

News in brief

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World Bluetooth SIG lays out three-year plan

With the purpose of helping manufacturers plan for future products and setting industry expectations, the Bluetooth Special Interest Group has unveiled a three-year roadmap outlining a series of enhancements to the Bluetooth specification.

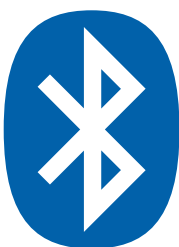
Building on Bluetooth technology's inherent strengths of low power, low cost, built-in security, robustness, ease-of-use and ad-hoc capabilities, the SIG plans the following advancements for the technology:

2004 – Bluetooth Version 2.0 + EDR (Enhanced Data Rate) will triple the technology's performance with data rates of up to 3mbps, while at the same time reducing power consumption.

2005 – The Bluetooth SIG will test and release a new version of the specification that will further enhance the usability of multi-device scenarios, improve overall security, and dramatically improve power consumption.

2006 – In the 2006 update to the Bluetooth specification, multi-cast capabilities will allow the same message to be sent to multiple devices one time, and privacy enhancements will make it impossible for a device in non-discoverable mode to be located in even the most advanced multi-year attack.

TM Performance enhancements will increase the range of very low power Bluetooth enabled sensors to approximately 100 metres.



Europe GALILEO on the home straight

GALILEO, set to become the global standard for civil navigation by satellite with total interoperability between the European and US systems, will definitely become operational in 2008.

On a proposal from the Commission, the Council has confirmed the technical characteristics of the system, in particular with regard to the services being offered. It has decided in favour of moving on to the launching (2006-2008) and operational phases of the project.

The programme will be developed in 4 phases: definition of the project; development between 2002 and 2005; deployment from 2006 to 2008; followed by operation and exploitation.

The "deployment" phase, which has now been given the green light and during which satellites and ground receiving stations are to be built and launched, is the phase that is crucial to making GALILEO operational.

The next stages of the programme will be dedicated to the selection, before the end of February 2005, of one of the two applicants still competing to operate the system, and, subsequently, to negotiation of the concession contract in 2005.

Europe First commercial deployment of MobinTeleCom's CSI solution

The first commercial deployment of MobinTeleCom's CSI Solution with a major British multinational group is set for February 2005. According to MobinTeleCom, the CSI solution, co-developed with TriaGnoSys of Wessling, Germany, is the most comprehensive remote, stand-alone, wireless, 24/7 security monitoring solution on the market.

Between 6 and 8 forty-foot units on a fully loaded container vessel will be fitted with TEXEL Global Tri Band GSM-GPRS-GPS-RFID telematics units, with volumetric sensors to capture temperature or air pressure changes.

RFID tags will enable the monitoring of movements of all merchandise in the containers, while active RFID transponders on the container door seals will transmit the integrity of the seals.

Tracking of the assets will be monitored at predetermined intervals, as well as on demand, with real-time live tracking updates every ten seconds by GSM mobile handsets from the EU, USA and Singapore.

The entire fleet of power trains will also be fitted with independent TRAXAT Tri Band GSM-GPRS-GPS-RFID telematics devices in order to deploy a comprehensive fleet management solution throughout the journey in the UK and between Helsinki and Moscow.

