



# THE *Intelligent*

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## H I G H W A Y

GLOBAL ROAD TRANSPORT TECHNOLOGY UPDATE

### SAFETY

#### Winter road preparations important

It is the time of year for the “play it safe” messages, with tips and advice for keeping drivers safe on winter roads during severe weather conditions comes into focus. The primary message to drivers is to keep the speed down. Be sure that brakes, windshield wipers, defrosters, and exhaust systems are in top condition. Check your antifreeze. Check your tires. Numerous agencies are also proponents of keeping food and water in your car in case of an emergency.

An example of a recommitment to winter road safety is England’s The Highways Agency, which looks after the country’s motorways and major A roads. The agency released a statement with statistics and information on how it is ready to face severe weather in the winter months. The agency asked road users in England to play their part in keeping the nation moving.

A Highways Agency survey of road users found that more than half of those surveyed had encountered one or more types of severe weather warning in the previous year. However, almost half (48%) admitted that they would not carry out any vehicle checks even after hearing a severe weather warning, and just under a quarter (24%) would not change their travel plans. More reassuringly, four out of ten (43%) drivers said that although they would continue their

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### TELEMATICS

#### Successful eCall demonstration by Qualcomm and Hughes Telematics

Qualcomm Inc. ([www.qualcomm.com](http://www.qualcomm.com)), a developer and innovator of advanced wireless technologies, products, and services, and Hughes Telematics, Inc. (HTI; [www.hughestelematics.com](http://www.hughestelematics.com)), a provider of next generation telematics solutions, successfully demonstrated the data transmission technology of the upcoming pan-European, in-vehicle emergency call (eCall) standard over commercial wireless networks at the 12th eSafety Forum Plenary meeting, “eCall Summit,” held in Brussels, Belgium. eCall is a project of the European Commission intended to bring rapid assistance to motorists involved in a collision anywhere in the European Union.

The use of eCall to deploy emergency assistance should save lives and reduce the social burden of road accidents. The creation of eCall standards and requirements has been triggered by the eSafety Forum, an initiative of the relevant stakeholders, brought together by the European Commission. An eCall is generated either manually by vehicle occupants, or automatically via activation of in-vehicle sensors, in the case when an accident occurs. When activated, the eCall-enabled, in-vehicle system establishes a 112-voice connection directly with the relevant Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP). At the same time, a Minimum Set of Data—including key information about the accident, such as time, location and vehicle description—is sent to the PSAP operator receiving the voice call.

Technology provided by Hughes and Qualcomm, including an eCall in-band modem, was used to make a call to a prototype of an eCall-enabled PSAP located in Germany. Once the voice call was established, the eCall in-band modem protocol was used to transmit the Minimum Set of Data to the PSAP. The eCall modem was fully integrated on the Qualcomm QSC6270 chipset embedded in the demonstration unit. **TH**

### HYBRIDS & ELECTRICS

#### Interoperability of key smart grid elements

Telvent ([www.telvent.com](http://www.telvent.com)) and Trilliant, Inc. ([www.trilliantinc.com](http://www.trilliantinc.com)), a provider of smart grid solutions that enhance energy efficiency, utility operations, and renewable resource

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