

FICOSA LAUNCHES AN INTELLIGENT COMMUNICATIONS MODULE WHICH IMPROVES TRAFFIC MOVEMENT AND SAFETY

- **The intelligent communications module developed by the Business Unit of Advanced Communications at FICOSA together with GMV, receives a Special Mention from the Jury in the Prize giving at the Barcelona International Motor Show.**

Barcelona, 19th of June, 2007 .- The Spanish multi-national company FICOSA (automobile systems and components) together with GMV, have just launched on the market an intelligent communications module for vehicles which improves traffic movement and safety, therefore becoming market leaders in the relatively new yet competitive market of automobile communications.

In the next few years, communications between vehicles and also those from vehicle to infrastructures will become increasingly important. This, along with electronics and the protection of the environment are the three main sectors which will grow and develop in the automobile industry.

With the aim of finding solutions and meeting these increasing needs in vehicle communications, FICOSA and GMV have developed a miniature communications module, based on multi-architectural technology, which is flexible – capable of evolving and adapting to new communication standards which arise in the vehicle's life-cycle – as well as being sufficiently powerful to integrate different telematic and safety services and applications in one device.

The system can support many services and applications including the European emergency call system (eCall), safety and mobility applications based on both vehicle-vehicle communication and vehicle-infrastructure communication, services provided by the vehicle manufacturer (call centre, remote vehicle diagnosis, on-road assistance, etc.), fleet management systems, automated toll payments, car insurance single payment systems, vehicle information gathering systems to determine real traffic situations, stolen vehicle tracking devices, automatic payment systems (parking, petrol stations, etc.), navigation and on-board entertainment.

As a hugely valuable element for automobile constructors, the module developed by the Spanish multi-national is easily incorporated into the vehicle (becoming invisible to the user) thanks to its tiny size.

The intelligent communications module developed by the Business Unit of Advanced Communications at FICOSA in collaboration with GMV received the Jury's Special Mention in the 6th Edition of the Barcelona International Motor Show Prize Giving on the 12th of June.

Invisible Antenna Systems

Through its Advanced Communications Unit, FICOSA has made a clear technological commitment to vehicle communications systems.

Created five years ago, this Unit also researches and develops in the field of antenna systems for automobiles, where it is a clear world leader owing to the development of antennas based on fractal® technology which allows them to be miniaturized and thus making them invisible inside the vehicle (hence the disappearance of roof aerials or shark's fins) as well as incorporating various services in only one antenna.

Ficosa is developing miniaturized antenna systems which allow for the reception of AM/FM radio, telephone, satellite communications (GPS, XM, Sirius, Galileo), Radio and Digital Terrestrial Television as well as carrying telematic applications such as Bluetooth® or Wifi systems, tyre pressure control or the opening and closing of doors by remote control.

Currently Ficosa is mass-producing various antenna systems for certain models of Fiat, Peugeot and Citroën and is finalising the negotiation of contracts to incorporate these systems in future models of German and North American car manufacturers.

As a result of this intense research and development work in the field of antenna systems, Ficosa has recently diversified its range of products, penetrating into the navigator market by mass-producing antennas for TMC systems (Traffic Message Channel) which receive news of traffic incidents by the navigator in real time.

About Ficosa

Ficosa International is a multinational group founded in 1949, engaged in the research, development, production and commercialization of systems and components for automobiles. With its headquarters in Barcelona (Spain), the Group has a team of more than 6900 professionals and is present in 19 countries throughout the world. With a consolidated turnover of 835 million euros in 2006 and a portfolio of 770 patents in force, Ficosa is a supplier and technological partner of most automobile manufacturers in the world.

Through its different Business Units (Rear-view Systems, Command and Control Systems, Advanced Communications, Under hood Systems, Industrial Vehicle and Security and Locking Systems), Ficosa is developing innovative systems and solutions for the automobile in the fields of safety, communications, comfort and environment, that go from intelligent vision systems of driving assistance (ADAS Functions) to solutions of car to car communications, passing through lumbar systems, electronically adaptable to the body, which permits to reduce the fatigue of the driver.

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