVTEQ Map are to be used in the Ford EVOS concept car as Ford looks towards the future.



Nokia has announced that Ford's research organization will use the Nokia Location Platform to advance innovation for smart and connected vehicles, as demonstrated by the Ford EVOS concept car.

Ford selected the Nokia Location Platform to leverage Nokia's high-quality global location content, including the industry leading NAVTEQ Map, as well as scalable cloud services and APIs. This complete solution offers a fast, easy and cost-effective path to create innovative and differentiated location products.

The Ford EVOS concept car showcases a future in which cloud services go beyond Internet access and traffic-enabled routing. For example, Ford's concept car actually "learns" driver behavior to control, improve upon and personalize vehicle performance.

Another area of Ford's research is designed to optimize hybrid powertrain efficiency: the Nokia Location Platform could automatically regulate a car's powertrain as it travels through established or driver-specified "Green Zones".

While the Ford EVOS is a concept car intended to show Ford's technology vision for the future and is not itself scheduled for production, it does give a glimpse of the technology being researched for future car models.

26 Jun 2012 - Source: Nokia

EU: Renault uses HP's cloud for EV telematics

French carmaker Renault has chosen HP Utility Services solution to support the development of EV telematics.



Connected electronic vehicle telematics help drivers to check the car's battery, its charge rate and the location of the nearest charging station, as well as provide live traffic updates and cloud computing based applications like pay-as-you-drive insurance.

Renault selected HP Enterprise Cloud Services – Utility Services to host its European IT infrastructure and manage its technical applications, delivering the right computing capacity and giving the company greater flexibility to meet its business needs at minimum cost.

A preconfigured and tested HP Converged Infrastructure hosted in HP's highly secure Tier 3 data center in Grenoble, France, gives Renault fast access to the latest HP server, storage, networking, power and cooling technologies.

This economical solution offers automated processes that cut the time, cost and complexity of getting Renault's business-critical applications into production.

The pay-as-you-go financial model reduces Renault's capital investment and ensures predictable ongoing costs. The flexible model allows for frequent adjustments to support projected growth, and aligns with the service level agreements and high levels of security expected by Renault.

01 Jul 2012 - Source: Renault



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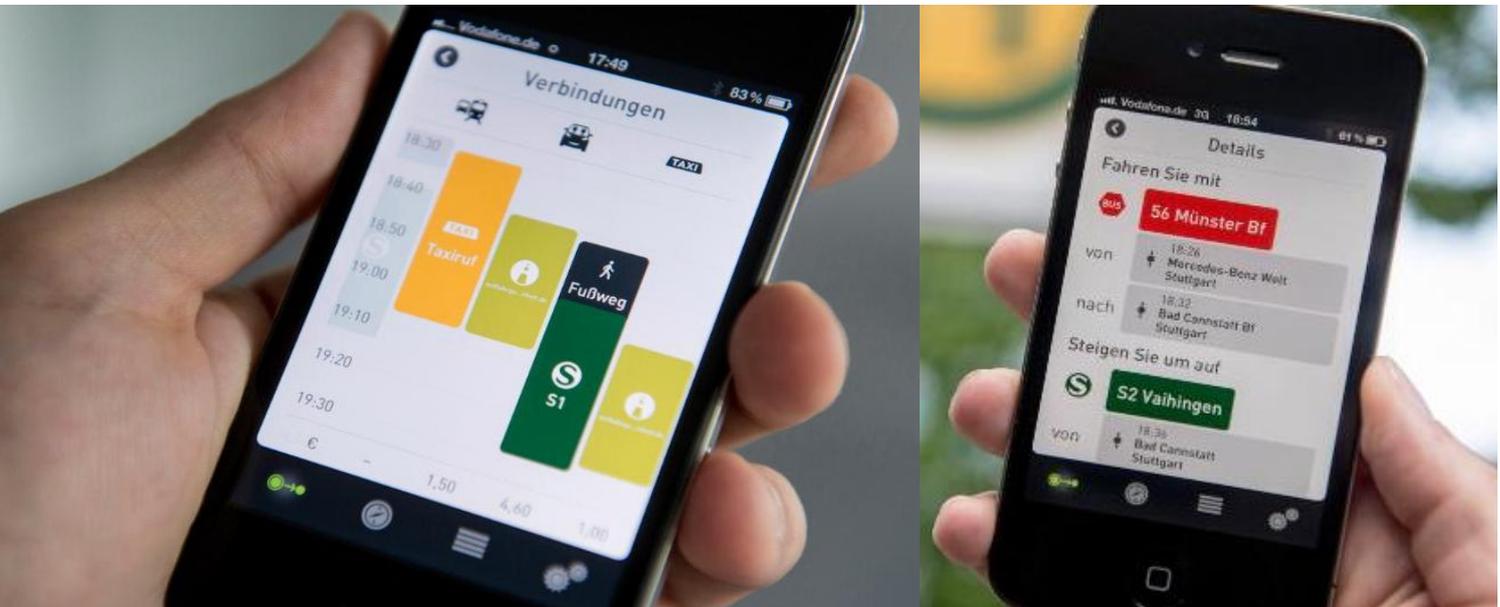


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Daimler launches “moovel” – an urban mobility platform

Daimler AG treads new paths with a unique service: the mobility platform “moovel” shows its users the best possible way to get from A to B. “moovel” bundles the offers of diverse mobility providers and presents travel options via app and mobile website.



Daimler AG treads new paths with a unique service: the mobility platform “moovel” shows its users the best possible way to get from A to B. “moovel” bundles the offers of diverse mobility providers and presents suitable travel options via app and mobile website – irrespective of provider and transparently.

As of 11 July 2012 the free “moovel” app will be available in the Apple Store. “moovel” will start off as a pilot project in Stuttgart. Offers from mitfahrgelegenheit.de, SSB and VVS are integrated in the initial version. A second pilot project is planned for the second half of 2012 in Berlin.

“moovel” shows users the optimal means of getting from A to B: “moovel” brings together entirely different means of travel and presents the options so that they can be seen at a glance – transparently, in a user-friendly way and on an equal footing. The recommendations are based on the offers of the mobility service providers.

▼ “moovel” launch version with SSB, VVS and mitfahrgelegenheit.de

At the start of the pilot test in Stuttgart, the offers of the local partners Stuttgarter Straßenbahnen AG (SSB) and Verkehrs- und Tarifverbund Stuttgart, VVS (Transit and Tariff Association Stuttgart) as well as from the ride-sharing agency mitfahrgelegenheit.de are integrated.

