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Nissan develops camera-based intelligent acceleration pedal control



Continental intros 'Magic User Interface' HMI concept



New Audi A4 to get Audi Connect telematics, ADAS features



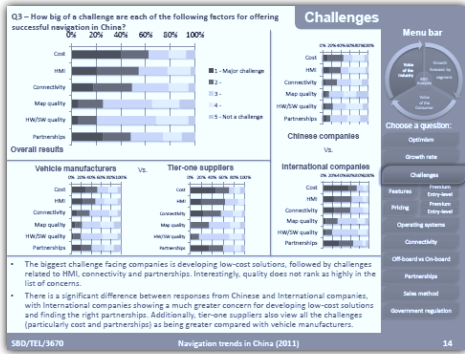
New BMW 3 Series gets latest infotainment and ADAS tech



Automakers to work with governments globally for harmonised V2X standards

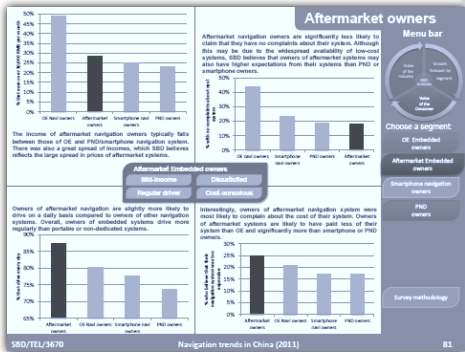


Interactive guide with a comprehensive analysis of the navigation trends in China

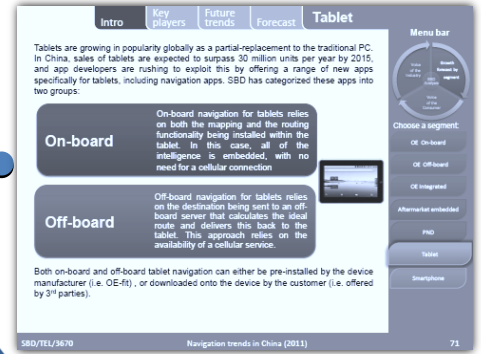
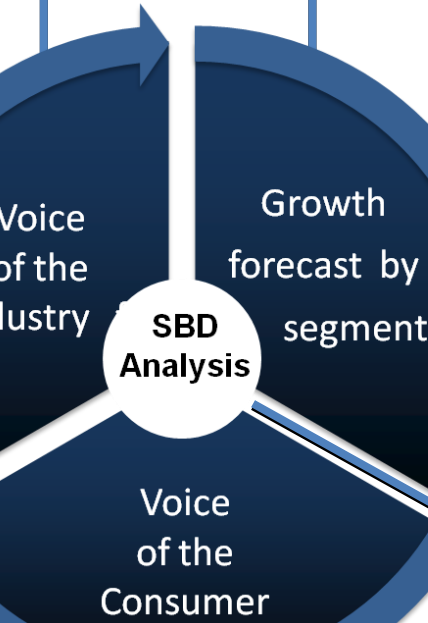


Data from 100 industry stakeholders, covering features, technologies, pricing, partnerships etc.

Profile of different types of navigation users based on survey of 1,250 Chinese consumers.

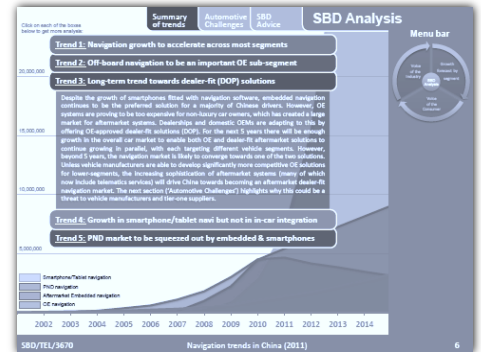


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Analysis of key trends across all navigation segments, including detailed sales forecasts.

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US: Volkswagen selects Hughes Telematics for connected services



Hughes Telematics has announced that it has signed an agreement with Volkswagen Group of America, to deliver connected vehicle services beginning in 2013.

Hughes Telematics and Volkswagen will bring to market a comprehensive suite of connected services for safety and security, convenience, and diagnostics, while offering drivers a new level of service and accessibility.

“We are excited to partner with Hughes Telematics as we introduce Connected Services to our Technology portfolio,” said Rainer Michel, vice president product marketing and strategy, Volkswagen of America, Inc.

“With the introduction of the Hughes Telematics solution, we can reliably add new features throughout the life of our products. Our partnership with Hughes Telematics further extends our commitment to innovation and technology leadership.”

Volkswagen and Hughes Telematics will work together to offer personalized services that enhance the driving and ownership experience. Hughes Telematics’ versatile architecture will provide the support for Volkswagen’s Connected Services portfolio with state-of-the-art customer service systems and emergency support personnel.

“As one of the leading automakers in the world, Volkswagen is clearly a significant influencer within the industry, and we look forward to working together to bring a unique connected experience to their customers,” said Erik Goldman, president, Hughes Telematics, Inc.

“Volkswagen’s rich history of developing state-of-the-art technology coupled with our industry leading telematics architecture and experience will allow us to deliver a robust set of services to meet the global needs of today’s and tomorrow’s drivers.”

Source: Hughes Telematics

US: ATX claims 2 new clients as Cross Country creates new call centre jobs

Cross Country Automotive Services is in the process of bringing the world of connected vehicle services to its Sault Ste. Marie call centre, which will create about 100 new jobs.

