

MONTHLY BULLETIN

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2011

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Wishing our readers a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Information
Inform

Infiniti launches telematics services in the US [pg 4]

The Telematics News Team

Renault unveils Android infotainment R-Link [pg 9]



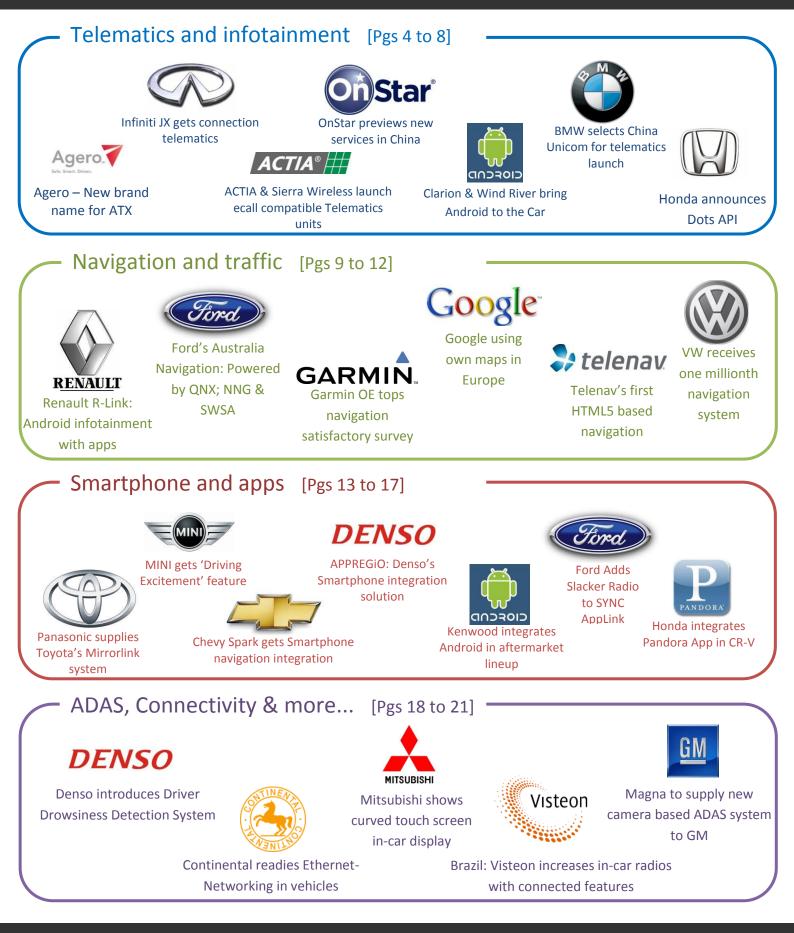
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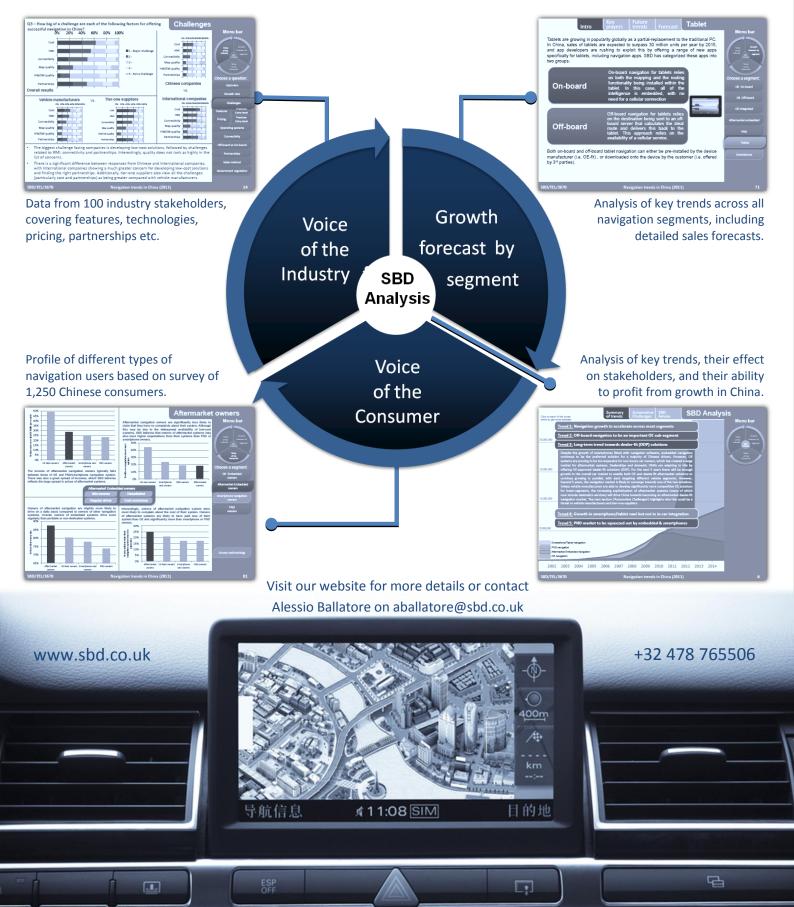






Interactive guide with a comprehensive analysis

of the navigation trends in China





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Telematics and infotainment

Top stories

New Infiniti JX gets Connection Telematics

Infiniti Connection, announced by Nissan North America at the Los Angeles Auto Show as part of the introduction of the new JX Crossover, will provide Infiniti owners with location-enabled safety, security, and convenience via ATX (now Agero) Group's connected vehicle platform.

