

**FICOSA IS CONSOLIDATING ITS PRESENCE IN THE AUTOMOTIVE ANTENNA MARKET**

## **VW EQUIPED BY ANTENNA SYSTEMS OF FICOSA**

**Barcelona (Spain), 24<sup>th</sup> April 2008.-** Ficosa Advanced Communications Business Unit, a leading developer of Automotive Integrated Antennas with Fractal® Technology, today announced the award of an important project by the German automotive car market Volkswagen.

Ficosa will equip two VW models with its innovative miniaturized antenna systems in which they will integrate the main radio antenna (AM/FM), the second diversity antenna (FM2), Digital Audio Broadcasting (DAB), telephone and GPS antenna. With this new contract, Ficosa consolidates its global position as technological supplier of antenna systems for automobiles.

Based on the Fractal antenna® technology, Ficosa is able to propose ultra small antenna systems to be integrated into the car exterior mirrors of the vehicles. In order to address the high competitiveness of the automotive market, Ficosa, exclusive user of such technology, is able to propose complete antenna integration solutions in mirrors passenger cars and to respond to a clear market demand: benefits in the standardisation (use the same concept for several platforms including convertible without additional costs), simplification of manufacturing process, saving of costs related with the process (connectors or coaxial cables as example), capacity of integration and modularity of multiple communication services.

After a several years of R&D activities including extensive benchmarks and customers demos and pre-developments, the fruitful results make possible to develop specific applications like AM/FM, DAB, TV (both analog or digital standards), telephone, RKE (Remote Key Entry), GPS and satellite radio combining the two exterior-mirrors. The concept can be used in passenger vehicles, as well as transporters and Trucks. In particular, the combination of the main AM/FM antenna plus a second FM 2 antenna in the opposite mirrors offers a very robust solution when diversity radio – option implemented today in a very large proportion in most of the vehicles and by most of the car markers - is present in the vehicle due its complete complementary location. Then, high performance is combined with optimised function cost solution for the car.

Ficosa forecasts such product will become the next standard for the incoming car generation and negotiates with other European and American car manufacturers the incorporation of these antenna systems in there models.

Ficosa is, thus, consolidating his position as the sole antenna supplier that propose a complete range of integrated antenna technologies, to develops products on the basis of the fractal antenna® technology, covering mirrors and others plastic parts solution as well on-glass or new plastic polycarbonate solutions where Fractal antenna technology® is addressing the limitations of such solutions. Partnerships agreement have been established with well established automotive companies to address such on-glass or new plastic solutions.

### **About Ficosa 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 Ficosa is positioned as a global supplier owing to the development of antennas based on fractal® technology and combined with several integration technologies based on Kapton® solutions, onglass antennas or polycarbonate materials.

Ficosa 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 Ficosa 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, Ficosa 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

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