Before telematics, Cross Country workers handled inbound phone calls for vehicle breakdowns or requests for towing assistance.

Connected vehicles use wireless communications, GPS satellite technology and automated or interactive voice technology to provide safety, security and driving convenience to vehicle owners. For example, in the event of a crash the call centre gets a signal from the car that shows its location. Some of the cars, such as BMW vehicles, send out data about the severity of the crash and how many people are inside, which can be given to 911 dispatchers.

“If we can [speak to an occupant], we find out the situation and assess it to determine our next steps. If we can’t get in touch with anyone, we would automatically send out emergency services,” said Brian O’Shaughnessy, Cross Country’s director of contact centre operations in Sault Ste. Marie.

To handle the new technology, workers need specialized training to respond to airbag deployments and other emergencies, such as requests for directions, remote door unlocking or locating of stolen cars. The Sault call centre has trained about 40 people to support these new services so far, expecting to raise the figure to 100 early next year. The number of employees at the Sault call centre dropped down below 400 last August because of automation. This new service will bring the number of employees back up to about 500.

The expanded role of the call centre is to meet the rapid growth in customers experienced by Cross Country’s connected vehicles division, ATX group. The call centre will deal with calls from vehicles manufactured by Toyota, Lexus, Hyundai, BMW and Rolls-Royce Motor Cars.

Cross Country Automotive, which has five call centres, is expanding the service to its operations in Sault Ste. Marie, Tucson, Arizona and Sebring, Florida. It already offered the service in Dallas, Texas.

Courtesy: The Sault Star

Mercedes Benz reveals '@yourCOMAND' telematics strategy



Mercedes-Benz has announced its telematics strategy @yourCOMAND, and is showing the possibilities using a cloud-based system in its new F 125! research vehicle.

"@yourCOMAND turns the car into a mobile communications centre that provides the driver and passengers with access to all modern media and services at all times", says Prof. Dr. Thomas Weber, Member of the Board of Management of Daimler AG, responsible for Group Research & Mercedes-Benz Cars Development.

"Thanks to the consistently cloud-based solution, we can also uncouple from the established vehicle development cycles and are at eye level with the rapid developments in the world of consumer electronics. We can therefore always provide our customers with access to the latest applications for fully fledged in-car connectivity."

The Mercedes-Benz telematics strategy is based on four components: @yourCOMAND stands for: seamless experience, natural handling, sensory perfection and remote convenience. Mercedes-Benz has implemented this strategic approach for the first time in its F 125! research vehicle.

Seamless experience connects the multimedia systems in the F 125! seamlessly and cross-functionally. The applications are socially interactive and do not distract the driver. Thanks to the permanent connection with the data cloud, the driver also has "seamless" access in the vehicle to all the used media, with no need for any cumbersome synchronisation.

Natural handling enables the telematics and infotainment systems in the F 125! to be largely controlled via voice as well as by means of supplementary intuitive gesture and touch elements.

Sensory perfection stands for high-end sound and high-resolution screens with pin-sharp, individual displays. The auto stereoscopic 3D display provides a 3D representation of the instrument cluster and can cluster relevant information on the F 125! display as required.

Remote convenience enables the vehicle and its multimedia system to be fully preconfigured remotely using a PC or smartphone – from programming the navigation and entertainment system through to seat-specific presetting of the desired interior temperature.

Source: Daimler.

Toyota to launch telematics services in emerging markets starting with Thailand

Toyota Motor Corporation (TMC) plans to launch next-generation telematics services in emerging markets around the world, starting with Thailand in March 2012. The services will use a global cloud platform, scheduled for rollout in 2012, under co-development by TMC and United States-based Microsoft Corporation, honouring their strategic partnership, [announced in April 2011](#).



The new platform will function as information infrastructure for next-generation telematics services designed for use in TMC-produced electric vehicles and plug-in hybrid vehicles scheduled for launch in Japan and the United States.

The telematics services to be launched in Thailand will use the same platform and will represent the first step in TMC's plan to progressively expand provision of such services to other emerging markets, where infrastructure could be limited. The services for Thailand will be designed for use with smartphones but will also be accessible by linking a smartphone and an onboard Audio Display system, thus allowing use both inside and outside the vehicle. In addition, as an onboard navigation system is not required for use, TMC will be able to offer onboard systems at lower prices.

The planned services for Thailand include a navigation system routing service, currently available in Japan and China, which uses traffic information to help the user avoid traffic congestion. TMC will also launch two services currently available in Japan, China, and the United States: A routing service that allows users to have an operator set a destination, and an emergency notification service for requesting assistance in the event of an accident or other emergency.

Source: Toyota.

China: BYD launches e6 full electric car with 'BYD i' telematics

BYD has announced that their five-passenger, long-range, all-electric cross-over vehicle, the BYD e6, will be available for consumer purchases (previously only for fleet purchases). Consumers in Shenzhen will receive a substantial government subsidy, equivalent to about \$18,000 USD (or 120,000 RMB) — and the e6 unsubsidized price will start at ~\$56,900 (or 369,800 RMB). The final price to consumers will be ~\$38,430 (or 249,800 RMB).

This is the very first domestic, long-range, all-electric vehicle for sale to consumers in China. BYD e6s are a familiar sight in Shenzhen and have been in operation in government and taxi fleets for nearly 18 months. With the launch of the consumer e6, BYD is also deploying some new breakthrough technologies and high-end equipment as standard in this model. This launched e6 will implement the newly developed "i" System (also called "BYD-i"). BYD-i was researched and developed by BYD independently, allowing many vehicle functions to be performed remotely by smartphone and using cloud-data for high-tech driving assistance.