In the app the various options for taxi, bus and rail connections in the VVS service area are shown, including travel time and price. In addition, it is possible to search for convenient ride-sharing opportunities and to enter ride offers.

The cooperation with mitfahrgelegenheit.de and its integration in “moovel” make it possible to put the basic idea of car2gether on a much broader basis and raise the networking of urban mobility to a new level.

▼ The hardware and the possible functions

The linkage of different mobility options makes it possible to intelligently combine motorized private transportation with public transit and to make a contribution to the more efficient utilization of existing resources. The starter version will be continuously supplemented by the offers of further mobility service providers – for instance in the second half of 2012 by the offers of car2go.

The involvement of many partners is a central element. That is true within Daimler AG too – for the development of “moovel”, competencies from the corporate units IT, Financial Services and Strategy were brought together under the moderation of the Business Innovation unit, the Daimler Lab for innovative business models.

11 Jul 2012 - Source: Ford

Agero invests in M-Way Solutions

Agero invest in M-Way solutions, looking to enhance its cloud application platform and add to its telematics service expertise.



Agero has announced an investment in M-Way Solutions, of Stuttgart, Germany, a proven provider of mobile enterprise software and mobile services.

The partnership will enhance Agero's current capability to provide global automakers with cloud-based solutions by adding a market-proven platform for delivering tailored Web-based content into connected vehicles.

Agero plans to couple M-Way's platform and technology with Agero's third-generation telematics infrastructure, which integrates diverse functions within the vehicle's electronic architecture, resulting in services tailored to drivers through multiple in-vehicle and off-board human machine interfaces.

Through its Mobile Enterprise Application Platform, mCAP, M-Way enables businesses to implement the full spectrum of mobile enterprise services, including enterprise app distribution/mobile device management, workflows, mobile customer relationship management (CRM) services, and mobile commerce solutions for all mobile devices and mass market automotive clients.

The maturity of the mCAP platform led to Agero's investment in repurposing the platform for in-vehicle content delivery, pre-sales, marketing, mobility, and after-sales, as well as dealer- and customer-CRM services.

The two companies envision content delivered to drivers as part of an aggregated service, while conforming to human-machine interface requirements that meet the safety demands within the vehicle cockpit.

17 Jul 2012 - Source: Agero

Honda unveils HondaLink EV remote control

The new Honda Accord introduces the HondaLink family which includes EV services as well as the first OEM application of Aha.



The HondaLink family also includes HondaLink EV, specifically designed for the all-new Fit EV all-electric vehicle and the upcoming Accord Plug-In Hybrid. Owners of these electric vehicles will have access to unique applications designed specifically to maintain connectivity to their vehicle.

The HondaLink EV application will allow the user to remotely view the state of charge, initiate charging, and activate the air conditioning and heater to pre-condition the vehicle while connected to the grid to maximize battery range on start-up.



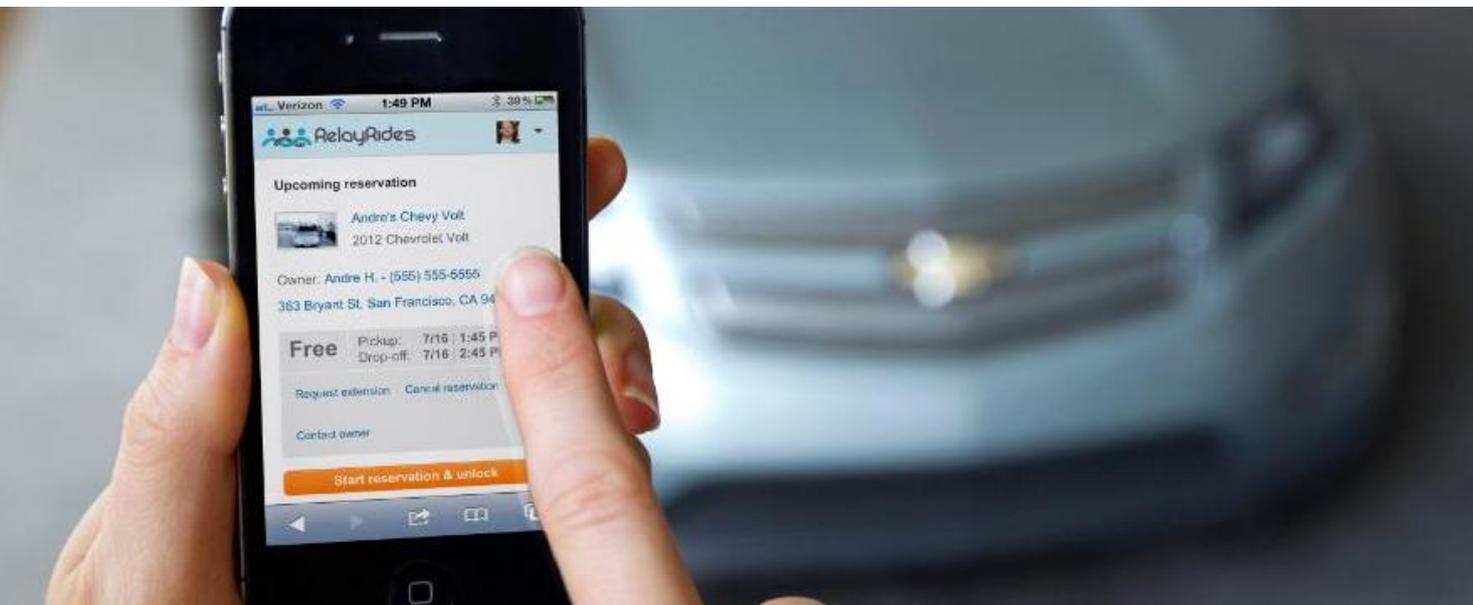
The Fit EV also includes an interactive remote control for those who don't use a smartphone. The remote works within 100 feet (30 meters) of the vehicle and allows you to start or stop charging, as well as see its current state of charge.

HondaLink EV will launch with the Fit EV, which will be available for lease in California and Oregon beginning on July 20, 2012.

18 Jul 2012 - Source: Honda

RelayRide car renting service goes live

OnStar subscribers can now access the RelayRide vehicle sharing service through a smartphone application. Owners can rent out their vehicles to make use of their idle times and make some money at the same time.