Infiniti Connection, a new feature offered as part of the Premium Package, can automatically synchronise the owner's schedule through Google Calendar and then provides navigation guidance to appointments.



The system also allows the user to set up Drive Zone and Speed Alerts, along with multiple other functions.

For those desiring a more human connection, the system can connect with the Infiniti Personal Assistant, which offers owners personal concierge services.

Services include dinner reservations, flight changes or purchase of anniversary gifts, from inside or outside of their Infiniti vehicle.

The Infiniti Connection and Infiniti Connection Plus telematics systems, which are both complimentary for a year, will be available on other navigation-equipped Infinitis in the near future. Some of the services, like automatic crash notification and remote door unlocking, are similar to those offered by GM's OnStar, but the Infiniti solution also lets owners create notifications via email, text message or phone if the JX has crossed a predetermined boundary or exceeded a predetermined speed.

The 2012 launch leverages ATX's capabilities as a telematics system and content integrator, and showcases its cloud-based interactive voice technologies.

ATX's flexible, next-generation, connected vehicle platform was designed specifically to support vehicle owners with access to services via automated/interactive voice and direct operator communication within the vehicle, personalized Web portal access and handset applications.

The advanced platform provides Infiniti with turnkey solutions such as wireless account management, service and content integration, and customer relationship management applications.

ATX's parent company, Cross Country Automotive Services, provides roadside assistance to U.S. Infiniti owners, operating one of the largest networks of driver assistance in the nation with over 30,000 service providers.

Source: ATX, Infiniti.





Telematics and infotainment

Shanghai OnStar previews new services

Shanghai OnStar has revealed two new telematics services – the Turn-by-Turn Navigation Mobile App and the Cadillac VIP Dedicated Seat Package – at Auto Guangzhou 2011. The two new services will be offered to OnStar subscribers across China in the near future.

On June 30, Shanghai OnStar launched its first mobile app in China. Through their smart phones, OnStar subscribers can access services including Remote Start, Remote Door Lock and Unlock, Remote Horn and Lights, and Real-Time Vehicle Data around the clock. The mobile app works with the iOS, Android, Symbian, Windows Mobile and BlackBerry operating systems.

The Turn-by-Turn Navigation Mobile App, which will be launched at the end of 2011, enables users to search for a point of interest and set it as their destination. A suitable route will be generated automatically.

The OnStar system will then start Turn-by-Turn Navigation to guide the driver to the destination. The route may be saved into History or Favourites and accessed again in the future.

The Cadillac VIP Dedicated Seat Package will be launched soon for Cadillac owners with OnStar. It includes unlimited Sound Control and Hands-Free Calling services. Dedicated advisors at Shanghai OnStar Call Centres will ensure premium service.

In October, Shanghai OnStar became the first domestic telematics joint venture to receive a Grade-A Internet Mapping Service License, giving it authorization to provide a variety of new services, including Map Search, Location, Geographic Identification, Map Download, Copy, and Map Delivery and Reference.

This will strengthen Shanghai OnStar's location-based services and provide a foundation for the introduction of new services in the future. As of October 31, 2011, Shanghai OnStar Call Centres in Shanghai and Xiamen had provided Navigation service nearly 7.6 million times, Remote Door Unlock service more than 300,000 times and Emergency Assistance more than 90,000 times. They also helped lead to the recovery of 400 stolen vehicles.

Source: General Motors.





Top stories



China: BMW selects China Unicom

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for launching telematics

unicom中国联

China

'Agero' ~ New brand name for ATX and Cross Country



BMW and China Unicom have announced that the companies will work together to launch BMW's ConnectedDrive services.

Under the agreement, China Unicom will offer services based on 2G GSM and 3G WCDMA technologies. In addition to network provision, China Unicom will help with call centre services, systems integration services, and content integration services. According to various reports, the planned telematics services are expected to go live in 2012.

With this announcement, BMW joins a number of vehicle manufacturers who have already launched or planning to launch telematics services in China.

According to Chen Demei, Vice President of the Shanghai Automotive Industry Corporation, the number of telematics users in China is expected to reach 10 million in the next five years.

Sources: China Unicom, F-Paper, People's Daily China.

Cross Country Automotive Services and its subsidiary ATX Group have announced its new corporate brand name; Agero.

Agero (Ah-JEH-roh, from the Latin word agere: to do, to lead, to drive) combines the heritage and innovation of both companies to create an integrated set of offerings to help manufacturers, insurance carriers and aftermarket providers manage the entire vehicle ownership and driving experience. Its services provide drivers with enhanced safety, security, and convenience through roadside assistance, claims management and connected vehicle technology.

"Since Cross Country Automotive Service's acquisition of ATX Group in 2008, our focus has been on integrating our technologies and solutions to provide unique and exciting new benefits to our clients and their customers," said Michael Saxton, CEO of Agero. "The introduction of the Agero brand represents the culmination of these efforts while providing a platform to continue to develop safe, smart and driven solutions."

Source: Agero

Top stories



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Telematics and infotainment

ACTIA launches eCall compatible telematics units with Sierra Wireless

Sierra Wireless and ACTIA have announced that the ACTIA Group has selected Sierra Wireless AirPrime AR Series modules to provide high-performance connectivity for its latest in-vehicle technology platform.



