

BMW Group Corporate Communications

Media Information

20 April 2006

BMW and Renault exchange accident warnings

Industry first communication between vehicles of different brands and different countries successfully demonstrated

Munich. Imagine a lonely country road in the middle of the night: you have passed the last house some time ago. Suddenly, behind a curve, a car blocks the road. You immediately brake and barely manage to come to a halt. The car hit a deer and the driver is severely injured.

By the push of a button, your vehicle establishes communication with the nearest emergency response centre and automatically sends the exact location of the accident. Immediately and automatically, it will also start sending a warning message – resembling a virtual breakdown triangle - directly to the vehicles approaching the scene of the accident. Another driver receives the message, is able to slow down, drive around the accident safely or stop and help. A few minutes later, the emergency physician arrives. Your vehicle has also informed the regional traffic control centre and shortly after the traffic in the area is also informed by digital radio broadcast about the hazard situation.

Today, this rescue scenario was successfully demonstrated in Munich to representatives of the European Commission by BMW Group Research and Technology and Renault, who have jointly developed it. “BMW and Renault have achieved a major milestone,” says Juhani Jääskeläinen, Deputy Head of Unit at Department Generale “Information Society and Media” of the European Commission. “They have demonstrated a road safety application based on inter-vehicle communication between two different makes. We welcome this initiative, which shows the progress in harmonization and standardization achieved with the help of EU funding.” For the first time at the European level, communication between vehicles of different manufacturers is possible and an important step taken towards pan-European harmonization of this technology.

Since 2004, BMW Group Research and Technology and Renault are partners in the European research project GST – Global System for Telematics. GST, co-funded by the EU, develops an open architecture for interoperable telematics services. Therein, the two companies in addition to and independently of the otherwise agreed topics and goals have cooperated and given each other access to their respective pre-existing and other IPR to implement the scenario

Company
Bayerische
Motoren Werke
Aktiengesellschaft

Postal Address
BMW AG
80788 München

Telephone
+49 (0) 89 382 25358

Internet
www.bmwgroup.com



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described above. The result of the joint effort: a life-saving dialogue among vehicles of the two brands. "I expect GST and vehicle-to-vehicle communication to have a great contribution towards safer, more efficient and more comfortable transport and mobility of in Europe", says Juhani Jääskeläinen.

The interoperable prototypes have been implemented based on software developed by BMW Group Research and Technology. This software defines contents and exchange of messages and enables frictionless communication between the vehicles. Results and experience from this bilateral cooperation will be exploited within the Car-to-Car Communication Consortium, which both manufacturers are actively involved in. This consortium currently has as members eight leading automobile manufacturers and twelve research partners. Building on results from European and national research projects, it is pursuing a common industry standard to implement Vehicle-to-X communication on a harmonized radio frequency, possibly made available worldwide.

This kind of vehicle-to-vehicle and vehicle-to-infrastructure communication opens up a new dimension of road safety and is yet another milestone in the BMW ConnectedDrive concept, which connects driver, vehicle, and environment through driver assistance systems, telematics and online services. Motto: A well-networked driver is a well-informed driver and hence a safer driver.



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GST

The EU funded project „Global System for Telematics“ started in 2004 and brings together 47 partners across Europe. Under the coordination of ERTICO, automobile manufacturers, suppliers and research institutes are working on an open, standardized end-to-end architecture for telematics services. In seven subprojects and five test sites for field trials, the partners are creating and validating an environment, in which innovative telematics services can be developed and delivered cost-effectively.

www.gstforum.org

www.ertico.com

C2C-CC

Founded by Audi AG, BMW AG, DaimlerChrysler AG, and Volkswagen AG in 2004, the Car-to-Car Communication Consortium today comprises eight leading automobile manufacturers and twelve research partners working towards an industry standard and worldwide frequency harmonization for Car-to-X communication.

Technological basis for the spontaneous exchange of messages between vehicles is the Wireless LAN technology. Car-to-X communication enables numerous potential applications in road safety. Declared goal of the consortium: drivers of vehicles across all brands should benefit from these in the future.

www.car-2-car.org

For questions please contact:

Corporate Communications

Michaela Müller, Technology Communications, Research and Innovation

Telephone: +49 (0) 89 382 25358, Fax: +49 (0) 89 382 23927

Michael Blabst, Head of Technology Communications

Telephone: +49 (0) 89 382 24697, Fax: +49 (0) 89 382 23927

Media Website: www.press.bmwgroup.com

e-mail: presse@bmw.de

