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Telematics Wire

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■ Vehicle Tracking ■ Fleet Management ■ Navigation Technologies

EDITORIAL

Often in the vehicle telematics industry we come across people talking about the need to have better quality products, in particular the tracking device hardware which can sustain the diverse and challenging operating conditions in India. Amongst the suggestions were the need for having standard product, on the lines of Industry Standard Architecture in the early days of personal computers, which helped many of the smaller manufacturer to align their product to a standard and also helped innumerable repair and maintenance centres across the board with options. The long journey from ISA..ATX...DTX has been covered in mother board standard wherein the large players like IBM, Apple, Intel, AMD etc have played key role in evolving them. So do we need to have similar standards for the vehicle telematics? While the industry may debate over this, an interesting suggestion came from Rajiv Arora of Altius Technologies, wherein he mentioned that standardization of product based on hardware design specification will be extremely difficult and we should look forward to performance based standardization of product. As industry hardware design standards for relatively small segment of vehicle telematics will be difficult. Hence the thought that irrespective of whom you buy your device in Mumbai, a 3rd party telematics service provider can repair the same in Chennai, by replacing a card or a chip from the circuit board will be difficult for some time. What we can expect in near future, is performance based product standardization.

Most of the vehicle telematics will be OEM fitted in coming 3-4 years as many of the market research firms suggest. We in India may not have 100% of the commercial vehicle fitted with telematics hardware, but it will certainly be of some percentage of the market segment.

For the automotive industry, which is quite fussy about quality and they have all the reason to be so, will ensure that the next cycle of user experience with factory fitted telematics hardware is different. Also this would be of an incentive to those who have been trying to provide quality hardware to the vehicle telematics industry, who may become OEMs to these automotive sector. Maybe than we will start moving forward from plain-vanilla tracking into the domain of integrated enterprise solutions.

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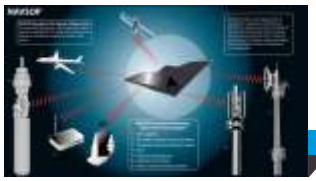
Page 8

Apple to have its own mapping engine for iPads and iPhones

Page 6

Thales and Renault Trucks to jointly develop digitised vehicle solution.



Page 10

NAVSOP: New positioning system from BAE Systems

Article: Telematics in Supply Cold Chain Monitoring Page 7

News India

- Andhra Pradesh CM asks discoms to use GPS for replacing failed transformers
- Thane police takes GPS assistance for providing efficient services to citizens

Pg 2

Market Research

- Mobile Devices takes the lead in telematics technology provider race: PTOLEMUS study
- ABI Research: GPS/GNSS IC market to touch 1.8 Billion shipments globally by 2016

Pg 5

News International

- Ford Research to use Nokia/Navteq Map and APIs

Pg 5

- Intel and ERA-GLONASS teams up to jointly develop intelligent automotive system

Pg 8

New Launch

- IntelliRoute TND 720 truck GPS
- RoadMate Commercial 9270T-LM
- Fastrax Uc530
- SiRFstarVe location platform

Pg 9

NHAI to use 'compliance convergence' for detecting false reporting

Bhopal: A group of techies in the city have developed a solution 'compliance convergence', to monitor work progress. The group claims that any attempt to falsify or fudge facts would be red flagged in real-time. The added advantage is besides this software being available in PC, it is also compatible with Smartphones. The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) would use this application to nail false reporting, promote transparency and red-flagging suspicious reporting.

Andhra Pradesh CM asks discoms to use GPS for replacing failed transformers

Hyderabad: Chief Minister N Kiran Kumar Reddy has asked the Discoms to ensure that dedicated vehicles equipped with the GPS should be used for replacement of malfunctioning distribution transformers without delay on receiving complaints.

Thane police takes GPS assistance for providing efficient services to citizens

Mumbai: Thane rural police has launched a Dial 100 project to help a person in need to reach the cops through the control room. A GIS and GPS enabled service will help the police manning the control room find the nearest police van and attend to the caller.A high-tech police control room has become operational at the Kanakia Nagar police station in Mira Road. The control room has integrated eight police stations of Thane rural at Mira Road, Bhayandar, Navghar, Kashimira, Manikpur, Vasai, Valiv and Nallasopara.