The new platform, called the ACU-II (ACTIA Connect Unit second generation), uses the AirPrime module to allow drivers to connect and manage various functions of vehicles through a smartphone application giving them the ability to, for example, lock or unlock their doors or turn on the heater. It also provides compliance with European and Russian eCall requirements and enables stolen vehicle tracking functionality to meet regulations in other areas such as Brazil.

As part of their collaboration, Sierra Wireless and ACTIA are supporting the HeERO pilot project, currently underway in Sweden. Managed by ERTICO ITS Europe, the HeERO pilot project was created to prepare the European member states for introduction of eCall (Emergency Call) by implementing and testing eCall pre-deployment pilots in real-life environments in nine countries.

Note: More information about the Sierra Wireless AirPrime AR Series of embedded wireless modules and the eCall software library_for automotive applications can be found <u>here</u>.

Source: Sierra Wireless

Clarion and Wind River collaborate to bring Android to the car



Clarion is collaborating with Wind River to develop Android-based in-vehicle infotainment (IVI) systems.

Wind River is creating a custom Android software platform for an automotive environment and providing software integration services to ensure Clarion delivers a reliable and high quality device. Leveraging Android's flexibility for innovation, Clarion Malaysia's new IVI device is designed to deliver a compelling user experience, especially in areas of multimedia, entertainment and connectivity.

The Clarion Malaysia IVI device is based on the Freescale i.MX applications processor family. Clarion designs and manufactures leading automotive audio and video products and related accessories for the aftermarket and original equipment manufacturers.

"Clarion continues to be at the forefront of the newest automotive technologies. With Wind River's expert help, we are taking breakthrough Android technologies that have resonated with consumers and leveraging it for the automotive market," said T.K. Tan, Managing Director of Clarion Malaysia. "Ensuring that new technologies work for the automotive industry is a complicated task. In order to get to market quickly and deliver the highest quality device, it was critical to collaborate with an expert like Wind River who possesses deep automotive and Android experience."

Source: Wind River



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Top stories

Telematics and infotainment

Japan: Honda announces 'Dots'- Links floating car data with social



Honda has decided to extend the sharing of floating car data, a unique technology of Honda, not just between cars, but from cars to people and to society, to connect people through social media and other technologies.

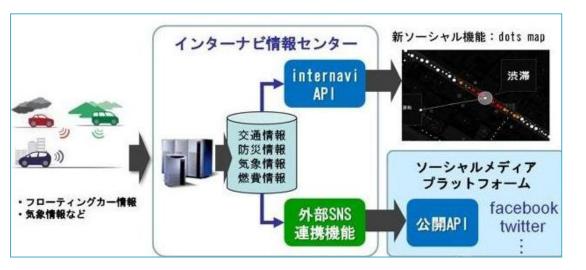
The company has announced to deploy its new project 'Dots' providing a broad range of Internavi Linc services and connect people through social networking platform.

At the 42nd Tokyo Motor Show 2011, Sho Minekawa, Managing Officer and COO for Regional Sales Operations, Honda Motors, said "Offering a variety of services for our customers that enhance the value and enjoyment of the automobile is as important as the new values offered by our products. Our signature service is the Internavi, which is an interactive car navigation service that utilizes Honda's original floating car data (driving data). This service has been widely utilized, and the "Traffic Information Maps", which we released in response to the Great East Japan Earthquake to help people go in and out of the affected areas, received the 2011 Good Design Grand Award.

In the future, we will extend the sharing of floating car data, a unique technology of Honda, not just between cars, but from cars to people and to society, to connect people through social media and other technologies."

He further added that this new initiative to utilize Internavi is named as "dots project", and will be sequentially expanded from end of this year. Dots, which stands for 'Design Our Transportation Story' is a two-way communications and information service, which has been independently developed by Honda "InterNavi". In March this year, Honda Motor announced to offer the "Internavi Linc" service to all Honda vehicle users for free.

The Internavi Linc is a new service that uses the information network of the "Internavi Premium Club" and enables its users to receive traffic information, maintenance information, a history of fuel cost, etc by using a PC, mobile phone or smartphone. According to the company, the first set of contents to be provided through this project will be Internavi information such as the most appropriate route to a destination, weather and disaster information. This information will be posted through social media platform like Twitter and Facebook and shared by customers.



Source: Honda.



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Navigation and traffic

Top stories

Renault unveils Android based infotainment with apps: R-Link



At the LeWeb'11 exhibition in Paris, Renault showcased R-LINK, a connected infotainment platform with apps. According to various online forums, R-Link runs Android powered by a Texas Instrument ARM processor and connectivity using EDGE (2.75G).

R-LINK will provide future Renault vehicles with affordable, intuitive multimedia connectivity, both with the outside world and with its users. R-LINK is a scalable tablet (platform) thanks to the input of application developers who will progressively upgrade its content.

Large 18cm tactile display:

To enable drivers to control its functions without taking their eyes off the road, R-LINK features a large 18cm tactile display, steering wheel-mounted controls and speech recognition. R-LINK also delivers comprehensive connectivity for automotive services and applications in an AppStore (R-LINK Store).

User-friendly interface:

R-LINK is a straightforward, user-friendly interface that covers all the car's functions and data. The menu provides access to the world of in-car multimedia, GPS TomTom LIVE navigation, the R-LINK Store, etc. Users will also be able to customise both their homepage and access to their favourite applications.

According to Renault, at the time of its release, R-LINK Store will pack more than 50 existing useful and community smartphone applications adapted to use on the move. They will be downloadable directly to the tablet inside the car or via the My Renault account.

