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news

Friday 25 September 2009

Intelligent vehicles to be tested across European roads

As a further demonstration of the depth of its commitment to tackling today's challenges of increased demand for mobility, the automotive industry has joined forces with various universities, research centres and other stakeholders, in a smart drive to test eight different high-tech intelligent in-vehicle technologies on real roads, with real drivers. This collaborative research project is supported by European funds from the DG Information Society and Media.

Both lateral and longitudinal control systems will be tested: systems that give warnings to the driver on potential side- and front-end collisions. Other advanced in-vehicle systems such as Curve Speed Warning, Fuel Efficiency Adviser and the Human machine interaction with navigation systems will also be tested.

Beginning in 2010, around 1,000 vehicles from several European vehicle brands equipped with various intelligent in-vehicle systems will drive around Europe for approximately one year. These intelligent vehicles will collect data that should deliver answers about impact that these systems have on safety, efficiency and driver comfort.

According to Aria Etamad, project coordinator of euroFOT from Ford, "This is the first-of-its-kind- large-scale field operational test that is carried out across brands in Europe."

Maxime Flament from ERTICO - ITS Europe, responsible for the coordination of the various vehicle centres said: "Car dealers and fleet owners across Europe are currently recruiting the drivers that will take part in this experiment. At the same time, the vehicle operation centres are getting ready to prepare each vehicle for a one-year long advanced data collection."

The euroFOT project is expected to raise awareness and provide indications based on scientific data about real benefits of these existing intelligent in-vehicle systems. The results of the field test will also contribute to better and informed decision making.

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