

Planning and implementing the eCall test bench

The objective of implementing the in-vehicle emergency call system is to automate the notification of a traffic accident. The service is based on sensors detecting the car crash and an in-vehicle terminal sending automatically the notification to the emergency center. This automation speeds up the response of the emergency services, which has the potential reducing five per cent the number of fatalities and seven per cent the expenses of injuries in Finland. Also the cleaning of the accident scene can be initiated sooner. The monetary value of savings to Finnish community is calculated to be annually 91 millions euros assuming that all vehicles have eCall-terminals. Based on the saving there should be some subventions directed to the purchase of eCall-terminals at least during the launching phase.

The operation of launching the eCall-service to Finland has proceeded to the second phase in which the test bench is planned and implemented. VTT (Technical Research Centre of Finland) corresponds to implement the test environment. The objective of this second project is to evaluate the telecommunication used with different terminals of the eCall-service. The test will be focusing to the integrity and availability of the communications since the reliability is the most important quality of the eCall system. Consequently authorities must be confident that the service operates properly in a real emergency situation. The test bench is available for everyone wanting to test the functionality of an eCall-terminal. The test bench is ready to be used during the spring 2005.

Besides the test bench also the certification of the eCall-system is planned. WSP LT-consulting corresponds to creating the guidelines of certification. The necessity and cost of the certification will be measured and also the responsibilities of certificated products are defined. The eCall-service will be advertised to users and a positive public image will be enhanced.

The Ministry of the Transport and Communication is financing the eCall project. There has been organised a consortium, which includes VTT Building and Transport, WSP LT-consulting, VTT Information Technology, Capgemini Oy and SysOpen Oyj. The project coordinator is Raine Hautala, VTT Building and Transport.

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