"i" has a simple, intuitive interface with 24-hour online call center access and emergency services from thousands of BYD's partners. "i" becomes an information portal with terminal access to services like Keyless Entry System, DVD & Voice Navigation System, Mobile Digital TV and Rear Camera Parking Assistance.

The new e6 is continuously connected to the internet and the mobile communication network through BYD-i, and therefore owners can utilize their smart phones to lock and unlock car doors remotely, initiate air-conditioning (to heat or cool the interior), location-based services (and vehicle location), search for news, or real-time information (stocks/flights/weather), as well as communicate with a service call center for help or time of accident.

Source: BYD.



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Cadillac unveils CUE infotainment with a number of ‘industry firsts’

CUE, which stands for Cadillac User Experience, will debut in 2012 in the Cadillac XTS and ATS luxury sedans and SRX luxury crossover.

The heart of CUE is the 8-inch capacitive LCD touch screen, seamlessly integrated into the top of the central instrument panel and a motorized fully capacitive faceplate at the bottom concealing a 1.8L storage area. The system supports Pandora, Stitcher smartphone app integration and provides an HTML5-based browser with full JavaScript support. As the system is based on a Linux Operating System, [Cadillac has hinted](#) that there is a possibility to add 3rd party apps in the future. The system also has Bluetooth DUN capability for internet access.

Cadillac claims the CUE will feature several auto industry firsts:

- **Proximity Sensing:** As the user’s hand approaches the LCD screen, command icons appear. Icons can be customized and arranged by consumers to improve ease of use.
- **Haptic Feedback:** Buttons on the fully capacitive faceplate pulse when pressed to acknowledge the driver’s commands and helps keep the driver’s eyes on the road.
- **Multi-Touch Hand Gestures:** interactive motions (tap, flick, swipe and spread) popularized by smartphones and tablets allow tasks on the LCD screen, such as scrolling lists, zooming maps and searching favorites to be easily accomplished.
- **12.3 in. LCD reconfigurable gauge cluster** (on select models) offers four selectable displays – Simple, Enhanced, Balanced and Performance – that can mix traditional vehicle data such as a speedometer and fuel gauge with navigation, entertainment and 3D vehicle image.
- **Natural Speech Recognition** lets consumers speak logically with fewer specific commands to recall stored media or input navigation destinations. CUE’s text-to-speech feature will also allow consumers to receive text messages by system voice and to send recorded text messages in return.
- **Linux operating system**, “open” software platform and ARM 11 3-core processor, each operating at 400 million of instructions (mips) per second. This hardware setup offers 3.5 times more processing power than current infotainment systems, and allow developers to write applications to CUE that be downloaded by consumers.

CUE’s customization and control features are further enhanced through OnStar’s suite of safety, security and connectivity services, such as Turn-by-Turn navigation, Automatic Crash Notification, hands-free calling and the OnStar RemoteLink mobile application.

Note: Key OnStar features are available through CUE’s LCD screen, gauge cluster and steering wheel controls.

Source: General Motors.



EU: TomTom launches semi-integrated PND dock for Ford



TomTom has announced that it will integrate its GO LIVE 1000 and GO LIVE 1005 models with a specifically designed cradle for Ford models in Europe.

This solution provides a semi-integrated solution, with all wires worked away in the dashboard, no suction mount and automatic powering of the device.

In addition, Ford customers can enjoy the benefits of TomTom's HD Traffic enabling drivers to take the fastest route to their destination based on real time traffic information covering 99.9% of the road network.

The GO LIVE 1000 and GO LIVE 1005 models can be ordered at Ford dealers for the following models: Ford KA, Ford Fiesta, Ford Focus 2011, Ford C-Max, and all LCV models.

Note: This system is not offered in the UK and Ireland.

Source: TomTom.

Harman extends VW Group contract with new \$400 million deal



HARMAN has announced that it has extended its relationship with the Volkswagen Group to provide new premium 'Mid' infotainment systems. The award is valued at approximately US\$400 million.

The new award will include three new programs with the VW Group: the extension of HARMAN's next generation infotainment product offering to further car lines in the fiscal year 2015, the extension of the current high infotainment system starting in fiscal year 2014 and offering a new infotainment head unit variant launching in fiscal year 2013.

Recently, HARMAN also announced Changan Motors as its first China-based automotive infotainment customer. The award builds on HARMAN's total awarded automotive infotainment business, which was valued at US\$11.4B as of September 30, 2011.

Source: Harman.

Russia: Hyundai Sonata features Cyrillic navigation with Navitel maps

Hyundai Motor CIS has announced the release of the Hyundai Sonata sixth generation model. Russian automobile owners will have a choice from two complete sets: Style+Navi and Prestige+Navi, equipped with Cyrillic navigation systems with Navitel maps.



Package includes Navitel Navigator program and expanded set of high-detailed Navitel maps of Russia, Kazakhstan, Finland, Eastern Europe. "Eastern Europe" package consists of maps of Belarus, Ukraine, Romania, Hungary, Bulgaria, Moldova, Czech Republic, Estonia, Litva, Latvia, Poland and Slovakia.

In 2011-2012 after map updates detailed maps of Croatia, Bosnia, Herzegovina, Serbia, Montenegro, Macedonia, Albania and Greece will be available. Program and map updates are free.

