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Cars talk to the road: Live demonstration at the DLR test track in Berlin 9 December 2008



DLR's "Ernst-Ruska-Ufer" test track in Berlin

Vehicle-to-infrastructure communication prototype tested

In the future, road vehicles will be able to exchange information about the traffic situation and any potential dangers with each other, both directly and via transmitter and receiver modules at traffic lights, crossroads and other infrastructure facilities. By creating the first universal platform for vehicle-to-infrastructure communication, the European CVIS project (Cooperative Vehicle Infrastructure Systems) provides the basis for a wide variety of applications of this technology of the future. The "Ernst-Ruska-Ufer" test track of the German Aerospace Center (Deutsches Zentrum für Luft- und Raumfahrt; DLR) is the ideal test environment for this project. On 11 December 2008, this future standard for communication between car and street was presented to the public for the first time.

During the live demonstration at Ernst-Ruska-Ufer in Berlin, experts and journalists were able to see with their own eyes how in the future motorists will be able to benefit from communication between vehicles and infrastructure facilities. In the CVIS project, WLAN (Wireless Local Area Network), infrared and UMTS (Universal Mobile Telecommunications System) communication technologies are integrated into a single platform. Standardised interfaces, innovative positioning and a customised software design are key elements in the development of CVIS. By providing location-specific warnings, individual route recommendations and up-to-date traffic information, vehicle-to-infrastructure communication can improve the flow of traffic as well as road safety. CVIS is coordinated by ERTICO (European Road Transport Telematic Implementation Coordination Organization), a multi-sector public/private partnership for intelligent transport systems and services in Europe.



Communication between vehicles and the road

As part of a subproject led by geographic data provider Navteq Europe, the German Aerospace Center and its partners are developing an innovative location platform for the new communication system of the CVIS project. The focus is on developing new, highly accurate vehicle location technologies and creating dynamic digital maps. The new location system combines several different technologies, including the European Galileo satellite navigation system and GPS (Global Positioning System), as well as vehicle sensors and infrastructure-based techniques. The objective is to develop a standardised, cost-efficient location platform capable of providing reliable location information and exchanging this information through vehicle-to-vehicle or vehicle-to-infrastructure communication. The interaction of the prototype location platform with CVIS is being tested at DLR's test track in Berlin.

The CVIS project is a collaborative effort of 64 partners, including a large number of European car manufacturers, suppliers, research institutions and public authorities. CVIS is funded by the European Union and will continue until 2010.

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