Hyderabad: GPS and Google Maps to be used in byelections

Hyderabad: Prakasam district superintendent of police K. Raghuram Reddy informed that the police department would be using GPS devices and Google Maps to monitor the movement of the police mobile parties and for a quick response for any complaint.

Mr Raghuram Reddy said that a team of techies from Hyderabad, comprising Karunkar Reddy, Riyaz and Sandeep were working voluntarily with the police department and providing valuable inputs and help with the GPS system.

Asking the people to cooperate with the police department for a free and fair byelection, he said that the police had initiated strong measures like usage of tracking technology to curb anomalies during voting.

Kochi: Police vehicle tracking systems tampered

Kochi: The Smart Vehicle Tracking Systems (SVTS) installed in 15 police control room vehicles in Kochi, have not been functioning for the past couple of years. The incident was noticed when a senior police official in the city tried to locate the vehicles using the SVTS. Though repeated attempts were made to track the vehicles, the Map at the control room showed no signs of any vehicle. An investigation revealed that the SVTS were not functioning because the wires were cut and the circuit boards tampered with.

GPS aided boats for vessels tracking in Assam

Guwahati: The Assam inland water transport department will soon get GPS/GPRS-aided boat surveillance and monitoring systems that will allow realtime tracking of vessels. The transport department took the decision following the Dhubri boat tragedy that killed 42 people.

GPS on DTC buses deactivated due to non payment of dues

New Delhi: According to sources in the Delhi Transport Corporation, vendors providing the service to the control centre located at the Millennium depot have deactivated the system due to non-payment of outstanding amount to Delhi Integrated multi-modal Transit System (DIMTS). The global positioning systems installed in DTC buses, which were used to keep a tab on the movement of buses, have not been working for the last 10 days.

The GPS devices are installed on some 3,700 low-floor buses. DIMTS had installed the GPS instruments and the central control interface at the depot.

Rajasthan state transport buses equipped with VTS

Rajasthan: The state of Rajasthan has rolled out an online tracking system to provide realtime information as well as updates about the location of the buses of state roadways. Virendra Beniwal, Transport Minister inaugurated the Vehicle Tracking system (VTS) for the buses.

Till now the last information made available, 300 buses were linked to fuel management system (FMS). The FMS will keep track of the usage of diesel used vis-a-vis the distance covered by the vehicle. The new system will also help the passengers get the status of the buses online as well as through SMS and telephone.

GPS enabled autorickshaws and cabs to be introduced in Mysore

Mysore: The district administration and the tourism department have joined hands to introduce Mythri, a tourist-friendly transport system during the Dasara festivities. More than 100 GPS-enabled Mythri autorickshaws and 50 cabs will be ready here to save you from the clutches of fleecing autorickshaw and cab drivers in the city.

The decision is being taken in the wake of increasing complaints of drivers exploiting tourists visiting the city, especially during the Dasara celebrations.

The vehicles will be equipped with GPS, audio player and wireless service. There will be newspapers and leaflets placed inside. There will be audio commentary about each place in Kannada, Hindi and English. The GPS system will help the authorities track the vehicle movement, district commissioner P S Vastrad said.

GWTeleTrack telemedicine dashboard for ambulances

Bengaluru: Interchain Solutions has introduced a solution leveraging on convergence of Telematics and Telemedicine technologies. Interchain transformed their flagship product GWVectra into a telemedicine dashboard for addressing the need of the day for ambulance modernization. GWTeletrack,is a suite of hardware and software solutions which spawn from the call center team, systems that run inside the ambulance, dashboard used by the hospital. GWTeletrack uses a variant of GWVectra, powered by Google Android platform is equipped with a touch screen terminal with connectivity to the vehicle and to the internet.

On the whole, the system improves the efficiency of the ambulance operations and reduces their time to react to an emergency. One of the first customers who have adopted is solution is GVK EMRI, who have extended support to Interchain by taking this solution to their ambulance operations across the country. After the successful pilot phase, the organizations are currently deploying the solution state by state. Some of the states who have adopted include Tamil Nadu, Gujarat and Assam.