According to the company the R-LINK will equip ZOE and the new Clio in 2012. In keeping with its determination to make access to innovations an affordable reality for all, R-LINK will be available for all forthcoming Renault models at an unrivalled low price.

Source: Renault



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Navigation and traffic

Australia: New Ford navigation system powered by QNX; NNG and SWSA

Electrical & Electronic supplier SWSA and NNG have successfully delivered a joint navigation solution for the new SUV range of Ford.

Since June 2011, Ford's New Territory model with iGO Navigation onboard has been delivered throughout Australia.

NNG has developed a navigation solution with fully customized workflow and user interface according to SWSA's requirements, based on the iGO My way Engine that runs on millions of navigation devices worldwide.

The iGO Navigation solution is optimized to take advantage of the SWSA hardware for maximum system performance and is integrated collaboratively between NNG and SWSA with many 3rd party components to arrive at a very high quality infotainment solution for Ford.

The new line-fit product runs on the QNX Neutrino OS, the most widely used operating system in the automotive infotainment market.

Running on an 8" touch screen in the vehicle's dashboard, the infotainment solution offers a simplified user interface and feature set for reduced driver distraction.

For more accurate route guidance, the system is able to utilize multi-sensor data of an internal gyroscope and external road information coming via Traffic Message Channel which complement the standard GPS signals.

Taking the local conditions of Australian roads into consideration, the software includes a variety of alert points and speed camera warnings for enhanced driving safety and offers route guidance in Australian English.

Source: NNG.

Google starting to use its own map data in Europe - (no longer Tele Atlas)?

In a recent blog post Google has announced that it is updating its maps for the UK, Germany, Finland and Sweden. The blog entry also states that the company is now getting mapping data directly from various Government agencies such as Germany's Federal Agency for Cartography, which could mean that Google is no longer using Tele Atlas (TomTom) for maps in these areas.



Excerpts from Google's Official Blog:

You may notice many improvements to Google Maps in these countries, such as improved water bodies and more comprehensive local park coverage. Many of these and other changes are the result of us working directly with a variety of organizations, agencies and data providers. For example, Germany's Federal Agency for Cartography and Geodesy (Bundesamt für Kartographie und Geodäsie) supplied us harmonized data from surveying and mapping agencies of all 16 federal states (Länder). And in the case of Finland, we acquired water body data directly from the National Land Survey. We're thankful to these and other data providers for helping us ensure that our digital maps accurately reflect real life. Starting today, the "Report a Problem" tool will appear in the lower right corner of the map for the UK, Germany, Finland and Sweden.

An <u>interesting article on GPS Business News</u> states that Google may no longer be using Tele Atlas maps for France either. The article goes on to say that Google may have paid off TomTom to cancel its map subscription for these regions.

Source: Google, GPS Business News.





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Navigation and traffic

Top stories

US: Garmin OE solution tops JD Power navigation satisfaction survey

Vehicle owners are continuing to experience a high number of problems with factory-installed navigation systems, primarily with routing quality and system usability, according to the J.D. Power and Associates 2011 U.S. Navigation Usage and Satisfaction Study released recently.

Now in its 13th year, the study identifies six factors that contribute to overall satisfaction with factory-installed navigation systems. In order of importance, they are: ease of use; routing; navigation display screen; speed of system; voice directions; and voice recognition.

The study also measures quality by examining problems per 100 (PP100) navigation systems, in which a lower score reflects higher quality.

On average, owners of factory-installed navigation systems experienced 351 PP100 in 2011.

The eight most-frequently reported issues, which account for more than 50 percent of problems reported overall, are:

- Address/street/city not found (33 PP100)
- Difficulty inputting destination (32 PP100)
- Route provided was not direct (24 PP100)
- Difficulty using voice recognition controls (23 PP100)
- Map doesn't show enough street names (21 PP100)
- Couldn't find desired menu/screen (19 PP100)
- Map or point of interest search was missing points of interest (16 PP100)
- Inability to view screen due to glare (14 PP100)

The study finds that system usability is one of the biggest contributors to problem incidence, with nearly one-third of reported problems related to ease of use of the navigation system.

Furthermore, the trend toward integrating the controls of different systems in the vehicle, including audio, climate control and phone, only adds to the ease-of-use issues that owners experience with their navigation system.

For instance, among those owners who consider their multimedia system's menu structure overall to be "not at all complex," the number of navigation system problems experienced is 243 PP100.

However, among those who say the multimedia system interface is "very complex," the average number of problems is three times as high, at 735 PP100.

The Garmin system fitted to the Dodge Charger ranks highest in owner satisfaction with factory-installed navigation systems and performs particularly well in the navigation display screen, ease of use and speed of system factors. The Hyundai-Mobis navigation system supplied to the Hyundai Genesis Coupe follows in the rankings, and the Garmin system supplied to the Chrysler 300 series ranks third.

The 2011 U.S. Navigation Usage and Satisfaction Study is based on responses from 18,303 owners who recently purchased or leased new 2011 model-year vehicles with factory-installed navigation systems. The study was fielded in October 2011.

Source: JD Power.





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TeleNav announces first HTML5 based navigation service



TeleNav has announced that it has created the first HTML5 browser-based, voice-guided, turn-by-turn GPS navigation service for mobile devices. By simply adding one line of code, developers of mobile websites or of apps with local content will have a free and easy way to integrate full GPS turn-byturn directions into their services, creating a more seamless user experience and increasing user engagement and time spent within their applications.

