

## **CDTI GIVES CENIT TO THE “MARTA” RESEARCH PROJECT LED BY FICOSA**

- **The MARTA Project (Mobility and automotive transport with advanced transportation networks), is one of the 16 research projects that have recently been approved by the Center for the Development of Industrial Technology (CDTI) of the Spanish government in the third session of the Program for National Strategic Consortia for Technical Research (CENIT), as part of the INGENIO 2010 initiative and aimed at promoting public and private co-operation in R+D+i.**
- **The project, led by Ficosa with a budget of over 35 million euros, will last for four years, with 18 companies from different activity sectors participating under the operative umbrella of a Consortium, along with 19 Research Centers and Universities, with a global field of action that encompasses 8 autonomous communities of Spain.**
- **The objective of the MARTA Project is to promote research and development regarding the connection between vehicles and between those vehicles and road networks, in order to obtain feasible, safe technological solutions that facilitate the movement of citizens.**

**Barcelona, July 16th, 2007** - The Center for the Development of Industrial Technology (CDTI) has selected the research and development project (R+D) “MARTA – Mobility and automotive transport with advanced transportation networks”, presented by a Consortium of companies led by Ficosa International, for the CENIT Program.

The MARTA project’s basic strategic objective is to lay the scientific and technological foundations for mobility in the 21st century that allow the Spanish ITS sector – “Intelligent Transport Systems” – to respond to the safety, efficiency, and sustainability challenges that European society in general, and particularly the Spanish society, are facing.

MARTA seeks to offer new answers and solutions aimed at improving safety and efficiency in transportation by generating valuable knowledge related to new technologies, infrastructures, and services, in such a way that makes it possible to have a safer, more comfortable driving experience, favouring the reduction of road accidents.

Mobility is essential to the functioning of European society, but it currently poses problems in terms of traffic, safety and environmental impact. Currently in Europe, 10% of the main roads have traffic problems. In terms of accidents, the European Road Safety Charter sets a common goal: reduce the number of traffic accident deaths by half until the year 2010.

Intelligent Systems can contribute to drastically diminishing traffic and accidents, offering support to drivers with the goal of avoiding accidents and making automatic calls to Emergency Centers. They can also contribute to more efficient and sustainable driving and traffic standards, reducing contamination.

The MARTA Project, with a budget of over 35 million euros, will last for four years, with 18 companies (12 large companies, 5 small to mid-sized companies, and 1 micro-company) from different activity sectors participating (communications operators, vehicle manufacturers, infrastructure and service providers, components suppliers) under the operative umbrella of a Consortium and 19 Research Centers and Universities, with a global field of action that encompasses 8 autonomous communities throughout Spain.

Among the companies participating in the Consortium along with Ficosa are SEAT, Telefónica, GMV, GMV - SGI, ETRA R+D, A2C, ATIPIIC, Southwing, TSS, IDOM, Moviquity, Agnitio, OPNATEL, and AT4 Wireless.

Among the public research organizations that are participating in the project's development by means of sub-contracting are the Polytechnic and Autonomous Universities of Madrid, the University of Valladolid, CIDAUT and CEDETEL from Castilla y Leon, TECNALIA in the Basque Country, and CEMITEC in Navarra, the Polytechnic University of Catalonia, the University of Barcelona, the Polytechnic University of Valencia, and the University of Valencia, the University of Murcia, and CITIC in Andalusia.

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