Source: Navitel.

Delphi selects TeleNav for new worldwide connected navi platform



TeleNav has been selected by Delphi Automotive to provide its TeleNav Auto platform for the navigation component of a new, connected infotainment system available worldwide.

The TeleNav Auto platform is the heart of the navigation system and will be used to calculate turn-by-turn directions that incorporate real-time information from SiriusXM such as traffic and weather. Navigation with integrated connected features will be accessible through voice commands and a full-color LCD touch-screen.

Key Navigation Features Include:

- **Global Maps and Places:** Search, localized maps, and POIs for more than 60 countries around the world
- **Live Traffic:** Save time with live traffic updates that automatically reroute you around traffic jams or road congestion.
- **Local Weather:** Get real-time weather and forecasts for your current location.
- **3D Landmarks:** 3D buildings and historic landmarks make it easier to navigate.
- **2D Building Footprints:** Shaded building outlines add another layer of detail to maps.
- **Junction View:** A navigation view that makes complex lane changes simple and easy.
- **Lane Guidance:** Informs the driver what lane to be in as the turn approaches.
- **Waypoints:** Set multiple destinations along the route.
- **Voice Control:** Stay safe and keep your hands on the wheel with voice-activated commands.
- **OpenGL Engine:** Latest 3D map technology for a better navigation experience.
- **And much more.**

The Delphi connected infotainment system with TeleNav's navigation technology is expected to be available in eight regions around the world including North America, South America, Western Europe, Eastern Europe, Middle East, Southeast Asia, Australia and Africa. The system's introduction is planned for 2012 in North America with a leading global automaker.

Source: TeleNav.

China: Bosch supplies Volkswagen's radio navigation system



The Car Multimedia division at Bosch has developed the RNS 315 CN radio navigation system for the Volkswagen Group to cater the specific requirements of the Chinese market.

The system equipped with a color touch-screen display is easy to operate, calculates routes quickly, and provides reliable route guidance with visual and acoustic driving recommendations. Thanks to a phonetic system for transcribing Chinese characters called Pinyin First Letter Input, entering a destination in Chinese is easy too.

The 6.5-inch touch-screen display combined with easy-to-operate keys and a central control knob make handling and operation intuitive. A special feature of the system is its dual-mode operation: with the exception of a few primary functions, the RNS 315 CN can be controlled via the touch screen just as easily as with the control knob.

The infotainment system's color display provides great readability and an excellent overview of the various on-screen user menus, such as the menus for radio stations, audio file track selection, navigation maps, telephone lists and the climate control system.

Alongside the fastest and shortest route, the system's route calculation function also offers users the most economical route. The system in this case recommends routes to the destination offering the lowest fuel consumption possible and thus reducing CO2 emissions.

The audio system in the RNS 315 CN is equipped with a comprehensive range of connectivity options. Thanks to the USB port, users can connect portable MP3 devices, USB flash drives or an iPod just as easily as a portable hard disk drive or an iPhone.

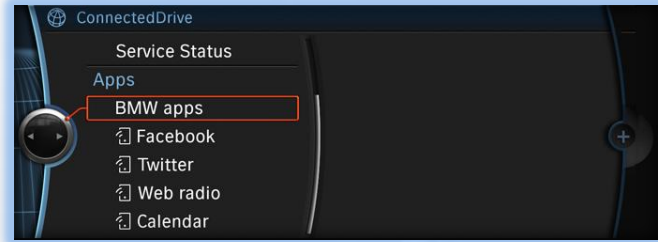
Source: Bosch.

BMW shows 'Infotainment Assistant' concept - personal butler in the car



The Infotainment Assistant, a new BMW Group research project already tested in a vehicle prototype, plays the role of personal butler to the driver during a journey, offering suggestions on entertaining or informative content. The suggestions are geared towards the driver's preferences and the driving situation at hand, ensuring that the range of options always hits the mark.

BMW has 3 centres across the world working just on apps



BMW has 3 centres across the world working just on apps. The three 'AppCenters' in Munich, Mountain View (California) and Shanghai are working together on the research and development of new applications for smartphones and browser-based technologies.

With these three locations linked up closely together, the BMW Group is responding extremely effectively to different customer requirements and the desire for a local range of apps.

BMW talks in-car augmented reality using contact analogue display tech



BMW showcases the next generation Head-Up Display with contact analogue. The next generation Head-Up display arrived in 2011 and was the first step towards in-car implementation of augmented reality.

The HUD augments the external scene with additional information and artificially generated objects which react to and adapt to the situation in real time.

BMW testing LTE connected cloud based ADAS & infotainment tech



BMW is conducting intensive research, in parallel with extensive live testing, to evaluate the performance of LTE in in-car applications.

The live tests are being carried out in urban conditions in Munich and in the surrounding rural area. The focus is on evaluating parameters such as transmission characteristics, latency times and transfer speeds under real-world conditions.

The services already offered by BMW ConnectedDrive can benefit greatly from the improved speed, performance and area coverage offered by LTE.



BMW working on Android versions of its phone apps



BMW has announced that in the future, smartphones based on the Android operating system should also be able to use the BMW and MINI apps. The first step along this road is the Android version of the My BMW Remote app, which controls the same remote functions as its iPhone counterpart.

In addition to opening and closing the car, the driver can also use the Climate Control function to access the car's climate control system and activate its auxiliary ventilation or heating.