General Motors' OnStar subscribers can now rent out their idle vehicles through the RelayRides marketplace, leveraging OnStar connectivity already active in their vehicles to potentially earn hundreds of dollars a month to offset the cost of owning a vehicle.

RelayRides' renters can unlock reserved OnStar-enabled cars simply by using their smart phones. RelayRides is the first third-party developer to integrate with GM OnStar's proprietary application program interface (API) that will be available to other developers later this summer.

OnStar's connectivity solution provides RelayRides' members with increased security, reliability and accessibility. Individuals who forgo car ownership can conveniently access affordable and reliable transportation in a Chevrolet, Buick, GMC, or Cadillac.

Owners of these OnStar-enabled GM vehicles rent out their cars and turn their idle vehicles into an income source without the hassle of installing expensive aftermarket hardware or having to meet a renter to hand off keys.

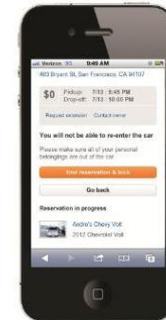
Through OnStar's proprietary API, RelayRides developers were given access to key vehicle-centric features such as location and remote door lock and unlock. This means renters can unlock the doors with their smart phone or by replying to a text message.

Depending on location and availability of the car, RelayRides marketplace participants can earn hundreds of dollars per month from their idle vehicles.

Owners whose cars are not OnStar-enabled can still rent out their vehicles through the RelayRides' marketplace by exchanging keys with the renter, or reactivating their OnStar subscriptions.

OnStar services are enabled by its Advanced Telematics Operating Management System (ATOMS), which is the most powerful automotive cloud platform in the market today and connects about 6 million OnStar customers globally.

Later this summer, OnStar will make its proprietary API available to third-party developers.



17 Jul 2012 - Source: OnStar

Telefonica & 6 others form global M2M alliance

Seven network operators from around the world form alliance covering technological cooperation to provide better M2M solutions.



A total of seven world mobile operators, KPN, NTT DOCOMO, Rogers, SingTel, Telefónica, through its Telefónica Digital unit, Telstra and Vimpelcom have entered into an alliance to initiate collaboration with respect to their M2M businesses.

It is envisaged that the important scale resulting from the cooperation of this group of operators will be of the utmost importance in addressing the complex and fragmented nature of the M2M market.

More specifically, the alliance covers technological cooperation to enable a global, unique seamless solution for the provision of communications to multinational customers requiring M2M devices connectivity.

It is expected that, as a result of this joint collaboration, all the participant companies will increase their capability to offer better value propositions to their respective customers in different markets and geographies.

The goal is to stimulate the sale of M2M communications across a number of distinct high-potential industries such as consumer electronics, automotive, energy efficiency, etc. enabling the development of new business models, the creation of new products and services and a reduction in operational costs for these target industries.

The alliance members will continuously cooperate with the aim of enhancing the development of the market dynamics and the enrichment of the customer experiences, with a specific focus on meeting the expectations and requirements of existing and potential global customers.

10 Jul 2012 - Source: Telefonica

Russia: Hughes Telematics partners with NIS GLONASS for pilot project

Hughes telematics aims to dominate the Russian telematics market with new partnership.



Federal operator in the field of navigation and telematics, "NIS GLONASS" and Hughes Telematics have announced a joint pilot project to provide telematic services on the market.

The pilot project, which forms the basis of a large-scale cooperation between the companies provides for a test infrastructure to provide a range of navigation and information services, including safety and security, remote diagnosis of vehicles, insurance, telematics, and infotainment services.



NIS GLONASS is involved in some of the biggest telematics projects in the Russian Federation, such as deploying the accident emergency response system, "ERA-GLONASS".

02 Jul 2012 - Source: Hughes



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Navigation and traffic

EU: Lexus to offer TomTom navigation with LIVE services

New TomTom updateable premium European maps with free one year LIVE subscription for Lexus.



TomTom will supply one of the navigation solutions available in Europe on the upgraded Lexus CT 200h. The MoveOn navigation system offers TomTom HD Traffic and is seamlessly integrated in the dashboard of the Lexus CT 200h. It will be introduced in several European markets this year, starting in Belgium, France, the Netherlands and Poland in July 2012.

▼ Features:

- IQ Routes**
- Lane Guidance**
- Remote control**
- Text To Speech**
- 1 year LIVE subscription**
- Premium maps of Western Europe**
- Updateable**
- Latest maps guaranteed**

19 Jul 2012 - Source: Lexus

PSA chooses TomTom for navigation software & more

PSA has chosen TomTom as the global provider of navigation software, traffic services and maps.



PEUGEOT CITROËN



PSA Peugeot Citroën (PSA) has chosen TomTom as the global provider of location and navigation content and services for its infotainment system. In 2015, Peugeot and Citroën customers will be able to enjoy an exceptional navigation experience powered by the highest quality maps, award-winning real time traffic service, and superior navigation software.

