

Ficosa has developed and is now producing rear-view mirrors with built-in Fractal Antennas® for the new Volkswagen Caddy

Barcelona (Spain), November 4, 2010 – Ficosa, the leading Spanish vehicle systems and components multinational, has developed and is now producing the rear-view mirrors with built-in Fractal Antennas® used in the new Caddy model by Volkswagen.

Ficosa is the first worldwide company to develop this built-in solution (rear-view mirrors + antennas integrated) for vehicle manufacturers, thanks to its knowledge and experience in automobile systems integration, as well as its knowledge and experience in the development of antennas based on patented fractal technology, which thanks to its space-filling properties, allows for reduced size and multiband capability, thus ability for integration into any part of the vehicle, rendering them “invisible”.

The rear-view mirrors with built-in antennas for the Caddy model were developed by the engineering teams in both the Commercial Vehicle and Advanced Communications Business Units of Ficosa. The company manufactures them in Germany and supplies them to the VW plant in Poznan (Poland), where the German company produces this model just launched to the market.

Ficosa has incorporated active antennas – including amplifier – into the Caddy model's rear-view mirrors for radio (AM/FM1 and FM2), digital radio (DAB), telephone services (GSM900 and DCS 1800) and GPS.

This is the second project of this kind for the German company. Ficosa also developed and produces the rear-view mirrors with built-in antennas for the commercial version of the Volkswagen Transporter, as well as for some Fiat and Renault models, among others.

Ficosa plans to launch two new projects of this nature for other manufacturers between late 2010 and early 2011. In addition Ficosa has three pre-development projects for several European luxury brands that also have shown interest in the design advantages and cost reduction provided by this solution.

Advantages of integrating antenna systems into rear-view mirrors

- This built-in solution improves the vehicle's design and aerodynamics. The antenna is invisible.
- It reduces the OEM's assembly costs. It simplifies and facilitates overall vehicle assembly: rear-view mirror and antenna – at the same time - in a single operation.
- It reduces the length of the coaxial cables required to connect traditional antennas from their current location to the vehicle's central unit.
- It becomes the standard solution for all models in a vehicle line, regardless of the type of finish (3-door, 5-door, sedan, wagon, coupe, cabriolet, etc.). It avoids having to develop new and different antenna systems for each model in the line.



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