

PRESS RELEASE

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INVENT at the ITS World Congress in Madrid

The research initiative INVENT presents new driver assistance and traffic management systems

On November 19, the German research initiative INVENT (Intelligent traffic and user-friendly technology) participates in the 10th World Congress "Intelligent Transport Systems and Services" in Madrid, Spain. The 5-day congress with its exhibits serves as an international marketplace for providers and users of innovative transport solutions and brings together over 2,500 experts from all over the world.

The 24 INVENT partners present their work to an international audience in a total of 15 technical talks. In three special INVENT Sessions, the congress participants receive a comprehensive overview of the project as a whole and of the individual component projects as well as detailed insights into the research and development results obtained up to the present.

In June, 2003, at the halftime presentation in Bonn, Germany, the INVENT partners presented visionary solutions for more efficient and safer traffic on our roadways. For example, one of the demonstration vehicles driving on the grounds of the Federal Ministry of Education and Research was capable of correctly reading signs, detecting traffic lights and reacting autonomously on specific traffic signs.

Future driver assistance systems will offer functions like these and others such as assistance for lane changing or for conflict avoidance. These systems are designed to reduce the driver's burden and support him in traffic, especially in critical situations. Using special sensors, they acquire and fuse data on the vehicle environment to create an internal representation of the traffic situation, tapping this knowledge base to inform the driver on road conditions, leading vehicles, etc. In this way, the systems assist in detecting hazardous situations and can warn or in extreme cases even intervene in the vehicle's power train, braking, and steering systems.

However, driver assistance systems constitute only one of several key INVENT research areas. Another focus is the development of intelligent traffic management solutions to improve traffic flow and to help prevent or dissipate traffic jams. The partners of the research consortium are working on route guidance and navigation systems whose recommendations are calculated dynamically by reconstructing the current and forecasted traffic state, including the projected effects of detours, defective traffic lights, construction, and the like. These systems are also designed to take into account and even help implement public traffic management policy, e.g., making sure that the guidance algorithms do not divert unwanted traffic into quiet residential areas.

A third INVENT project is devoted to optimization of transport and logistics services. The partners are seeking ways to make future delivery traffic more efficient as well as friendlier to the user and the environment. For example, dynamic route planning accurate to the exact street address will help avoid needless courier trips and guarantee precise delivery times to customers. Due to improved logistics, novel service concepts will emerge as well.

The ITS World Congress from November 16-20, organized by ERTICO, is in tune with the trend toward a demand for new products and services to meet our continually growing mobility needs. Representatives of automobile manufacturers, suppliers, transport and telecommunication companies, service providers as well as cities, regions, and national governments supporting new transport solutions, discuss subjects such as traffic safety, traffic information services, and fleet management in the course of over 800 presentations and at more than 200 exhibits.

INVENT

INVENT (Intelligent traffic and user-friendly technology) is a research initiative with the goal of making future traffic safer and more efficient. To this end, the partners are cooperating in the development of novel driver assistance systems, knowledge and information technologies, and solutions for efficient traffic management. The four-year research initiative will continue until 2005 and is supported by grants from the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF). The 24 research partners of the initiative include Audi, BMW, Bosch, DaimlerChrysler Research and Technology, the German Aerospace Center (DLR), Ericsson, the Aachen Vehicle Research Institute (fka), Ford Research Center Aachen, Hella, Hermes Parcel Service, IBM, the Magdeburg Institute for Automation and Communication (ifak), MAN Commercial Vehicles, Navigation Technologies, Opel, PTV, Siemens AG, Siemens Restraint Systems, Siemens VDO, TransVer Traffic Consultancy of Munich, the German Standards

Group (TÜV), the University of Cologne, the law firm Vogt & Partners, and Volkswagen. Numerous university institutes as well as small to medium-sized companies are also contributing to the projects as subcontractors. Continuity of research in traffic, transport and traffic safety also aims to strengthen the competitiveness of German industry. Further information is available under www.invent-online.de.

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