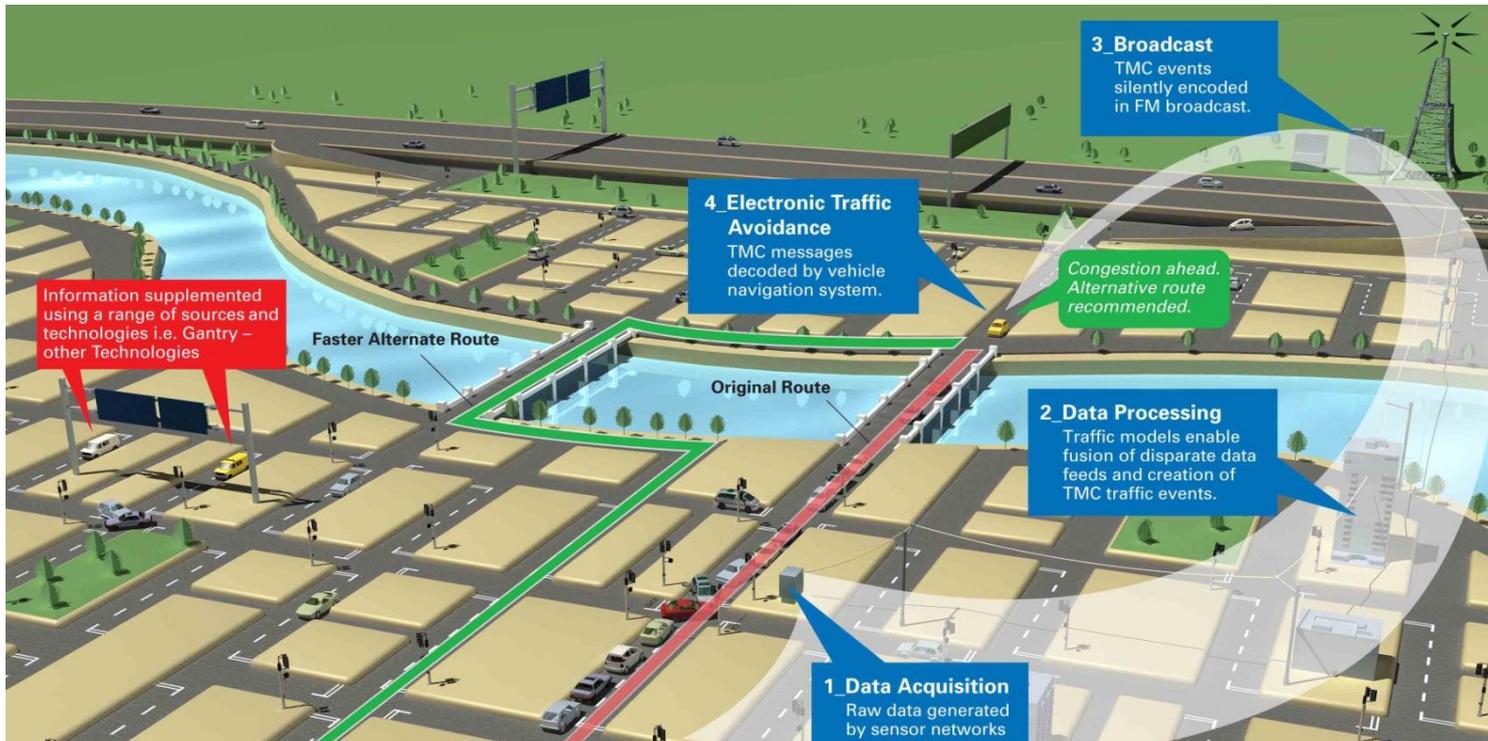
▼ Features:

- Navigation software**
- Maps: Europe and Latin America**
- TomTom HD Traffic**
- TomTom Places**
- TomTom Danger Zones**

24 Jul 2012 - Source: TomTom

SUNA Traffic service launches in New Zealand

Intelematics, is now providing the SUNA Traffic Channel's up to the minutes traffic information directly to compatible navigation devices in Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch.



Intelematics, the company behind the SUNA Traffic Channel, is now providing up-to-the minute information on traffic congestion and road incidents directly to compatible navigation devices in Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch.

SUNA Live Traffic Updates will initially be available on the new Garmin nüvi models including the nüvi 2455LMT, 2495LMT, 2595LMT, 3490LMT and 3590LMT. The service is also offered as an in-app purchase on the Magellan RoadMate AU and NZ App for iPhone.

Adam Game, Chief Executive Officer, Intelematics, said the company has spent 12 months developing and testing the service in New Zealand prior to launching, and found that traffic congestion in the country's major cities has made driving conditions difficult for motorists.

The SUNA service's detailed congestion monitoring is made possible through real-time analysis of data collected from thousands of probe vehicles equipped with GPS systems. SUNA also incorporates information from The Radio Network's leading Time Saver Traffic

service, the New Zealand Transport Agency (NZTA) and other sources such as emergency services and local government. When combined, these data sources provide a comprehensive view of traffic flows and incidents across New Zealand's most congested areas to better inform motorists of the nature of traffic snarls ahead.

SUNA Traffic Channel has been operating in Australia since 2007, and is currently available in Melbourne, Sydney, Canberra, Brisbane, Gold Coast, Adelaide and Perth. SUNA's Australian network of partners already include leading portable GPS device manufacturers, aftermarket in-car navigation brands and many vehicle manufacturers.

Intelematics is currently in discussion with New Zealand vehicle importers and several of its Australian customers to introduce SUNA to their New Zealand products, with further partnerships set to be announced later this year.

26 Jun 2012 - Source: SUNA



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*Senior Technical Specialist -
Infotainment at Jaguar Land Rover
& Vice President, GENIVI*

Imad Sousou

*Director of Open Source Technology
Center at Intel*

Kenichi Murata

*Project General Manager,
Electronics Development Division
#1 at Toyota Motor Corporation*

Paul Copping

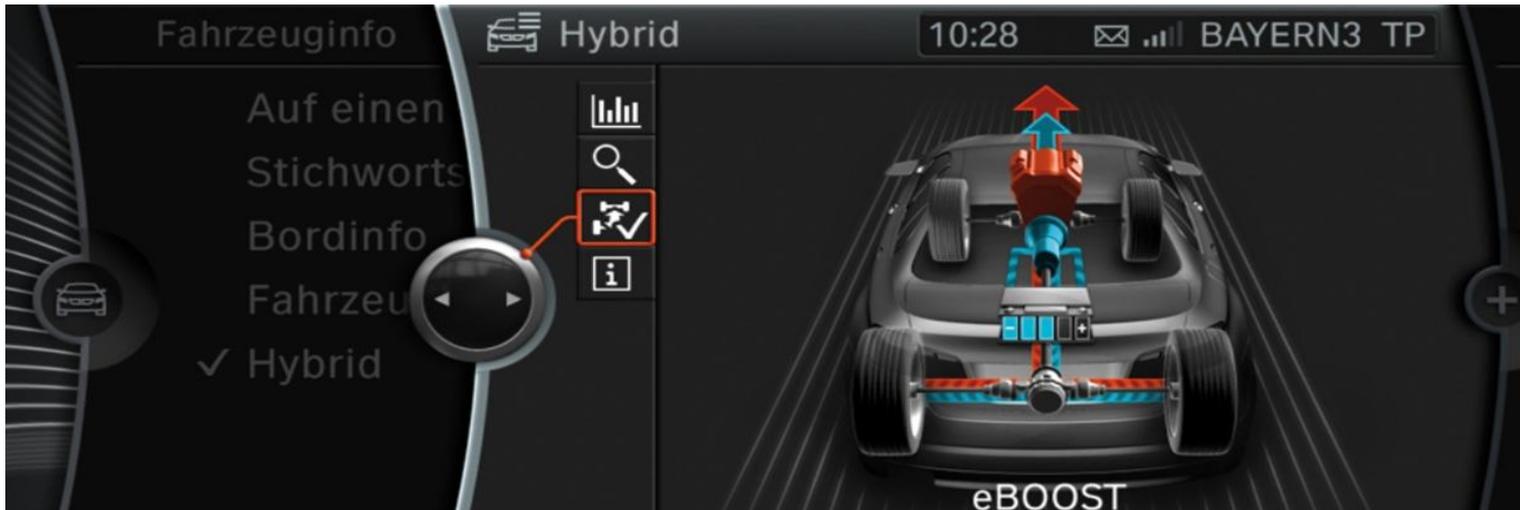
*Corporate Development Director
and Middle East Director at TRL*