Similar to TeleNav's GPS navigation application, the HTML5 navigation service will include full-color moving maps, audio directions, and automatic rerouting if the driver misses a turn. TeleNav's HTML5 navigation service will be free for both developers and consumers and will support all major mobile platforms.

TeleNav would like to partner with select developers to test the service. Interested mobile website publishers and app developers can apply for early access by visiting TeleNav's website at <u>www.telenav.com/developer/HTML5</u>.

TeleNav expects to publicly launch its HTML5 service in early 2012. Consumers will not need to be current TeleNav customers but will need to have an HTML5-compatible feature phone or smartphone.

Continental supplies 1 millionth navigation system to VW



Continental handed over the one millionth unit of the radio navigation system 510 (or RNS 510 for short) to VW.

The very first unit was produced in 2007, and even then featured a DVD drive, a 30-gigabyte hard drive and a slot for SD memory cards. In the navigation, individual POIs (points of interest) on the electronic map can be stored and integrated in the travel guide. Country-specific models of the device are already available for China, Japan and North America.

The functions are voice-controlled. Alongside the most common European languages, the navigation system also understands Chinese and Japanese.

The larger sister model, the RNS 810, for the VW Phaeton also features Google Earth navigation and map data taken directly from the Internet.

The navigation system is manufactured for Volkswagen at the Continental plant in Brandys in the Czech Republic.

Source: Continental.

Source: TeleNav.



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Smartphone and apps

Top stories

DENSO announces smartphone integration solution ARPEGGiO



To help drivers safely stay connected, DENSO has developed ARPEGGiO, a smartphone-based, information system that uses the onboard navigation screen to display and operate smartphone applications. DENSO's ARPEGGiO will be released in Japan next year and the company plans to have the service used worldwide in the near future.

To use DENSO's new system, it requires an ARPEGGIO-enabled car navigation system and users will then need to download the respective DENSO ARPEGGiO app to their smartphone. Once complete, the smartphone and car navigation system will automatically communicate with each other through a Bluetooth connection and display a list of smartphone applications, available through ARPEGGiO, onto the car navigation display.

For safety reasons, the direct use of smartphones while driving is prohibited by many traffic regulations around the world. ARPEGGiO is not just a system that displays the smartphone operation screen on the navigation display. The system modifies the look of the original smartphone application and formats it in a way that's easier to view on the car navigation screen.

At present, the preceding application services planned for the Japanese market include: searching for locations and setting destinations; playing music stored on Smartphones and streaming internet radio; Track vehicle fuel efficiency; Register current location on social networking services (SNS) such as mixi.

Content providers will update information and supply these services through the users' smartphones, enabling them to obtain the latest information without updating their car navigation systems. It is also important to note that DENSO can add additional applications to meet user wants and needs. The middleware of ARPEGGiO is light and easy to install on a variety of operating systems, allowing ARPEGGiO to be built into any type of car navigation system.

ARPEGGiO is powered by UIEvolution's "UIEngine for Automotive" software solution.

Source: Denso & UIE.





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Smartphone and apps

EU: MINI Connected app gets 'Driving Excitement' feature





MINI has expanded the abilities of the MINI Connected app through the release of a new version that includes a fresh Driving Excitement mode. Driving Excitement is the latest Mini Connected app for the iPhone and it measures all the major performance parameters. The new app offers three functions, Digital Sports Instruments, Force Meter, and Condition Check.

The Condition Check:

This function keeps an eye on – among other things – the engine temperature, fuel level, status of the optional Sport Button, outside temperature and signs of rain. Should conditions allow, the display in the on-board monitor proudly declares everything "BE MINI".

The Force Meter:

It presents a new and unique visual showcase for the hallmark MINI go-kart feeling. This function measures and records the longitudinal and lateral acceleration generated over a pre-defined timeframe when pushing on and braking, and through right and left-hand corners.

The on-board monitor uses a virtual MINI to show the direction in which the forces are developing at any particular moment. The strength of the acceleration forces is displayed within a circle, with various segments illuminating to reflect the driver's responses at the wheel.

The Digital Sports Instruments:

It turns the on-board monitor into an attractive extension of the standard cockpit dials, presenting vehicle data graphics in typical MINI style. In the centre of the virtual instrument the driver will find the coolant temperature gauge, while to the left the engine output currently being requested by his right foot is shown in the form of a bar chart and concrete figures.

Displayed in the same form on the right of the temperature gauge is the engine's current rpm or torque, according to driver preference. The output and revs/torque data are presented in drag indicator mode so that the maximum values achieved remain visible in the display for a short time after the driver has taken his foot off the gas.

The driver can choose to have output shown in either kW or hp. The MINI Connected app for the iPhone also includes a detailed tutorial outlining the fundamentals of skilled, sporty and, above all, safe driving.

Like the preceding versions of the MINI Connected app, the latest update is uploaded into the car via the iPhone. The MINI Connected app can be used in all current MINI models equipped with the radio MINI Visual Boost or MINI navigation system and MINI Connected option. The functions are operated using the MINI joystick, steering wheel buttons and on-board monitor, where the displays for each function are presented safely and with customary MINI flair.

Source: BMW.