MSRTC buses to be equipped with GPS

Pune: The Maharashtra State Road Transport Corporation (MSRTC) has decided to install Global Positioning System (GPS), on a trial basis, in 10 luxury buses in the Pune division within a week.

After installing the GPS, the authorities will be able to track the movement of buses, their speeds and duration of travel.

M2M India 2012

30th November, The Lalit Ashok Bangalore, Bengaluru

National conference & exhibition on 'Machine to Machine' technologies and its applications

Participants from:

Automotive
M2M Solution Providers
Telecom
Telematics
IT Solutions & Consulting

M2M India 2012 is going to be held along with Telematics India 2012
http://m2mwire.net/conf/2012/

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Mobile Devices takes the lead in telematics technology provider race: PTOLEMUS study

UK: The Insurance Telematics study by PTOLEMUS has ranked Mobile Devices as the no. 1 black box telematics technology provider for the European and North American markets, in a list of 21 global providers. In terms of customer segments, Mobile Devices also ranked first in Europe for Personal Lines, first in the US for Commercial lines and first in "other Continents" for Commercial Lines. The ranking of the key suppliers is one of the findings of the 400-page strategic study, which highlights a number of important lessons for the insurance sector.

Europe Insurance telematics market to cross 44 million subscriber base by 2017

UK: ABI Research forecasts that the number of insurance telematics users in Europe will grow from 1.5 million in 2010 to 44 million in 2017, initially driven by the UK and Italy. In its study, Insurance Telematics, ABI Research states that despite aggressive efforts North America will continue to lag behind the European usage based insurance (UBI) market.

The report stated that increasingly, pure UBI is integrated into a wider set of safety and security connected car services. This is not new; in Italy, stolen vehicle tracking was the starting point for insurance telematics and this notion is now spreading to driver behavior monitoring feedback, including sharing and comparing scores on social networks. Insurance telematics is absorbed in and being carried forward by the emerging connected car boom.

Future growth of UBI will be increasingly driven by smartphones wirelessly connecting to the OBD bus via Bluetooth adapters. The recent announcement from Ford and State Farm to launch insurance telematics via SYNC vehicle health reports constitutes the de facto start of phone-based UBI, report added.

Drivers not keen on social media in cars says research

UK: Consumers aren't very interested in using social media like Facebook and Twitter through vehicle systems, according to previously unpublished research. Thilo Koslowski, a connected-vehicle analyst for technology consultancy Gartner, offered an early glimpse at new research into consumer preferences in an address at the Telematics Detroit 2012 conference.

Global Telematics market to grow at a CAGR of 21.5 percent by 2016

USA: TechNavio's analysts forecast the Global Telematics market to grow at a CAGR of 21.5 percent over the period 20112015. One of the major factors contributing to this market growth is the high demand of electric vehicles. The Global Telematics market has also been witnessing cloud-based telematics offerings. However, falling prices of telematics devices could pose a challenge to the growth of this market.

TechNavio's report, the Global Telematics Market 20112015, has been prepared based on an in-depth analysis of the market with inputs from industry experts. The report covers the Americas, and the EMEA and APAC regions; it also covers the Global Telematics market landscape and its growth prospects in the coming years.

80 % of electric vehicles to be equipped with advanced telematics systems by 2017

USA: According to a recent report from Pike Research, by 2017, 80% of PEVs will come with these connected vehicle systems installed. The report states that while basic telematics packages that offer simple data connections for emergency services, charging station locations, and remote diagnostics/vehicle monitoring are standard features on most PEVs, many consumers desire more elaborate, connected vehicle telematics, which can provide live traffic, weather, streaming content, and cloud computing-based applications. The global market for electric vehicle telematics will reach $1.4 billion annually by 2017, the cleantech market intelligence firm forecasts.

ABI Research: GPS/GNSS IC market to touch 1.8 Billion shipments globally by 2016

UK: The research by ABI Research "GPS IC and Devices Forecasts, Global," forecasts that total GPS/GNSS IC market will scale 1.8 billion shipments by 2016.The report states that GPS/GNSS is now moving beyond cellular and traditional navigation markets, representing a market worth over $3.3 billion in 2016.