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BMW 3 Series Hybrid: navi-linked proactive route analysis

The 2013 model of the 3 Series Hybrid, available from in USA from this fall, contains a set of features that allow for proactive and forward thinking driving. As well coordinating the combustion engine & the electric motor with current driving conditions, it also links power electronics to the navi system to manage powertrain systems and onboard electronics.



In the BMW ActiveHybrid 3, the advanced-design power electronics have been developed a stage further. In addition to coordinating the operation of the internal combustion engine and electric motor based on the current driving situation, they also support proactive, forward-thinking analysis of the driving situation for even more efficient energy management.

To achieve this, the power electronics can be linked up to the optional navigation system. When a destination has been input and route guidance is active, the electronics can then access and analyze data that can take advantage of an upcoming change in external conditions or driver requirements.

Based on this analysis, and subject to the quality of the navigation data, the vehicle can be prepared in advance for imminent requirements so that all powertrain systems and the onboard electronics can be managed appropriately and in such a way as to make the most efficient possible use of the available energy.

Factors that may cause a change in powertrain operating strategy include the topography of the route and speed limits. For example, if the system knows that a downhill stretch is coming up soon, the BMW ActiveHybrid 3 can wait to recharge its battery and invest all the high-voltage battery's electrical energy in providing supplementary driving power, since the

battery will be recharged during the forthcoming descent at no cost in terms of fuel consumption.

On longer downhill sections the electric motor's generator function, too, can be enlisted to recharge the high-voltage battery with no loss of speed. The operating strategy can also be managed so as to achieve, as far as possible, optimal charging of the high-voltage battery when nearing the end of the journey, thereby increasing the electric driving range on the "last lap".

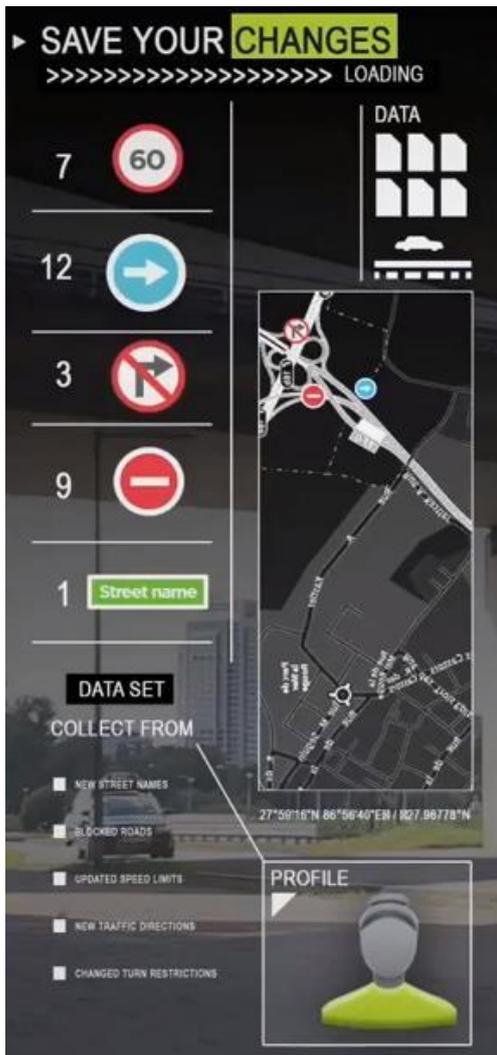
The operating status of the powertrain components is shown in intuitive, model-specific displays in the instrument cluster and in the Control Display of the BMW ActiveHybrid 3. As well as the energy flow and energy recuperation display, these include a further gauge next to the rev counter which shows the boost effect being provided by the electric motor during acceleration.

A model-specific menu in the iDrive operating system provides a variety of information - for example on the lithium-ion high-voltage battery's charge level and the power sharing between the internal combustion engine and the electric motor in the course of a journey. A fuel consumption history can also be displayed, which not only shows fuel consumption history for the previous 15 minutes and the extent to which the electric motor of the BMW ActiveHybrid 3 has been used.

06 Jul 2012 - Source: BMW

EU: TomTom offers free daily map changes on all devices

TomTom say they realise that maps change every day. This is why TomTom is now offering all of its users the option to not only make their own updates to maps, but to share these updates with the TomTom community and receiving similar updates from other users as well.



From now on, TomTom is enabling all of its 60 million portable navigation devices to receive free daily map changes via the TomTom Map Share community.

Map Share allows drivers to personalise the TomTom map on their own device and also share and receive map changes with the Map Share community around the world. Map Share was previously only available on a limited number of TomTom devices.

Map Share technology enables drivers to keep the TomTom map on their device up to date with immediate changes in their area. Dynamic road changes, such as changed speed limits, new street names, blocked roads and new traffic directions can be updated directly on the device.

Drivers then have the choice to share those road changes with TomTom and the broader Map Share community. All TomTom customers can now download daily Map Share changes for free.

Map Share enables people to quickly and easily report and share the most frequent road changes. More structural, long-term changes such as the addition of roads or roundabouts are validated and updated within TomTom's maps and made available on a quarterly basis.

TomTom applies a hybrid approach to map-making that includes the combination of authoritative sources, such as field collection, government data or satellite imagery, with community input to ensure its maps accurately reflect reality.

Map Share is already available for many TomTom customers. From today, all TomTom Start, Via and GO customers will be able to receive free daily map changes from the TomTom Map Share Community via a simple, free software update.