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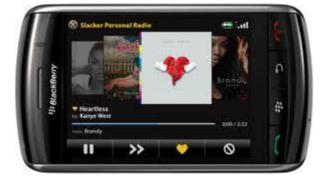
Smartphone and apps

Ford adds Slacker Radio to SYNC AppLink solution

Slacker Radio joins the lineup of smartphone apps that Ford drivers can control with their voice through available SYNC AppLink.

AppLink builds on the SYNC connectivity system by enabling drivers to access and control apps on their smartphones by simply using their voice and allowing their hands to stay on the steering wheel and their eyes on the road.

"Customers now have so many options for accessing music and information. Ford SYNC AppLink allows us to not only keep pace with what they are listening to, but how they are listening to it," said Doug VanDagens, director of Ford Connected Services. "With its huge music library, Slacker Radio dramatically increases the content options for Ford drivers."





"Slacker listeners can create their own custom stations by selecting their favorite artists and songs, or listen to any of more than 150 stations curated by expert DJs who love the music they play," said Steve Cotter, senior vice president of Business Development at Slacker Radio. "When they're not in the mood for music, Slacker listeners can tune in to a wide variety of personalized talk content including personalized comedy, ABC News and ESPN Radio stations."

Ford drivers will be able to use their voice or the audio system controls to select Slacker stations to play, skip songs, set favorites or even ban a song or artist they don't want to hear again. When driving into areas with limited or even no data connectivity, drivers can still listen to their favorite music by storing content directly to their phones for uninterrupted listening.

In order to use Slacker with AppLink, drivers just need to update the Slacker Radio app on their smartphones to the latest version. Slacker with AppLink is now available on Android and BlackBerry with iOS pending approval.

SYNC AppLink is available on the 2012 Ford Fusion, Fusion Hybrid, Fiesta, Mustang, F-150, F-150 SVT Raptor, Super Duty, Expedition, E-Series and Shelby GT500. The 2012 Lincoln MKZ, MKZ Hybrid and Navigator feature SYNC AppLink as standard equipment.

Source: Ford.





Top stories



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Smartphone and apps

Panasonic supplies Toyota's Mirrorlink System

Panasonic has announced that it has delivered its in car Display Audio system compatible with the new MirrorLink smartphone to car connectivity standard for the Toyota iQ city car being sold by Toyota Motor Europe, becoming the world's first OEM supplier of such product for the car industry. This genuine Toyota accessory named "Toyota Touch Life" is being offered as a dealer option for the iQ in Europe.

The 2-DIN-sized Display-Audio system features an AM/FM radio and a seveninch WVGA TFT color touchscreen display, which literally mirrors the user's smartphone screen, showing MirrorLink-enabled applications running on the smartphone.

Using the in-dash touchscreen display, the driver can access smartphone applications by the new industry standard connectivity technology, such as maps, car navigators and music players that are designed with driver safety and convenience in mind.

Nokia provides the first MirrorLink-certified smartphone to work with in-car headunits. Nokia smartphone users can download the Nokia Car Mode app from Nokia Store for Nokia MirrorLink-enabled smart phones to be connected with Toyota Touch Life. Nokia Car Mode app with MirrorLink support will be available for download on Nokia 701, 700, 603, expanding to include N8, E7, C7, X7 and C6-01 models at a later date. Support for N9 is also planned.

Nokia Car Mode app (available in December) simplifies the user interface to give direct access to the device's telephony, navigation, and music player functions. This easy-to-use GUI (graphical user interface) ensures that drivers can access only the most essential and non-distracting functions on the smartphone while the car is on the move.

Source: Panasonic.

audio

Picture & movie

smartphone link

US: Chevrolet Spark to Get New Smartphone Navigation Integration Solution

The 2013 Chevrolet Spark mini car revealed at the Los Angeles International Auto Show, is the only car in its segment to offer a seven-inch color touch screen radio capable of displaying smart phone-based navigation, media and contacts for hands-free calling.

Chevrolet's exclusive MyLink infotainment system, which features the personalized connectivity of Pandora and Stitcher internet radio, will be offered on 1LT and 2LT models when Spark goes on sale in the United States and Canada in mid-2012.

Inside, the Chevrolet MyLink infotainment system, included on 1LT and 2LT Spark models, provides a seven-inch color touch screen. With MyLink, Spark buyers can bring their customized music libraries into the vehicle and use their smart phones and Bluetooth connectivity to access both Pandora and Stitcher internet radio **and navigation**. When the vehicle is stopped, owners can project video and even personal photo albums onto the screen. SiriusXM Satellite Radio also is available on high end Spark models.

"This level of infotainment and connectivity was unheard of in this segment, until now," said said Chris Perry, vice president, global Chevrolet marketing and strategy. "We know Spark buyers do not want to give up personalization just because they drive a smaller car."

Note: Spark is also equipped with the OnStar safety and security system.

Source: General Motors.







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Top stories

Smartphone and apps

US: Kenwood adds Android phone integration to aftermarket line up

KENWOOD



Kenwood will ship this month two car radios that work with Android phones. It joins Sony as one of the few suppliers to give Android phone users the ability control their music from the car radio.

Android users can plug in their phones into the Kenwood car radio which will then recognize it as a mass storage device. If the user also downloads a Kenwood app, he can then use the car radio's seek, play and pause keys to control music on the phone.

The app will be available in January from Android Market, and will most likely be called Kenwood Music Control.

The Android-ready car CD/radios are the Kenwood KDC-252U CD receiver and KDC-202U.

The KDC-252U has a \$120 suggested retail price.