GPS/GNSS has always been strongly tied to navigation in the in-car, PND, and cellular space. However, GPS/GNSS is now finding applications in cameras, gaming, and tablets. Furthermore, femto cells and small cells represent huge volume opportunities, with companies like u-blox, Fastrax, and iPosi all developing specific GPS/GNSS solutions to meet the unique requirements of this market.

New Mercedes-Benz App Store

UK: Mercedes-Benz has opened its own app shop, called Mercedes-Benz App Store, from which customers can download applications directly to their vehicle. The 'App Shop' is already live: http://apps.mercedes-benz.com/apps/

Currently, two apps, Parking Finder and News (powered by dapd), are available for purchase for €10 (1 year's subscription).

Other apps such as share prices, Yelp are expected to be made available in the near future. Google Search, Weather, Facebook are already available as standard apps within the COMAND Online system. Also the availability of apps and pricing may vary by vehicle model, launch date etc. For example, the News app is available as a standard feature on the new SL Class.

Because the COMAND Online system is browser-based, the App Shop enables 'over-the-air' activation of apps. As the system is using a browser, there is no heavy download of the entire app (so hopefully no phone data bill shock to the user). This process can be compared to the setting of 'Favourite' web pages within Internet Explorer or Firefox on a PC or smartphone.

TomTom navigation devices to offer daily map updates for free

USA: TomTom has announced that all of its 60 million portable navigation devices to receive free daily map changes via the TomTom Map Share community. Map Share allows drivers to personalise the TomTom map on their own device and also share and receive map changes with the Map Share community around the world.

HP to deliver telematics services to Renault

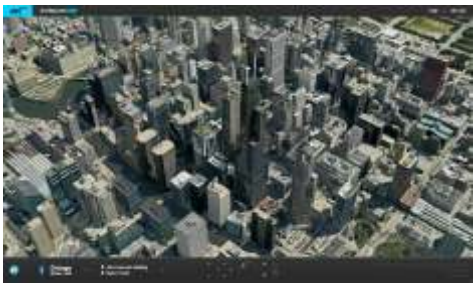
Paris: HP has announced that Renault has chosen an HP Utility Services solution to support the development of innovative new telematics services for its electric cars.

Renault selected HP Enterprise Cloud Services Utility Services to host its European IT infrastructure and manage its technical applications, delivering just the right computing capacity and giving the company greater flexibility to meet its business needs at minimum cost.

A preconfigured and tested HP Converged Infrastructure hosted in HP's highly secure Tier 3 data center in Grenoble, France, gives Renault fast access to the latest HP server, storage, networking, power and cooling technologies.

This economical solution offers highly automated processes that cut the time, cost and complexity of getting Renault's business-critical new applications into production. Built-in technology refreshes and flexible capacity provisioning ensure that Renault's IT infrastructure is powerful and flexible enough to accommodate future demands.

Ford Research to use Nokia/Navteq Map and APIs



USA: Ford's research organization has selected Nokia's Location Platform to advance innovation for smart and connected vehicles, as demonstrated by the Ford EVOS concept car. Ford selected the Nokia Location Platform to leverage Nokia's high-quality global location content, including NAVTEQ Map, as well as scaleable cloud services and APIs. This complete solution offers a fast, easy and cost-effective path to create innovative and differentiated location products.

The Ford EVOS concept car showcases a future in which cloud services go beyond Internet access and traffic-enabled routing. Ford's concept car actually “learns” driver behavior to control, improve upon and personalize vehicle performance. Another area of Ford's research is designed to optimize hybrid powertrain efficiency: the Nokia Location Platform could automatically regulate a car's powertrain as it travels through established or driver-specified “Green Zones”.

IVI in new Tesla Motors Electric Sedan powered by NVIDIA

USA: The new Tesla Motors Model S electric sedan will be making its debut with the NVIDIA(R) Tegra Visual Computing Module (VCM). Based on the Tegra processor used in smartphones and tablets, the Tegra VCM will power the vehicle's 17-inch touchscreen infotainment and navigation system the largest ever in a passenger car as well as its all-digital instrument cluster.

For drivers, the system provides larger, more readable maps and a beautifully rendered instrument cluster that can be personalized from the multifunction steering wheel. The Tegra VCM features the world's first mobile superchip, which integrates a multicore ARM CPU, an ultra-low-power NVIDIA GeForce(R) GPU and dedicated audio, video and image processors.