10 Jul 2012 - Source: TomTom

EU: Opel ADAM features smartphone integration, ADAS tech

With the all-new ADAM, Opel is entering the fashion-led A-segment with a chic, small, urban car. It also provides premium technologies from upper segments, including a new onboard infotainment system which integrates the owner's smartphone in the car (Android and Apple iOS) and thereby makes internet-based applications available in the cabin.



▼ Infotainment with smartphone integration

ADAM is the first car with Opel's all-new state-of-the-art infotainment system that not only brings its owner's smartphone capabilities to the vehicle but also adds further value to them, offering even more convenience and flexibility than a conventional system. The new system is exclusive to the A-segment, offering connectivity for both iOS and Android-based devices.

The new infotainment system makes selected smartphone content including internet based applications such as GPS navigation available in the cabin. It collects content and displays it on the seven-inch, high-resolution, full-colour touch screen which also provides quick, intuitive access to various user friendly control-functions via five easy to navigate menus.

In addition, new media sources such as MP3 players, iPods and tablets can be brought to the ADAM thanks to Bluetooth and USB connectivity. There is an aux-in port for other music devices. ADAM owners can also watch videos or personalised slide shows while stationary.



▼ ADAS

ADAM introduces many upscale and innovative technologies into the A-segment that can usually only be found in higher segments. For the first time it makes the new generation Advanced Park Assist (APA II) available. Drivers engage the system with a button on the dashboard and it tells them when they pass a parallel parking space large enough to accommodate the car. The system then automatically steers them into the parking space, with the driver just operating the pedals. It always comes in combination with Side Blind Spot Alert (SBSA) which also uses ultrasonic sensors. Another first in the A-segment is the heated steering wheel which adds another premium touch to ADAM's cabin.

▼ Availability

The all-new Opel ADAM will be available to order after its official world premiere at the Paris Motor Show (September 29 - October 14, 2012). First cars will hit the showrooms in January 2013.

11 July 2012, Source: Opel

Honda unveils HondaLink smartphone integration

Honda has unveiled HondaLink, a new in-vehicle connectivity system that will debut this fall on the all-new, ninth-generation 2013 Honda Accord.



Featuring the first automotive OEM application of Aha by Harman, HondaLink provides a personalized experience connecting drivers to thousands of cloud-based news, information and entertainment feeds from around the world, using an intuitive, audio-system based interface.

Honda's intuitive new HondaLink smartphone application allows owners to preset content on their phone. Once in the car, consumers can enjoy personalized content accessible via voice recognition, steering-wheel mounted controls and in-dash audio system controls. With a tethered smartphone serving as a conduit to a wealth of cloud-based media, HondaLink creates a unique, connected driving experience.

Through the Aha service, for example, HondaLink users can listen to Facebook and Twitter audio newsfeeds, podcasts from NPR, location-based personalized restaurant listings from Yelp!, and access internet music services such as Slacker. The service is free and instantly accessible from the cloud.

Aha delivers a user-friendly experience requiring infrequent smartphone software updates, with in-vehicle content and channel access updating simply and automatically throughout the vehicle life. And content available from HondaLink will grow as the system continues to expand its services for Honda owners.

HondaLink will also incorporate Pandora internet radio and voice-to-text SMS text services with pre-programmed responses, which Honda introduced on the 2012 CR-V.

18 Jul 2012 - Source: Honda

BMW releases SDK for smartphone app integration

BMW provides guidelines for creating apps for integration with BMW Group vehicles as well as starting a partnership with Samsung to expand integration into Android as well as iOS.

▼ SDK for third party applications.

In order to ensure optimum integration of third-party applications into the vehicle, the BMW Group offers providers a special Software Development Kit (SDK) which contains guidelines and specific tools that are intended to help the third-party providers develop compatible, vehicle-adapted versions of their apps.

Following an approval process, the applications are certified by the BMW Group and made available to load on the smartphone.

The prerequisite for all apps is that they meet the requirements for distraction-free operation. The SDK consists of the framework as well as the necessary development tools (e.g. a simulation of the iDrive control logic in the vehicle [HMI]).



▼ BMW apps expanding to include Android

By extending application-based smartphone integration to Android users as well, BMW now covers the bulk of the smartphone market and is opening up BMW apps to an even wider community.

The company is the world market leader across all mobile phone segments, including Android powered smartphones, making it an obvious choice for the BMW Group to join forces with Samsung for the launch of the app-based integration of Android. Android integration will be gradually rolled out to include further manufacturers. The BMW Group is once more highlighting its leadership claim for in-car smartphone integration.

10 Jul 2012 - Source: BMW

New Renault Clio to get R-Link infotainment system with app store

The new Renault R-Link will be available as an option on the new Clio, providing high level features including connected navigation and the R-Link store which contains Renault certified applications that provide in-car services and entertainment using the 7" screen.



▼ Overview of features

Available as an option for New Clio, Renault R-Link provides a bridge between the car and the connected world outside thanks to:

- A wide seven-inch (18cm) touchscreen, intuitive voice commands and, as a market first, a home page that can be personalised by the user for safe and simple access to essential functions, without the driver having to take his or her eyes off the road.
- TomTom connected navigation includes Live services and boasts the market's best real-time traffic information, helping to minimise journey times and fuel consumption.
- Among other benefits, a connection with the car's own electronic systems permits access to an advanced eco-driving function which analyses the driver's behaviour and provides advice to help reduce fuel consumption.
- Thanks to the Renault R-Link Store, the automobile world's first ever Application Store, users can easily view or download a comprehensive and varied range of apps from their car or computer (via 'My Renault').

The scope of Renault R-Link's connected functions will continue to expand thanks to 'Paris Incubateurs' (a Paris-based hot-house for young talent) and to an appeal extended to start-ups at the LeWeb'11 show. Over and above the services provided by TomTom LIVE and the COYOTE app, which alerts the driver to dangerous situations (in countries where this feature is available), R-Link users can also check their messages, for example, manage their diary, locate the nearest service station or place to park, or send a tweet.

04 Jul 2012 - Source: Renault



'Ixonos Experience Store for Automotive' launched

Ixonos has launched its new app store dedicated to in-car uses. This allows OEMs to have better relationships with customers and provide them with new up-to-date services.

The Ixonos Experience Store for Automotive is a controlled channel for delivery of content and services to vehicles. The new product enables companies like automotive manufacturers and head unit manufacturers to push innovations to cars, build customer loyalty and help car dealers to better manage customer relationships.