BMW to add Foursquare to MINI Connected; welcomes 3rd party apps



The BMW Group are working on the integration of additional features. As well as the integration of streaming podcast services and virtual travel guides, foursquare would enable the community area of MINI Connected to expand to include the link-up with location-based services and social networking.

Customers can use foursquare to explore their surroundings or check out a nearby restaurant. BMW will allow 3rd party apps into the BMW Apps and MINI Connected systems. These "third-party apps" will allow a host of infotainment functions.

Germany cancels in-car DAB legislation & France postpones its plans



The German government has decided to cancel its plans to introduce the “Digitalradio Fördergesetz (DiRaFöG)” mandate, which would have forced vehicle manufacturers to fit DAB receivers into all new cars from 2014. The law would have been a major boost to the DAB market in Europe, and was expected to lead to other neighboring governments taking a more aggressive approach to digital radio transition.

However, the German government has decided against the law due to a number of reasons, including the possibility of being accused by the EU of influencing market competition. Instead the government has announced that they will push the EU to introduce policies that ensure harmonization of DAB across all of Europe.

This decision will not affect the current roll-out of a national DAB+ multiplex in Germany, which is now reaching 50% of the population after being launched on the 1st of August 2011.

Our contacts within the German broadcasting industry have told us that the launch has so far been a success and that DAB radios are selling faster than before. However, the cancellation of the mandate does mean that growth of DAB in cars will proceed at a slower pace than previously expected and that there will continue to be uncertainty about its long-term prospects as a pan-European standard for digital radio.

French DMB mandate also postponed

In parallel, SBD has learned that the French government has changed its own mandate for DMB radio in cars. Initially the government had legislated that all new cars with radios sold from 2013 should be DMB-compatible. However, this piece of legislation has now been changed to reflect the slow roll-out of DMB infrastructure, which is well behind schedule.

Under the newly revised legislation, the mandate for DMB in cars will only be introduced once a series of criteria have been met. SBD is still investigating these criteria in more detail, but we have been informed that they include requirements relating to the minimum level of geographical coverage of DMB services and penetration of DMB receivers outside of the car.

What does this mean for the automotive industry?

The French decision may come too late for certain vehicle manufacturers, as some have already invested heavily in development costs to adapt their existing platforms and will be unable to cancel contractual obligations to suppliers. Those vehicle manufacturers will undoubtedly be relieved that they will no longer face the threat of a similar legislation in Germany. However, in the longer-term these decisions are likely to cause more headaches for vehicle manufacturers, who will continue to face uncertainty about how quickly they should migrate towards digital radio platforms.

Source: SBD



November 28, 2011
 Pacifico Yokohama
 Yokohama, Japan

World First: Toyota launches infotainment system with MirrorLink + iPhone integration



Toyota (Europe) has announced the latest addition to the Toyota Touch infotainment product family with the all-new Toyota Touch Life. This system will be available for the Toyota iQ city car towards the end of 2011 in selected markets and uses the latest industry connectivity protocols to mirror the smartphone's display on the infotainment system's 7-inch touchscreen. Smartphone functionalities can be accessed using steering wheel-based controls or the large touchscreen surface.

Nokia smartphone owners can seamlessly connect their devices with Toyota Touch Life using the new industry standard connectivity protocol, MirrorLink™, developed by the Car Connectivity Consortium. This represents an automotive industry world-first deployment of the protocol.

In addition, Nokia smartphone users can also make use of the specially developed Nokia Car Mode app which simplifies the user interface to give direct access to the device's telephony, voice guided, turn-by-turn 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. The Nokia "Car Mode" app, with MirrorLink™ support, can be downloaded from the Nokia Store for devices equipped with the Symbian Belle operating system.

When the car is stationary, Toyota Touch Life allows drivers and passengers to access the complete functionalities of their Nokia smartphones through the in-car touchscreen display. The display supports not only point-and-touch standard touchscreen capabilities but also on-screen scrolling or swiping gestures.

Apple iPhone users (running iOS 4 or later) can download the free "Application Launcher" app from the App Store to connect their devices with Toyota Touch Life. The "Application Launcher" app lwta drivers and passengers access to various apps on the in-car display including the Garmin StreetPilot® app (available for purchase from the App Store), internet radio and news apps such as AUPEO! and Stitcher (subject to regional availability), and social networking services such as Facebook and Twitter using the built-in application interface. Complete audiovisual connectivity to the Apple iPod also comes as standard on Toyota Touch Life, giving users complete access to their music and video collection using either steering wheel-based controls or buttons located on the infotainment system.

Smartphone-vehicle connectivity with the Toyota Touch Life will continue to expand as more mobile communications and consumer electronics companies continue to implement the MirrorLink™ industry standard.

Toyota Touch Life is the latest addition to the Toyota Touch family of infotainment products aiming to offer a new level of in-car connectivity and multimedia experience to a wider range of consumers. The Toyota Touch & Go was recently introduced for the Toyota Verso-S, Yaris and Hilux models. The Toyota Touch infotainment experience will be soon expanded with the Toyota Touch & Go Plus, making its debut for the Toyota Avensis, Prius and Verso, as well as the Toyota Touch Pro for the Toyota Prius.

Source: Toyota.

Mercedes to launch iPhone integration next year; MirrorLink & NFC coming in 2013



From the middle of next year, Mercedes-Benz will be offering a new infotainment option, which is especially developed for the iPhone. Once the iPhone is connected with the vehicle, an app developed by Mercedes-Benz, sends various information to the vehicle display and makes this function easy to control with the COMAND controller. The system uses the processing power of the iPhone and the vehicle's wide display, to create a revolutionary user interface with fluent transitions and animations.