One Tegra VCM will power the Model S infotainment system, which features a 17-inch touchscreen with a customizable and intuitive user interface for music, phone, navigation, connected services and climate control.

Book on Telematics

Book: Intelligent Agrifood Chains and Networks

Authors:
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Summary: "Intelligent Agrifood Chains and Networks" offers a timely discussion of the current state of food logistics, and indicates the major ICT problems that can occur during production, warehousing, transportation and retailing. Emphasis is given to new technologies and intelligent systems that are able to process time-dependent information, handle emergencies, and support logistics operations in food management. In particular, the authors show how telematics and RFID can be implemented in the supply chain. The book also includes real-life case studies, in which actual food logistics problems and their solutions are presented, demonstrating how systemic and logistics approaches may be combined. Chapter 15 of the book discusses the use of telematics in the daily distribution of perishable goods with sub chapters including a real-time fleet-management system for dynamic incident handling, simulation testing, real-life testing, etc.

News International Defense

Thales and Renault Trucks to jointly develop digitised vehicle solution

USA: Thales and Renault Trucks Defense (RTD) have inked partnership to extend the capabilities of the VAB Mk3. Under this partnership, the VAB Mk3 armoured personnel carrier benefits from new capabilities. Each crew station, fully configurable to the type of mission, displays the real-time image from a turret-mounted camera, providing the three main operators (infantry squad leader, gunner and driver) with a shared picture of the tactical environment. The turret is also slaved to a hostile fire detection system, enabling the crew to respond more quickly and more efficiently to threats. Through this partnership, Renault Trucks Defense and Thales are able to offer technical solutions for future programmes and ensure continuing development and support as new requirements emerge.

An exclusive navigation aid incorporating route profiles and terrain information, coupled with a hybrid GPS / inertial navigation system, ensures a high level of geo positioning accuracy and can also be connected to a target designation system. For the pilot, further capabilities include a driving aid with day and night video feeds. Vehicle logistics data (fuel, munitions, etc.) can also be relayed to higher levels of command, allowing the crew to autonomously manage its energy use to maximise the VAB Mk3's endurance for very long missions.

The "Battlenet Inside" system used by Renault Trucks Defense and based on the electronic architectures developed by Volvo interconnects all the vehicle systems and allows them to operate collaboratively. Based on electronic architectures developed for commercial markets, "Battlenet Inside" brings the benefits of COTS solutions to the battlespace after extensive testing on large fleets of commercial vehicles.

COLD CHAIN MANAGEMENT

Telematics in Supply Cold Chain Monitoring

The new age consumers want only the best quality foods to be available to them when they shop at their local supermarkets. The logistics companies strive hard in meeting this expectation requiring that foods remain at precise temperatures throughout the cold supply chain. Food being perishable item, the key to success is for proper supply chain management for any logistics company. The hurdle comes from a number of factors, e.g. huge size and population of our country, varied culture and hence varied taste, poor infrastructure like improper roads, bad connectivity between production centers and markets, lack of proper cold chain facility like refrigerated transportation, ware-housing etc. Under these circumstances, technology companies are constantly engaged in developing and manufacturing products that help protect foods along every critical control point throughout the cold logistics chain. In the current scenario, telematics is proving out to be one such technology.

Telematics solution in the cold chain management enables fleet managers to get more control of their cold chain fleets by tracking the exact location of their vehicles while allowing their drivers to monitor the precise temperatures of refrigerated cargo saving them considerable costs. The customized cold chain monitoring solutions provide a detailed history of product temperature through even the most complex cold chains involving manufacturing, refrigerated warehousing, intermodal distribution, and point of use.

Through telematics it is accessible for the food industry to trace food items and record environmental conditions throughout the entire supply chain. Sensors in telematics monitor the temperature and humidity of products. They can detect if the temperature for a specific food item goes above or below the ideal temperature, at any given time, and record that detail. It helps businesses to identify spots in their temperature-controlled supply chain - or cold chain - to maintain the desired quality. The time for fresh produce to be harvested, cooled, processed and shipped can vary by hours and is influenced by several external factors beyond the farm. Air temperatures of refrigerated vehicles add to the complexity because they vary significantly, potentially causing the food to go bad before it reaches the store. That could explain the condition of the avocados I see in my supermarket.