The new store is a cloud-based service, which provides easy setup and cost-efficient maintenance as well as allows the store to adapt to sudden growth or changes in operations. The platform is also suitable for distribution of other types of digital content, such as video, music, e-books and online magazines.



Analytics is an essential part of the Ixonos Experience Store for Automotive. The store allows customer relationships to be strengthened, for instance by using individual user information to provide targeted services and information.

Ixonos IVI Connect and Ixonos Experience Store for Automotive enable proactive companies to provide their new innovations to enhance the driving experience. In addition, these products provide simple APIs (application programming interfaces) for all major smartphone platforms, allowing existing mobile applications to be used in vehicles.

04 Jul 2012 - Source: Ixonos

Mercedes-Benz launches app store, selling apps at €10 / year

The new Mercedes-Benz App Shop is now live, giving users access to a short list of online applications with plans to expand and provide more.



▼ Availability & pricing:

The 'App Shop' is already live on a dedicated Mercedes-Benz website.

Currently, two apps, Parking Finder and News (powered by dapd), are available for purchase for €10 (1 year's subscription).

Other apps such as share prices, Yelp are expected to be made available in the near future. Note that Google Search, Weather, Facebook are already available as standard apps within the COMAND Online system.

Features, pricing and driving restrictions are likely to vary by app or vehicle model. For example a new application may contain several languages and restrict content shown while driving to headlines without the article.

▼ Operation:

Because the COMAND Online system is browser-based, the App Shop enables 'over-the-air' activation of apps.

The operation is simple - The user logs into his or her account on the App Shop and chooses the desired apps (pays if necessary). The next time the user gets into the car and connects the system to the internet (Bluetooth phone with tethering data plan required currently), the system connects to the server, and the server simply 'makes available' the users' list of apps.

28 Jun 2012 - Source: Mercedes-Benz



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Euro NCAP rating to include emergency braking from 2014

Euro NCAP has recently published the results of its survey on the availability of Autonomous Emergency Braking systems in Europe and reveals that the assessment programme will include AEB technologies in its star rating from 2014



Real world performance data suggests AEB systems can reduce accidents by up to 27%. Although the introduction of these active safety technologies is reducing road deaths and injuries, the availability of AEB in Europe is far from standardized. A recent survey undertaken by Euro NCAP reveals that AEB is completely unavailable on 79% of the car models on sale in Europe and that 66% of manufacturers do not offer an AEB system on any of their new car models.

Euro NCAP finds that premium brands such as Volvo, Infiniti and Mercedes have the best levels of standard

AEB fitment, and are joined by Jaguar, Range Rover, Audi and Lexus when optional fit is also considered.

Cars in the Executive and Large Family categories have the highest level of availability, at least as an option. However, some volume sector manufacturers are showing that AEB can be offered as standard or as an affordable option on mass-market vehicles.

Amongst others, Mazda, Ford, Honda and Volkswagen are selling AEB systems partly as standard or optional on some high-volume cars such as the Mazda CX-5, the Ford Focus, the Honda Civic and the VW up!. It is understood that Fiat will also make AEB a low-cost option on the new Panda in July 2012. AEB systems are increasingly being made available as cars are replaced by new or facelifted models, such as the Mercedes-Benz A-Class, the Ford Fiesta and Ford Kuga.

The inclusion of AEB systems in the Euro NCAP star rating will alert and encourage consumers to choose AEB when buying a new car as it will improve their safety, make a real difference and help them avoid or mitigate a crash.

27 Jun 2012 - Source: Euro NCAP

Continental develops 'Post Crash Braking' technology

Continental has developed Post Crash Braking Technology which is designed either to prevent secondary accidents or to moderate their effects.



As part of its ContiGuard safety concept, Continental has developed Post Crash Braking Technology which is designed either to prevent secondary accidents or to at least moderate their effects, thus reducing the potential risks to vehicle occupants and other road users.

The airbag sensors play a vital role in Post Crash Braking Technology. Irrespective of the vehicle's own speed, the Safety Control Unit (SCU) recognizes from the crash sensor signals that a collision has occurred and transmits a signal to the electronic braking system via the onboard data network.

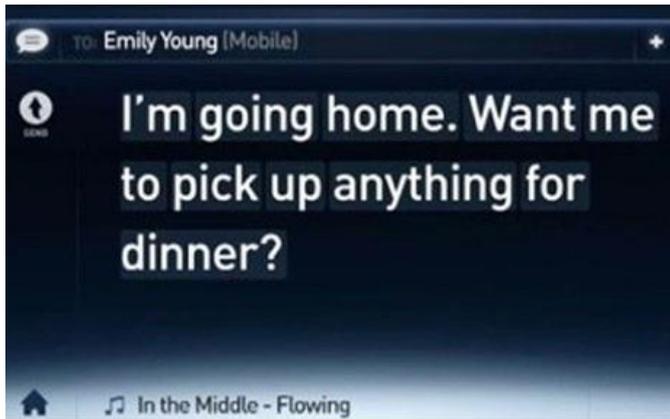
Based on Electronic Stability Control (ESC) technology, the safety system will then automatically brake the vehicle after the impact, even if the driver is no longer operating the brake pedal, thus reducing the risk of dangerous secondary collisions and minimizing injuries and damage.

An important feature of the safety system is that it will return control of the vehicle to the driver if, at any time after the collision, the driver actively operates the accelerator pedal or carries out an emergency braking by himself. If there is no such intervention from the driver, the system will brake the vehicle to a complete stop.

15 Jul 2012 - Source: Continental

BMW to start charging for advanced voice recognition; debuts handwriting recognition

BMW and Nuance have announced the new paid service for DragonDrive off-board voice recognition by Nuance. In China, BMW has announced the debut of its handwriting recognition services.



▼ Nuance voice recognition

Dragon Drive! Messaging is a new BMW ConnectedDrive feature as part of the latest generation of BMW Navigation system Professional. Unveiled in May, Dragon Drive! Messaging is Nuance's new automotive-grade connected car service that lets people speak emails and text messages.

The 2012 BMW 7 Series will be the first car ever to feature Dragon Drive! Messaging, hitting the market in July 2012, with the BMW 3 Series Touring and BMW 3 Series ActiveHybrid following later this year.

Dragon Drive! Messaging delivers a fully-integrated mobile assistant messaging experience that lets drivers speak, listen, edit and respond to text messages and emails – keeping their hands on the wheel and eyes on the road. Drivers can speak simple commands to format e-mails by adding new lines, paragraphs, and speaking punctuation and other format commands.

