

Ficosa launches in the Technological Center of Mollet trial run of its "ride sharing" system developed with GMV

Mollet / Barcelona (Spain), 30th March 2009. - The automobile systems and components multinational Ficosa trial run at the Technology Center of Mollet the "ride sharing" system developed by the Company and GMV. This trial run is the practical application of one of the innovations developed by Ficosa and GMV, from the communications module for vehicles that Ficosa Advanced Communications Business Unit is working on.

For six weeks a group of workers at the Center, they have volunteered to participate in this test; will carry their vehicles with this module. The module will register their routes information: starting point, destination, route, schedules...), and it transmits automatically via GPRS this information into a website with restricted access. These people may see this website and find other doing the same route and schedule share car on the way from home to work or work to home.

The company to promote "car sharing" during the trial run test has reserved special parking places for vehicles involved in the test and it's shared by 2 or more occupants.

Testing is planned to expand to other companies to ensure that the project has the maximum perspective use.

The trial used to test the innovation developed by Ficosa and GMV, will allow adjustment to the maximum practical use, improve reliability, and define the final commercial model to the market.

The Ficosa – GMV "Ride Sharing" System

Currently, the majority of routes taken with private vehicles are taken alone, due to the difficulty of coinciding with other people in terms of route and schedules. There is the added difficulty of finding other people who have the same or similar starting points or destinations and schedules. The most common case is that of the trip to work.

Ficosa and GMV have developed technology that will allow people who so desire to share this information and share a vehicle and the same route, with an advantage: the users won't need updated their routes information, the module will update itself this information.

The system functions by means of a communications module integrated into the vehicle, which, among other services, is capable of registering the route information (starting point, destination, route, schedules...) and transmitting it via GPRS to a telematic platform.

The communication module that supports this application, named iVTU – In – Vehicle Telematic Unit – was developed by Ficoso and GMV through the Temporary Union of Companies (UTE) Advanced Automotive Communications® - A2C, created by both companies in 2006. This module combines localization technologies (GPS) and mobile communications (GSM, GPRS); it is very small and compact.

This device is the base through which other services will be introduced into the automobile – apart from the “shared route” – focused on improving mobility and road safety, such as accident assistance (eCall), roadside assistance, fleet control, payment systems (payment for toll use, insurance payment according to driving, parking payment...), security (localization and immobilization of stolen vehicles), navigation and “infotainment”, among others.

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