Mercedes-Benz will also support the seamless integration and secure usage of smartphones made by other manufacturers such as Nokia, HTC or Samsung in the car by means of the MirrorLink open standard. This new connection option, which will be introduced in 2013, enables smartphone screen content to be transferred to the COMAND display and controlled with the COMAND controller.

Operation is very user-friendly: the user connects their phone to the vehicle and can then use roughly all the mobile phone applications in the car straight away with no limitations. While the handset provides the user with access to applications and services, the on-board infotainment system provides the necessary physical interfaces – the large colour display, loudspeakers and microphone.

Only apps certified by Mercedes-Benz or the Car Connectivity Consortium can be used while driving.

Another advantage: the system not only enables a wide range of the apps available on the mobile to be used and shown on the vehicle display, but also allows specific vehicle applications to be developed simply with the user interface perfectly tailored to the vehicle architecture.

In addition to the above, NFC will be premiered in 2013. Near Field Communication (NFC) is an innovative transmission standard for the contactless exchange of data over short distances. The transmission distance is deliberately limited to just five centimetres, making the system virtually eavesdropping-proof. NFC makes usage even easier: typical Bluetooth pairing processes such as device search, selection and exchange of pass code are no longer required. The smartphone must be held at an area, which is marked with the NFC symbol and the connection request must be confirmed.

All these smartphone integration and connectivity systems constitute major steps for Mercedes for implementing the @yourCOMAND strategy.

Source: Daimler.

RealVNC & Teleca become strategic partners



Teleca has announced a strategic partnership with RealVNC. Tomi Rantakari, Senior Vice President, Automotive at Teleca and Tom Blackie, Vice President Mobile, at RealVNC both greeted the partnership as a strong match of complementary competencies.

Teleca brings depth of experience in complete software solution development in the automotive infotainment industry across all software and hardware platforms, including MeeGo, Tizen, Linux, QNX, ARM, ix86 and others.

RealVNC develops VNC Mobile Solution for Automotive, a comprehensive cross-platform remote access and control technology enabling connectivity between mobile devices, vehicle IVI head units systems and cloud computing solutions.

RealVNC's solution is already in use with many Tier 1 suppliers, including Clarion, Denso and Visteon. It is moving into production in both aftermarket head units and auto OEM configurations with prestigious companies such as Jaguar Land Rover.

Teleca offers software solution services to the automotive industry for the design, development, integration, verification and maintenance of all platforms for In-Vehicle Infotainment.

With its global reach and ability to provide large teams to support product development in all phases of the development lifecycle, Teleca is ideally positioned to support RealVNC products globally.

Source: Teleca.

Ford SYNC software update adds Bluetooth Message Access Profile



Ford has released its latest free SYNC software update, G1 V3.2.2, to give more SYNC users the ability to have text messages read aloud to them while driving.

Tailored for owners of select SYNC-equipped 2011 and early-release 2012 vehicles, the update includes the emerging Message Access Profile (MAP) Bluetooth standard, which is custom-made for the automotive hands-free environment and outlines a set of features and procedures used to exchange email, SMS and MMS between devices – in this case SYNC and the smartphone.

Last year, Ford announced it was voluntarily integrating MAP into SYNC for all 2011 MyFord Touch-equipped vehicles and is now extending the capability to the broader SYNC user community – with thousands of 2011 and 2012 vehicles equipped with the first generation SYNC system.

According to Bluetooth Special Interest Group (SIG), MAP adoption by mobile device manufacturers is still in its infancy but the growth needle is starting to quiver.

“Texting is becoming a ubiquitous part of our day, so it stands to reason the remote message access profile is an essential addition for handsets, automobiles, headsets and aftermarket car kits,” said Michael Foley, Ph.D., executive director Bluetooth SIG. “The Bluetooth MAP standard gives users the ability to simply and smartly manage incoming text messages from their vehicle while keeping their hands on the wheel and eyes on the road. We are seeing significant uptake in MAP adoption among phonemakers, in particular with recent qualifications from manufacturers such as HTC, RIM, Samsung and LG.”

Source: Ford.

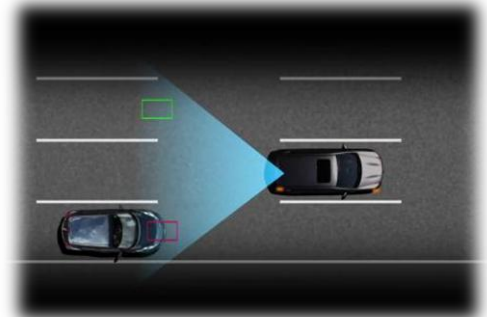


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Nissan develops camera-based intelligent acceleration pedal control

Nissan has released its latest safety technologies based on the Company's "Safety Shield" concept. Advances have been made especially in image signal processing using the around view cameras:

In car parks or other confined areas, in order to help mitigate collisions with obstacles such as walls due to the driver's misapplication of the accelerator instead of the brake or pressing on the accelerator too hard, Nissan has developed a function to recognize whether the vehicle is on a road or in a car park by using image signal data acquired by the Around View Monitor's four unit cameras.



