

IBEC, UPC and FICOSA join forces to develop a mobile application to detect drowsiness while driving

Barcelona, 25th february, 2013.- A new technology to combat dozing off when driving developed by IBEC, UPC and industry partner Ficoso will be presented at this week's GSMA World Mobile Congress in Barcelona.

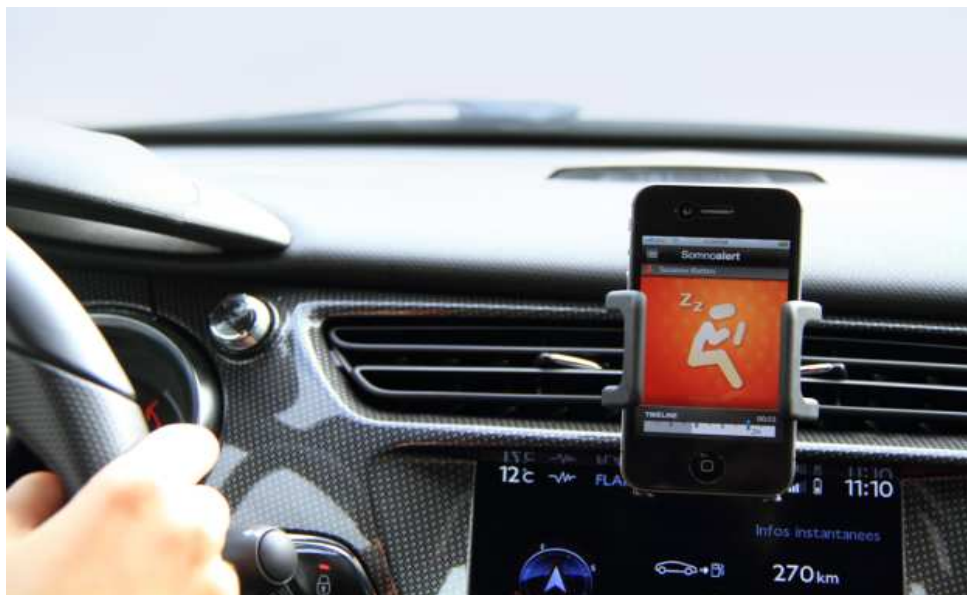
The drowsiness alerter, Somnoalert[®], is a smart phone application that uses inertial sensors and GPS data to detect movements that are characteristic of nodding off at the wheel, such as deviation from the driving lane, or sudden corrections. A later prototype also incorporates biomedical sensors to analyze respiration data.

The patented software is the result of a collaborative project between IBEC's Signal and Information Processing for Sensing Systems group led by Santiago Marco, the UPC's Department of Electronic Engineering and Ficoso, a Barcelona-based multinational that researches, develops, produces and commercializes automobile systems and parts.

"One of the main causes of car accidents is drowsiness, especially on long highway trips," explains Santiago. "Most monitoring systems developed in the last few years have been integrated systems that need to be connected to the car's system. Our device combines our group's expertise in sensors and biological data analysis with FICOSA's vehicle know-how, and is completely portable."

"Accidents related with drowsiness have a very high social and economical impact, that the key automotive industry players are facing as a whole, in order to reduce current accident statistics", said Alan Montesi responsible of this project in FICOSA.

The GSMA World Mobile Congress is the industry's biggest conference and is set to attract around 70,000 participants from more than 200 countries, including more than 3,000 members of the press.

**About FICOSA**

FICOSA is an industrial group based in Spain and a global leader in research, development, production and marketing of automotive systems and parts. Founded in 1949, the company, with headquarters in Barcelona (Spain), holds a team close to 8500 employees and manufacturing plants, technological centres and offices located throughout 19 countries in Europe, North America, South America and Asia.

The Group invests 4% of its income in R&D, and operates one of the top technology development centres in Spain addressed to the automotive, electronics, energy and communications industries. FICOSA has positioned itself for the future as a world leader in electronic systems with a global and more diversified business agenda and an expanded added value product line.

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