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## **FICOSA LAUNCHES THE WORLD'S FIRST TMC ANTENNA TO BE INTEGRATED INTO THE PND**

- **The first Personal Navigation Device (PND) to equip these TMC integrated antennas from Ficoso was the new Falk F8 model from the German company, Falk Marco Polo, of which more than 50,000 units have already been sold in Europe.**

**Barcelona, October 29<sup>th</sup>, 2008** - Ficoso's Advanced Communications Business Unit has launched the world's first TMC - Traffic Message Channel - antenna, which is entirely integrated into the Personal Navigation Device (PND), thanks to its technology and know-how in antenna miniaturization.

The TMC antenna is a specific application of the "Radio Data System" (RDS) that is used to broadcast messages with traffic and weather information through the FM frequency band (88 MHz to 108 MHz). The PND receives the messages and de-codifies them for the user, offering the optimal route in real time in order to help avoid traffic jams.

The existing TMC antennas on the market – usually cables of between 75 and 150 cm. – required the user to connect them to the devices externally and attach them to the vehicle's windscreen. At the beginning of 2008 Ficoso was already advancing in the optimization of TMC antenna systems, developing and patenting a new generation of antennas – only 9 cm. in length -, though still external to the PND.

Now, as a result of its R+D activities and its collaboration with the German navigation systems manufacturer Falk Marco Polo to equip its devices, Ficoso has developed and patented a new generation of antennas that are smaller (6.6 x 6.8 cm), and entirely integrated into the navigator. These antennas have the additional advantage of not having any visual impact for the driver and not requiring installation, thereby avoiding manipulation of the device. Moreover, the collaboration between Ficoso and Falk has allowed for the optimization of antenna features, and to satisfactorily overcome the challenge of undesired noise and interference that too often comes with the integration of an antenna close to or inside of an electronic device.

The first PND model to equip these TMC integrated antennas from Ficosa was the new Falk F8 model from the German company, Falk Marco Polo (<http://www.fm-i.de>), which in only 4 months has sold more than 50,000 units in Europe.

“Navigation systems manufacturers are increasingly investing in the integration of TMC technology in their portable GPS navigators, and they see in our products a solution of high added value in terms of TMC functionality. We are working and negotiating with multiple manufacturers to equip their devices with these innovative antennas. In fact, we are already working on the next generation of integrated antennas for the future” says César Hernandez, chief of business development for navigation products and short-range wireless communications for Ficosa’s Advanced Communications Unit.

With this new generation of antennas, Ficosa once again expands its portfolio of products into the field of communications, in which it develops and produces antennas and radiofrequency (RF) systems for AM/FM, DAB, TV, satellite communications – including XM -, TMC, remote door-opening applications, tire pressure monitoring systems, and telematic communications modules for vehicles.

**About Ficos**

Ficos is a multinational Group that was founded in 1949, dedicated to research, development, production and commercialization of systems and components for vehicles worldwide. The Group has its headquarters in Barcelona, has a worldwide team of over 7,000 people, and has a presence of factories, technical centres, and technical commercial offices in 19 countries throughout Europe, North America, South America and Asia. With consolidated revenue of 877 Million Euros in 2007 and a portfolio of more than 600 active patents, Ficos is the provider and technological partner to the majority of automobile manufacturers worldwide. For more information please visit: [www.ficos.com](http://www.ficos.com)

**About Falk Marco Polo Interactive**

Falk Marco Polo Interactive (FM-I) is part of the MAIRDUMONT Group and is based in Ostfildern near Stuttgart. Fm-I's multi award winning technology provides the foundation for its activities in the following business fields: "Navigation systems and services for travellers" in the form of products such as the Falk Navigator and Internet services like Falk.de; "Geographical information systems (GIS) for business customers" with such products as the Falk Branch Finder and the Falk Journey Planner; "Content" – selling content from the MAIRDUMONT portfolio and the "Media" area, which uses the media provision of FM-I for communication concepts. Website: [www.fm-i.de](http://www.fm-i.de).

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