When the driver presses the accelerator pedal to the floor, this function allows the vehicle to accelerate if it is on a road, and does not in a parking space. This system is also designed to detect obstacles using sonar, and automatically applies the brake to help avoid or mitigate collisions when the vehicle is in danger of touching or colliding with nearby obstacles.

Using features of Around View Monitor and the sonar system, this technology helps reduce the risk of accidents occurring through misapplication of the accelerator and brake brought about by driver operational mistakes. Nissan aims to commercialize this technology within two years.

Using the Around View Monitor image processing technology, Nissan developed Multi-Sensing System with Rear Camera, which detects people, other vehicles and road conditions in the rear and sides of the vehicle, to alert drivers of possible collision risks. The system to be installed in new models from 2012, followed by global distribution, will include blind spot warning, lane departure warning and moving object detection.

When the vehicle is placed in reverse, the rear camera's image processing function works to detect moving objects or people, such as pedestrians, around the vehicle. On detection of a moving object, the driver is warned with a buzzer and display signals.

Nissan plans to apply this function to Around View Monitor in the Elgrand, where minor changes are planned for this November.

Source: Nissan.

Continental intros 'Magic User Interface' HMI concept

The Magic User Interface concept from Continental networks information for drivers in the simplest, most intelligent and elegant of ways, providing innovative applications that open up completely new travel possibilities.

The core element of the Magic User Interface is an internet-based platform on which a personal profile is available. Thanks to an AutoLinQ connection, all settings are made available in the vehicle, where they can be called up via a freely configurable instrument cluster and a large touch screen above the center console.

Not only does this screen enable users to turn, enlarge, reduce or move the individual elements with the swipe of a finger, but a single, contact-free gesture alone is enough to transfer the individual elements from the touch screen to the instrument cluster or a cell phone as if by magic. From a map on the screen, the navigation arrow suddenly appears behind the steering wheel and the photo of the destination is displayed on the smartphone.



Naturally, all functions can be combined freely and can also be controlled using many other operating systems. Continental has integrated the latest version of voice-operated control, uses buttons on the steering wheel as well as the touch screen itself in an prototype simulator and could extend the system to include a touchpad with handwriting recognition at any time.

Source: Continental.

New Audi A4 to get Audi Connect telematics, ADAS features

Audi has revealed the refreshed version of its best-selling sedan, A4. The 2013 Audi A4 family includes A4 Sedan, the A4 Avant, the A4 allroad quattro and the S4.

Audi offers a whole kit of state-of-the-art infotainment systems for its A4 series. The chorus CD radio with eight speakers is standard, while the MMI navigation plus system with large hard disk, color monitor, 3D graphics and DVD player forms the top of the line. Voice control and the optional digital audio broadcasting are further improvements to the system.

The high-end supplement to the MMI navigation plus system is the Bluetooth online car phone. Via Audi connect the system provides special services in the car, such as voice-controlled Google searches for points of interest and navigation with Google Earth pictures, along with Google Street View.

Audi online traffic information gives the driver the latest news on congestion along the selected route. The WLAN hotspot, another feature of the Bluetooth online car phone, allows passengers to surf the internet and send e-mails with their mobile devices.

Audi offers highly developed assistance systems for the A4 family, for making driving even more relaxed. Standard on all variants is the new driver information system with break recommendation – it detects and draws the driver’s attention to deviations from typical driving behavior on the basis of steering motions and other parameters.

The adaptive cruise control assistance system keeps the A4 at a constant distance from the preceding vehicle at speeds between zero and 200 km/h (124.27 mph). If the threat of a rear-end collision becomes imminent at speeds below 30 km/h (18.64 mph), the system will execute a full brake application.

Audi active lane assist supports the driver in keeping to his lane. A camera detects the lane markings and the system makes slight corrections to the steering if necessary. Audi side assist monitors the space behind the A4 by radar and detects any vehicles in the blind spot.

The facelifted Audi A4 is set to arrive in the US in the summer of next year, with Audi expected to also bring the A4 Allroad to America.

Source: Audi.

New BMW 3 Series gets all the latest infotainment and ADAS tech

BMW has revealed its all-new 2012 3-Series, loaded with infotainment, telematics and ADAS features, all grouped under the ‘ConnectedDrive’ banner:

BMW ConnectedDrive offers a combination of driver assistance technology and mobility systems for the new BMW 3 Series range. A new arrival in the premium mid-size segment is the latest-generation full-colour Head-Up Display, which projects key information – in sharp resolution – onto the windscreen so it appears directly in the driver’s field of view.

Also available is Surround View with Side View and Top View, which gives a bird’s-eye perspective of the vehicle and the area around it. In addition, a parking assistance system helps the driver to manoeuvre into parking spaces.

Among the other assistance technology available under the BMW ConnectedDrive banner are Active Cruise Control with Stop&Go function, the Lane Change Warning System and Lane Departure Warning System with camera-based Collision Warning system, which are offered for the first time in a BMW 3 Series Sedan. Real-Time Traffic Information (RTTI) and special apps such as “BMW Connected” for using social networks are also available.

An innovative comfort access function allowing hands-free opening of the boot lid and the additional Active Protection occupant protection system are likewise included on the options list, as is Advanced eCall with automatic position finding from BMW Assist.

In the event of an accident, this system gives the emergency services detailed information on the nature of the collision before they arrive at the scene of the accident.

Source: BMW.