The telematics solution replaces guesswork, visual inspections and traditional inventory methods, with a snapshot of the cold chain. It identifies measures and documents the temperature impact on the produce. The monitoring is continuous - from the field, to the pack house, through distribution, and finally the retail store. It sounds tedious, but with telematics, it's easy and affordable.

Currently cold chain businesses across the world are exploring the best practices available with the help of telematics. Companies are offering telematics based cold chain management solutions which enable:

Shipment monitoring - to regulate temperature-sensitive shipments throughout the end-to-end supply chain.

Facility monitoring - to remotely oversee and handle temperature-controlled storage facilities, such as pharmacies, hospitals and warehouses.

Vehicle monitoring - to track the location and condition of temperature-controlled transportation vehicles.

When talking about India, telematics in cold chain management is at an infancy stage. In India, even though a plethora of companies are experimenting with telematics in their cold chain management, Telematics4u seems is performing remarkably in offering telematics solutions for cold chain purposes. The Cold Chain Logistics Management Solution from the company can help food processing companies better utilize their procurement and distribution infrastructure by removing inefficiencies in their operations. Telematics4u's temperature monitoring module is developed and designed as per the requirements of the cold chain logistics industry. With Cold Chain Logistics Management Solution while current temperature levels in the reefer vans can be seen right from platform, alerts can also be set up to facilitate timely preventive actions. Furthermore, temperature graphs and reports give access to historical temperature data as well. The company's solution is mainly designed to ensure that damages due to temperature variations are kept to minimum and hence help customers in controlling related expenditures.

As a conclusion it can be said that telematics is a tool for continuous improvement which ensures overall efficiency in the cold chain operations without compromising on the quality of products and customer satisfaction. When Cold Chain Logistics Management companies recognize that the usage of telematics can eliminate the massive waste in the cold chain, they will certainly adopt this technology to enhance overall operational performance and business profits.

- Akshara Narendran

Intel and ERA-GLONASS teams up to jointly develop intelligent automotive system

Russia: Intel Software, an Intel subsidiary and a new Skolkovo resident, has announced plans to develop an intelligent automotive system supported by ERA-GLONASS-based open software platform services.
The endeavor calls for the development of a hardware-software solution integrating ERA-GLONASS, a real-time satellite-based infrastructure service that takes full advantage of Russia's GLONASS satellite positioning system and was designed to aid response to traffic accidents. In addition to the navigation system, users will reportedly also have Bluetooth and Wi-Fi for higher road security and comfort, and will easily be able to access social networks, video content and more.

Apple to have its own mapping engine for iPads and iPhones

USA: TomTom has signed global agreement with Apple for offering maps and related informmation. TomTom will be providing maps for Apple's newly announced mapping service. The deal is expected to fight off declining sales of TomTom's traditional satellite-navigation devices.

The news of the deal comes a day after Apple announced at its annual developer's conference that it will replace Google's GOOG -2.06% Maps business as the default navigation system on its iPhones and iPads. Apple said the service has a mode for viewing areas in three-dimensions, along with a local search service and turn-by-turn driving directions for in-car use.

After the launch of Apple's mapping service, shares of Garmin and Harman have hit their lows for 2012. The developments represent the latest challenge to Garmin and Harman, both of which saw sales peak in fiscal 2008 before the worldwide economic slowdown and the rise of smartphoneswith increasingly sophisticated GPS and mapping appschipped away at their top line.
According to analysts smartphones and tablets could take over the so-called auto infotainment function in vehicles, displacing the navigation-system makers.

Mercedes Digital DriveStyle to have Glympse app

USA: Mercedes-Benz and Glympse have signed a partnership agreement to provide real-time location sharing to their drivers by integrating Glympse into the new Mercedes-Benz Digital DriveStyle application, set to launch in the new A-Class in September 2012.