Courtesy: <u>CE Outlook (Read more)</u>

US: Honda intros Pandora app integration on new CR-V



Pandora has announced that automaker Honda is now counted among Pandora's growing roster of automotive partners. The addition makes for a total of 14 automotive brands to date that have announced or now offer an invehicle integration of Pandora internet radio.

The Honda implementation was announced as part of latest unveiling of the 2012 CR-V at the Los Angeles Auto Show. The 2012 CR-V is scheduled to be available for purchase on December 15 at dealers nationwide.

Pandora comes to life as a standard feature in the CR-V and includes important Pandora features that help personalize the user's stations including thumbs-up, thumbs-down and track skip. Connectivity to Pandora in the CR-V is enabled by a smartphone and the system is currently compatible with the iPhone.

Pandora Executive Vice President of Business and Corporate Development Jessica Steel said, "Pandora listeners love to take their personalized stations wherever they go, and that is especially true of the car where almost half of all radio listening occurs. We are excited that Honda is able to roll out a live implementation to customers so shortly after their announcement."

Source: Pandora.



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ADAS, Connectivity & more

Japan: Denso shows driver drowsiness detection system

Denso Corp exhibited a prototype of a system that measures the drowsiness level of the driver at the 42nd Tokyo Motor Show 2011. The show will open for the public from Dec 3 to 11, 2011, in Tokyo.

A camera set on the steering column is used to take a picture of the driver's face, and a drowsiness level is determined based on the facial expression of the driver. Denso has not yet decided when to commercialize the system.

The system determines a drowsiness level by observing the activities of three kinds of muscles in nine areas on the driver's face. Denso found that there is a correlation between drowsiness and the amounts of those muscles' activities, it said.

Specifically, the system extracts 17 feature points from the facial image and determines the amounts of muscular activities to calculate a drowsiness level on a scale of one to six.

Existing systems determine a drowsiness level by, for example, observing how much the eyes are open. Therefore, they can determine it only after the driver's drowsiness level increases to a certain extent. On the other hand, the new system can detect the driver's drowsiness even when the drowsiness level is small, Denso said.

The company aims to commercialize the system by removing the influence of ambient light such as strong sunlight and combining a near-infrared camera with the system for nighttime use.

Courtesy: Tech-On.

Japan: Mitsubishi shows curved touch screen in-car display Mitsubishi Electric Corp exhibited a curved automotive

display at the 42nd Tokyo Motor Show 2011. In the company's booth, it exhibited a concept car equipped with two types of displays. One of the two types is a rear-projection display, and visitors can experience its operation. The rear-projection display has a structure in which an image is projected to its semispherical screen from the

back. Because the screen is combined with an optical touch sensor, it is possible to touch and scroll a map displayed on the screen and conduct search by writing characters on it by hand.

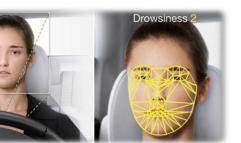
Scrolling a map displayed on the semispherical screen is like spinning a globe. Mitsubishi Electric sells rear-projection TVs using laser light sources. And it applied technologies and know-how used for those TVs to the new automotive display.

The depths of rear-projection displays are larger than those of LCD panels, etc. But the company said, "The depths of our rear-projection TVs are small because of the improvements made to their optical designs. And it is possible to reduce the sizes of automotive rear-projection displays by using the new optical designs."

According to Mitsubishi Electric, it is possible to make an LCD panel bent in one direction, but it is difficult to realize a display bent in many directions like a hemisphere without using the rear-projection method. The company considers that rear-projection types offer a high design freedom and are suited for improving usability and design.

Courtesy: Tech-On.







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US: Magna to supply new camera based ADAS system to GM vehicles



Magna International has announced that its Magna Electronics operating unit, in conjunction with Mobileye, its partner for image processing, has developed an innovative driver assistance system that uses a single, forward-looking video camera to provide safety and convenience features such as forward collision and lane departure warnings.

More affordable than comparable systems, the Magna system has recently launched on General Motors vehicles in the North American market, available as an option on the 2012 Chevrolet Equinox and GMC Terrain.

Magna Electronics has partnered on advanced driver assistance systems with Mobileye since 2005. The first product to be introduced was the Lane Departure Warning system based on the EyeQ1, launching also with General Motors on the Cadillac STS and DTS and Buick Lucerne.

The debut of the second generation Mobileye processor, the EyeQ2, in this launch with General Motors demonstrates the continuing advancements and growth in features for both Magna and Mobileye.

Magna's system will go into production on multiple platforms with multiple OEMs in various markets around the world, a testament to the appeal and widespread adoption of a system that provides desired functionality at the right price.

The Magna system directly addresses market demand for an affordable driver assistance system which seeks to prevent two serious types of accidents: rear-end collisions, which are the most common type of vehicle accident, and lane departure accidents, which are the most deadly.

For lane departure warning, a video camera located behind the windshield is coupled with an advanced image processor to automatically detect lane markings. The system alerts drivers who might unintentionally stray from the lane being traveled. To reduce nuisance alerts, the system will not provide an alert if the turn signal is activated by the driver or if the driver makes a sharp maneuver.

When the Magna system's lane departure warning is engaged, a driver about to cross a detected lane marking without signaling is alerted in two ways: an amber indicator light located in the instrument panel flashes, and an alerting chime of three beeps is played in the left or right speakers - depending on the direction of impending lane departure.

The system's forward collision warning works in a similar fashion, with the combination of a warning light and an audible tone to alert the driver. The driver can set distance warnings for far, medium and near.