Innovative Ford Technology Lets Parents Block Calls, Deter Texts While Teens Drive

Novice teen drivers are on a steep learning curve and do not yet have adult levels of skill needed to control the vehicle, detect hazards and assess driving situations. Ford is adding another feature, the Do Not Disturb button, to its successful MyKey® technology that allows parents to block incoming phone calls and deter text messages while their teenager is behind the wheel. The upgrade will be a standard feature on the Ford Explorer with MyFord Touch® in 2012.

Do Not Disturb

When engaged, the technology blocks all incoming calls and stores incoming text messages for later. The system does not block hands-free outgoing calls in case of emergency.



ADDITIONAL MYKEY FEATURES:



New top speed settings

The new MyKey upgrade also will allow parents to limit a vehicle's top speed at any of four different settings – 65, 70, 75 or 80 mph, and parents can set a reminder to drive safely at 45, 55 and 65 mph.



Screening content

The upgraded system also will feature the world's first technology that allows parents to screen explicit radio content. The radio-blocking feature works by screening out all programs labeled by Sirius Satellite Radio as "explicit." While similar technology is used for blocking inappropriate content on televisions and computers, the option has never before been available for radio programming. The feature will block 16 stations, including Liquid Metal, Hip Hop Nation, Hardcore Sports Radio, Playboy Radio, Maxim Radio, Howard Stern stations, Blue Collar Radio, Raw Dog comedy and VIRUS.



Belt-Minder

The MyKey Belt-Minder® "No belt, no tunes" feature provides a six-second reminder chime every 30 seconds and mutes the audio system until the safety belts for the front occupants have been locked into place. A message center display, "Buckle Up to Unmute Radio," reminds the driver of the issue.



Low fuel

MyKey provides an earlier low-fuel warning. Rather than a warning that there are 50 miles to empty, MyKey provides a warning at 75 miles to empty to help remind teens to refuel their parents' vehicle.



Driving aids

If MyKey is in the ignition, safety and driver-assist features such as AdvanceTrac stability control, park aid and BLIS® (Blind Spot Information System) with cross-traffic alert cannot be deactivated.

Ford Explorer



Drive safe.

Automakers to work with governments globally for harmonised V2X standards



The Vehicle Infrastructure Integration Consortium (VIIC), a consortium of most major global automakers, will join key government officials and other automakers from around the world to help accelerate the development of connected vehicles by harmonizing standards.

The VIIC is a consortium of nine car and light truck manufacturers including BMW Group, Chrysler, Ford Motor Company, General Motors, Honda, Mercedes-Benz, Nissan, Toyota and Volkswagen. Its focus is on precompetitive policy development supporting connected vehicle deployment. The announcement comes as transportation innovators, leaders and officials participate in the 18th World Congress on Intelligent Transportation Systems in Orlando, Florida, Oct. 16-20.

Connected vehicles using 5.9 GHz Dedicated Short Range Communication (DSRC) technology can “talk” cooperatively with each other and with the roadside infrastructure to provide connected vehicles with information on other vehicles, intersections, road signs, etc. Vehicles can use this information to help warn drivers of imminent dangers and help them avoid potential crashes.

International industry technical standards harmonization is a key to accelerating the global deployment of this technology. An efficient, harmonized set of standards among various markets would enable manufacturers to offer these cooperative communication systems to consumers through a less complex global rollout and at a lower cost to the customer. The VIIC envisions a coordinated rollout of vehicle and infrastructure DSRC technology in the U.S., along with similar rollouts internationally. Along with VIIC members, partners in the global standards harmonization effort include the International Organization of Motor Vehicle Manufacturers (OICA), the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), and the European Union (EU) and Japan governments, along with regional and global standards organizations.

CAMP VSC3 is providing a major part of the precompetitive technical standards research and development leadership in the U.S. The CAMP VSC3 (Crash Avoidance Metrics Partnership - Vehicle Safety Communications) is a consortium of eight car and light truck manufacturers: Ford Motor Company, General Motors, Honda, Hyundai/Kia, Mercedes-Benz, Nissan, Toyota and Volkswagen Group.

In July, an important first joint vehicle manufacturer/government workshop took place in Germany. Representatives from U.S., European and Japanese vehicle manufacturers met, along with government officials, to discuss cooperation on connected vehicle technology standards. Common goals and differences were identified, along with an agreed path forward for collaboration. The representatives agreed to an action plan, including looking at what messages and protocols potentially could be harmonized. Initial progress from that action plan will be reported at a meeting during ITS World Congress. Future events also are anticipated.

Source: Vehicle Infrastructure Integration Consortium.

Top videos this month

www.youtube.com/telematicsnews



Aftermarket iPhone screen duplication in Audi



Cadillac CUE high-end Linux infotainment with apps







BMW Head-Up Display concept



Toyota Touch & Go infotainment with apps

UPCOMING EVENTS

EVENT	ABOUT	VENUE	DATE
	<p>Automotive Linux Summit 2011</p> <p>More info: https://events.linuxfoundation.org/events/automotive-linux-summit/</p>	YOKOHAMA, JAPAN	November 28, 2011
	<p>Tokyo Motor Show 2011</p> <p>More info: http://www.tokyo-motorshow.com/</p>	TOKYO, JAPAN	December 3-11, 2011
	<p>Telematics @ China</p> <p>More info: http://www.telematics-china.com.cn/index_en.html</p>	SHANGHAI, CHINA	December 7-9, 2011
	<p>Connected Vehicles World Europe 2011</p> <p>More info: www.terrappinn.com/2011/connectedvehicle</p>	LONDON, UK	December 12-14, 2011

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