Drivers will now be able to use the Mercedes Digital DriveStyle application to select a recipient, set a timer, and 'send a Glympse' to anyone they choose. The recipient of the Glympse will receive a text or email link, which will show the driver's real-time location on an interactive map. Consistent with Glympse's unique approach to location sharing, when the timer expires, the location sharing will automatically stop. Because Glympse is a universal sharing solution, the recipient doesn't require any special software or device, just a web browser. Mercedes-Benz integrated Glympse into its Digital DriveStyle application using the Glympse partner SDK.

4G Venture Forum for Connected Cars

Verizon forms 4G connected cars forum with BMW, Honda, Hyundai and Toyota
USA: Verizon has announced the formation of the 4G Venture Forum for Connected Cars. The group comprises major global automotive companies brought together by Verizon to speed the pace of innovation across the automotive and telematics 4G LTE ecosystem. BMW, Honda, Hyundai Motor Company, Kia Motors and Toyota Motor Sales are amongst the key members of the forum.
The group will explore ways to provide connectivity to vehicles of all types, by leveraging open standards and discussing ways to accelerate development of the 4G LTE ecosystem across automotive OEMs, suppliers, device manufacturers, application developers and content publishers.

Ford SYNC to assist in reducing insurance premiums

USA: Ford and State Farm have teamed up to offer lower insurance premiums for drivers. State Farm will further improve its Drive Safe & Save program using Ford SYNC technology. Under the program, the State Farm customers with select SYNC-equipped Ford vehicles will be enabled to reduce their auto insurance premiums by using the Vehicle Health Report feature to report their mileage. The magnitude of the savings will be determined by the number of miles they drive. Those choosing to enroll in the program will initially save about 5 percent on their auto insurance coverage. The amount of premium savings will be determined at each renewal date (every six months) based on the number of miles driven during that period.

Fastrax UC530

Finland: Fastrax unveiled Fastrax UC530 a new edition of the OEM GPS receiver with an integrated chip antenna. The module features the same ultra small form factor as the widely popular Fastrax UC430, while provi ding new benefits to designers, developers and manufacturers of handheld digital devices.

The Fastrax UC530 features the highest sensitivity on the market (-165 dBm in tracking) and extremely low power consumption, typically only 45 mW average power. The antenna module is easily embeddable in space-restricted environments thanks to its tiny footprint of 9.6 x 14.0 x 1.95 mm and extended input voltage range of +3.0V…+4.3V. UC530 can directly connect the module to a lithium battery that allows hardware designers to omit cost-adding regulators. Full SMT design minimizes the requirement for external components and cuts down the manufacturing costs.

SiRFstarVe location platform

USA: CSR has introduced its first product based on the SiRFstarV architecture, a quad-GNSS location platform designed to support GPS, GLONASS, Galileo and Compass systems and optimized to address the increasing demands of the auto industry. Designed for automotive market AEC-Q100 qualification requirements and able to operate in either engine or tracker modes, the SiRFstarVe is able to break through ambient electrical noise and radio interference to provide automotive Tier One suppliers and OEMs around the world with continuous, highly accurate positioning capabilities for their next generation of in-dash navigation and telematics applications in cars, trucks and other moveable assets requiring automotive-qualified devices.

UBX-G7020

Switzerland: u-blox has launched UBX-G7020 7 single chip multi-GNSS receiver for consumer and automotive applications. UBX-G7020 is the newest family of standalone positioning chips from u-blox. The high performance u-blox 7 multi-GNSS (GPS, GLONASS, QZSS, SBAS Galileo/Compass ready) position engine delivers exceptional sensitivity and acquisition times. u-blox 7 features ultra low power consumption, thanks to an innovative single die architecture and enhanced software algorithms. This gives the UBX-G7020 best-in-class power consumption, particularly for GLONASS reception.

IntelliRoute TND 720 truck GPS

USA: Rand McNally has unveiled IntelliRoute TND 720 a new 7-inch truck GPS device with two advanced features: Wi-Fi connectivity, allowing for real-time weather information and display, and new hardware with ruggedized casing, video input, and brighter screen.

The new IntelliRoute TND 720 joins Rand McNally's line of GPS devices for professional drivers.

One of the key new features of the TND 720 GPS device is Wi-Fi connectivity, which enables the transmission and display of weather as well as other real-time information.