Source: Magna.



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Germany: Continental readies Ethernet-networking in vehicles



Following intensive development and validation of the technical possibilities and necessity of Ethernet-networking in vehicles, international automotive supplier Continental is ready to deploy the technology in future vehicle generations.

To meet ever-growing in-vehicle communication requirements, Continental sees Ethernet technology as the ideal solution for vehicle networks. Thanks to unshielded, two-core, easy-to-install copper cables, the technology offers 100 megabits of bandwidth between all connected network nodes such as control units, antennas and sensors.

The robust data transmission and its widespread use outside the automotive industry too are other factors in favour of this networking technology. Ethernet technology allows components that have already proved their worth outside the automotive industry to be reused. In contrast to other, less widespread technologies, this offers clear cost benefits worldwide.

Cost comparisons have been carried out in particular for the optical networking standard MOST (Media Oriented Systems Transport), a standard developed primarily for the transmission of multimedia data. These showed that Ethernet-based networks can cut costs by between 15 and 20 percent, taking into account not only the electrical components but also the cabling. The use of Ethernet-based networks supports the ever-growing trend toward in-vehicle data transmission and communication between vehicles and the outside world.

Bandwidth requirements for communication between control units will continue to increase too, which is why Continental now uses IP and Ethernet as an in-vehicle network layer and offers vehicle manufacturers a range of products that support this technology. Continental is getting set to deliver IP- and Ethernet-based solutions and is planning to launch production in 2015.

The heart of an IP-/Ethernet-based vehicle network is formed by the central nodes (Ethernet switches), which will be integrated in the infotainment systems and gateways offered by Continental. The gateways act as interfaces with not only the diagnostics systems, which will in future support diagnosis via the IP (DoIP) standard, but also with conventional vehicle network technologies such as CAN, FlexRay and MOST.

Continental sees clear benefits in gradually replacing these technologies – particularly MOST – in infotainment systems in order to achieve the aim of a standardized network layer. This will help reduce complexity and make integration in the vehicle much easier. Continental has already developed one of the most important systems for seamless Ethernet communication in partnership with Kathrein: the intelligent antenna module.

This unit contains antennas for wireless communication between vehicles and the infrastructure as well as antennas for the vehicle interior and associated transmission and reception electronics. All the data received in the module can be digitalized directly and sent to the relevant components via the IP-based network. Even a 360-degree camera can be implemented in real time on the basis of IP technology.

For Continental, Ethernet therefore represents another step toward achieving its vision of being "Always On". At the same time, this technology will allow the system integrator to not only fulfill the necessary networking requirements, but also cut overall costs.

Source: Continental.



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Brazil: Visteon increases production of in-car radios with connectivity features

With vehicle buyers in Brazil turning to more sophisticated on-board entertainment systems, global automotive supplier Visteon Corporation is supporting vehicle manufacturers and dealers by increasing production of radios with connectivity-related features.

Over the five past years, Visteon has increased by 30 percent its production in Brazil of radios with connectivity-related features such as USB, Bluetooth wireless technology, iPod devices and voice command.

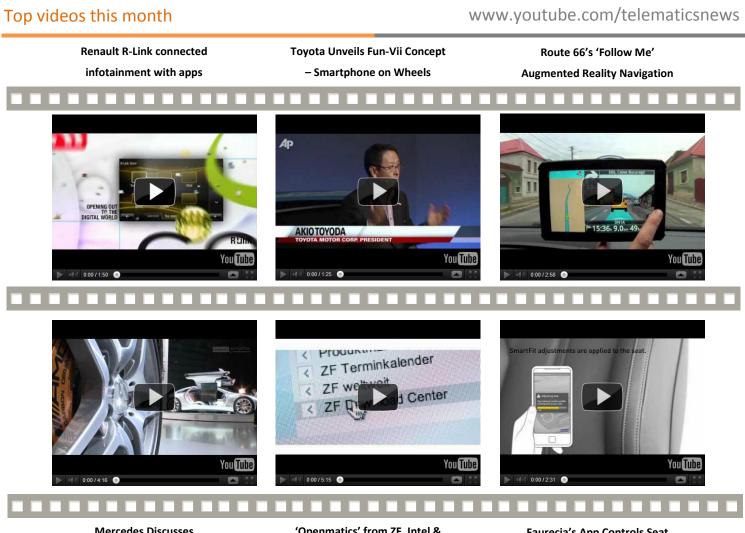


This year, connectivity-equipped radios will account for approximately 40 percent of Visteon's radio production in Brazil. By 2015, Visteon expects that all radios it produces in Brazil will be equipped with technologies capable of keeping drivers connected.

Visteon began manufacturing radios equipped with Bluetooth wireless technology in 2005. Today, they represent nearly half of the approximately 500,000 radio sets that Visteon assembles each year at its plant in Manaus, Brazil. The radios are sold as original equipment and as accessories at dealerships in Brazil.

Source: Visteon.

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EVENT	ABOUT	VENUE	DATE
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CES	Consumer Electronics Show More info: http://www.cesweb.org/	Las Vegas, USA	10 January 2012
NORTH AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL AUTO SHOW	North American International Auto Show More info: http://www.naias.com/	Detroit, USA	10 January 2012
23-25 JANUARY 2012, BERLIN	Enterprise M2M More info: http://www.enterprise-m2m.com/	Berlin, Germany	23-25 January 2012

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