

## **FICOSA LAUNCHES NEW MINIATURE TMC ANTENNA SOLUTIONS FOR PNDs**

**Barcelona (Spain), 22nd January 2008.-** Ficosa Advanced Communications Business Unit launches a new set of outstanding external and internal antenna solutions to enable real-time traffic information into portable car navigation systems using Traffic Message Channel (TMC) technology.

TMC is a specific application of the FM Radio Data System (RDS) used for broadcasting real-time traffic and weather information. Data messages are received silently and decoded by a TMC-equipped car radio or navigation system. TMC is a free service in most countries.

Ficosa new TMC antennas are much smaller (e.g. 9cm x 3cm), provide better performance, are less sensitive to the installation and easier to install in the car, and with less visual impact to the driver. Moreover, Ficosa TMC antenna solutions can be fit inside PND holders, and even inside PNDs. All these benefits enhance the end user experience when planning trips. In the meantime, most TMC-enabled PNDs in the market use a 75 cm or 150 cm long wire antenna.

“TMC is becoming a common feature in most car portable navigation systems, and PND companies find our antenna products to add a significant value to the TMC functionality. In 2007 we started shipping in volume to one European PND vendor. We are now working with multiple PND OEMs and ODMs to integrate our new antenna solutions into devices that will be launched in 2008. Also, we are working with chip and module makers to develop full TMC platforms to let PND makers reduce the time to market and cut development costs”, said Dr. Jordi Soler Castany, Business Development Manager, Navigation and Short-Range Automotive Communications Solutions, Ficosa Advanced Communications Business Unit.

### **About Ficoso Advanced Communications**

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

This Unit researches and develops in the field of antenna systems and telematics modules for automobiles, where Ficoso is positioned as a global supplier owing to the development of antennas based on fractal<sup>®</sup> technology and combined with several integration technologies based on Kapton<sup>®</sup> solutions, onglass antennas or polycarbonate materials. Ficoso Advanced Communications has been the first to propose a complete solution for all incar communication services in a conventional car external mirror. The full integrated solution has been possible due to the high capacity of antenna miniaturization, as well as to the possibility to include various services in only one antenna. Currently Ficoso is mass-producing various antenna systems for certain models of Fiat, Peugeot and Citroën, and has developed a full equipped manufacturing center for communication products in its facility in Shanghai, China.

As a result of this intense research and development work, Ficoso Advanced Communications Business Unit has diversified its range of products, and today the product portfolio includes antennas and RF systems for AM/FM, DAB, TV, satellite communications – including XM and Sirius -, TMC, remote key less entry applications (RKE), and tyre pressure monitoring systems (TPMS), as well as smart communications modules

### **About Ficoso**

Ficoso 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 600 patents in force, Ficoso is a supplier and technological partner of most automobile manufacturers in the world.

#### **Business contact:**

Dr. Jordi Soler Castany  
Business Development Manager  
FICOSA Advanced Communications Business Unit  
Mobile: + 34 670 061 610  
Fax: +34 935 702 913  
E-mail: [jordi.solercastany@ficsosa.com](mailto:jordi.solercastany@ficsosa.com)

#### **Press contact:**

Xavier Gispert  
Communication & PR Director  
FICOSA  
Tel. +34 93 216 34 00  
Fax +34 93 490 10 63  
E-mail : [xgispert@ficsosa.com](mailto:xgispert@ficsosa.com)