RoadMate Commercial 9270T-LM

USA: Magellan has unveiled RoadMate Commercial 9270T-LM the latest addition to its Magellan RoadMate Commercial GPS family for truckers and commercial drivers providing improved safety and productivity before, during and after their on-the-road trips. The RoadMate Commercial 9270T-LM GPS device is specifically designed for the needs of truckers including an extra-large GPS display, customizable truck- specific routing, hands-free communication and trip logging.

RoadMate Commercial 9270T-LM features:

- Extra large 7" high definition touch screen for easy viewing
- Customizable truck routes based on vehicles height, width, and weight
- Compliance ready for logging and reporting driving hours
- Bluetooth technology for hand-free calling to make the drive a safe one

AGS2 - surface mount automotive module

Germany: Cinterion has launched AGS2, boasted as the world's smallest surface mount automotive M2M module providing global voice and data communications for vehicle telematics. The new module is Cinterion's first offering as an Associate Partner in the Intel(R) Intelligent Systems Alliance program, which offers original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) and developers with the advanced hardware, software, firmware, tools and systems integration support needed to bring leading-edge technology solutions to market faster.

CINTERION
a Gemalto company

Microsoft Windows embedded Handheld 6.5

USA: Juniper Systems has unveiled Microsoft Windows embedded Handheld 6.5 for the Mesa Rugged Notepad. This latest operating system version comprises operating system updates from Microsoft, several new features requested by customers, and other various improvements. The new operating system is available to download for all existing Mesa Rugged Notepads on the Juniper Systems website.

New additions and feature includes the new finger-friendly "Mega Keys" on-screen keyboard with larger keys and more special characters available. The keyboard is specially designed to run on the Mesa and is available to use in any text-entry field. The GPS function of the Mesa has been improved to allow enabling/disabling of WAAS/SBAS corrections, as well as an increased GPS breadcrumb trail point size to 36,000 points. The integrated camera application now allows users to emboss the image file name directly on to the photo and to embed a user note into an image file. Portuguese (Brazil version) has been added as an available language on the new Mesa operating system.

SmartTrack

USA: MobiWork has launched SmartTrack, an enterprise grade smartphone and cloud based GPS tracking solution for any business with mobile workers or resources. To respect privacy concerns, SmartTrack can be configured to use geofencing to calculate the amount of time each worker spends at predetermined locations such as customer or project sites without tracking their personal or professional whereabouts and activities in between. Applications for SmartTrack includes tracking customer service, Monitoring workers or vehicles and Automated time and expense management and validation.

MyTopo Maps

USA: Trimble has introduced Trimble Outdoors MyTopo Maps app for the Kindle Fire and other Android-powered tablets. Outdoor enthusiasts can now view detailed topo and aerial maps and plot their next outdoor adventure on large tablet screens. MyTopo Maps provides access to over 68,000 detailed topo maps in the U.S. and Canada, in addition to aerial photos, street maps, terrain maps and hybrid maps.

Towergate Fleetcare+

UK: Towergate has partnered with some of the UK's largest insurers and has introduced Towergate Fleetcare+ , a telematics product that helps reduce both risk and insurance premiums.

Towergate has pre-approved systems from telematics companies that provide data on driving events such as; speeding, harsh braking, harsh cornering, rapid acceleration, fuel consumption and have driver id. From this data Towergate is able to highlight the risks in the fleet and implement its risk management programmes.

NAVSOP: New positioning system from BAE Systems

UK: BAE Systems, a UK defence firm, has developed a new positioning system, Navigation via Signals of Opportunity (NAVSOP), which is boasted as complement or even replace current technologies such as GPS. NAVSOP relies on the same signals used by mobile phones, TVs, radios and wi-fi rather than navigation satellites. The firm said that NAVSOP could help find victims inside buildings during a fire and locate stolen vehicles hidden in underground car parks. It could also be used in a war if the satnav system was turned off.

NAVSOP is resistant to hostile interference such as jamming (a particular weakness of GPS) and spoofing, where a bogus signal tricks a device into misidentifying its location. The new system can learn from signals that are initially unidentified to build an ever more accurate and reliable fix on its location. Even the signals from GPS jammers can be exploited by the device to aid navigation under certain conditions.

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