Dragon Drive! Messaging is available as part of Nuance's Dragon Drive! highly-specialized hybrid automotive-grade platform that fully harnesses Nuance's deep experience and research in connected and embedded natural language understanding voice technologies. Drivers can interact naturally with their car, minimizing manual and visual distractions.

In addition to the dictation functionality, the new BMW Navigation system Professional also features natural command and control for almost all functions.

09 Jul 2012 - Source: Nuance

▼ Handwriting recognition

The handwriting recognition function is a tremendous boon for the Chinese market especially, which is why the BMW iDrive Touch Controller is making its debut there. With several thousand characters and as many as 21 strokes per character, entering text is a far more complex task than with the Latin alphabet.

The reason the iDrive Touch Controller is of such great benefit in China is that the sequence of strokes for starting Chinese characters is basically set in stone, meaning that the selection of characters is already narrowed down considerably with the very first stroke entered by the driver. The choice is further refined with each additional stroke, allowing rapid selection of the relevant character.

▼ Map Navigation

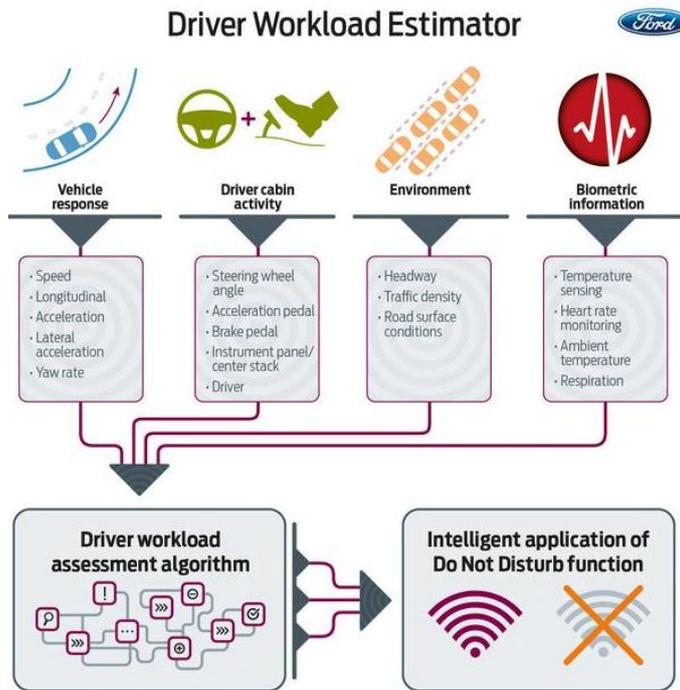
Apart from recognising handwriting, the iDrive Touch also makes it possible to navigate freely within the route map shown in the display and zoom in on it, too. The scale is changed using the two-finger pinch gesture already familiar from many laptops and smartphones. If there is a traffic jam ahead, for example, the driver can adjust the scale of the displayed portion of map using the touchpad, move the view to the hold-up and take a look at the suggested alternative route.

The driver can also use the touch control to mark POIs stored in the map, pressing the control knob to confirm a choice and display more details.

10 Jul 2012 - Source: BMW

Ford working on system to monitor driver workload and distraction

Ford has developed an algorithm which uses real-time data from already existing sensors to estimate a driver's workload and distraction levels.



The driver workload estimator is an algorithm using real-time data from existing sensors such as radar and cameras combined with input from the driver's use of the throttle, brakes and steering wheel. The result is an intelligent system enabling management of in-vehicle communications based on the assessed workload of the driving situation.

For example, the side-looking radar sensors used for the Blind Spot Information System (BLIS) and the forward-looking camera for the Lane-Keeping System are on watch even when there is no active warning provided to the driver. These signals could indicate there is a significant amount of traffic in the lane that you are merging into while entering a highway.

Combine that knowledge with the fact that the driver has increased throttle pedal pressure to speed up, and the workload estimate could be high enough to determine it isn't a very good time for an incoming phone call to ring inside the cabin.

The car could intelligently apply the "Do Not Disturb" feature that is already available as part of MyFord Touch, helping the driver stay focused on the road during the high-demand situation.

27 Jun 2012 - Source: Ford

Samsung buys part of CSR; CSR to focus more on in-car infotainment

CSR has entered into a conditional binding agreement with Samsung for the transfer of CSR's development operations in handset connectivity and location, including 310 people, together with certain rights over CSR's technology in these areas

Samsung will invest US\$34.4 million in return for new ordinary shares in CSR representing 4.9 per cent of the current issued share capital of the Company at a price of 223 pence per share on completion of the transaction.

Following the Transaction, CSR intends to:

- Focus on the five growth platforms of Voice & Music, Automotive Infotainment, Indoors Location, Imaging and Bluetooth Smart markets.
- Discontinue investment in its handset connectivity and handset location technology, other than its leading edge indoors location platform.
- Reorganise its roadmap and future investment plans



around its five platform growth areas, which will include some ongoing net investment in those areas of approximately US\$15 million to US\$20 million.

- Continue to sell and support its existing connectivity products to the handset market.

18 Jun 2012 - Source: CSR

EU: BMW to launch world's first LTE powered WiFi hotspot in the car

The BMW LTE Car Hotspot ushers in the next generation of mobile internet, and will make the BMW Group the first car manufacturer to bring the high-speed mobile internet experience to the road when it is launched in November 2012.

All that is required apart from the BMW Car Hotspot is an LTE-capable SIM card, which is inserted into the hotspot. The hotspot additionally comes with a built-in battery pack and antennae, allowing portable use for up to 30 minutes outside the vehicle without an external power supply. A standard USB power supply unit even enables fully autonomous use without the need for either vehicle or battery.

Users connect their device via WiFi to the BMW LTE Car Hotspot, with its Long Term Evolution technology for going online. Of course, the adapter also allows multiple devices to be linked up simultaneously, so that the LTE internet connection can be shared by all passengers. Meanwhile, the galvanic connection to the vehicle aerial not only improves reception, it reduces

radiation inside the car, too.

The BMW LTE Car Hotspot fits into any BMW centre console with a phone base plate, and can be retrofitted quite easily without changing the aerial and without a great deal of installation work. Even older BMW vehicles can be easily equipped with the latest in mobile internet technology by adding this accessory.

10 July 2012, Source: BMW



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