

Emergency response at twice the speed with European eCall: Frequentis, A1, and Gemalto carry out the first end-to-end eCall in Austria

The automatic emergency call system “eCall” which was initiated by the European Union makes it possible to automatically process emergency calls coming directly from vehicles more quickly, thus enabling faster initiation of emergency measures. Consequently, the number of traffic fatalities will decrease. The Frequentis communication systems are already well-equipped for eCall. Together with A1, network provider, and Gemalto, supplier of solutions for automotive and IoT-applications, the company presented Austria’s first end-to-end eCall in one continuous communication chain.

The test run took place at the Frequentis headquarters on March 28. The entire process, from triggering an actual eCall up to the data processing in the emergency call centre, was demonstrated. The eCall was triggered by a test vehicle equipped with Gemalto components (eCall Demo In-Vehicle System) that communicated the life-saving data the command centre would need in case of an actual crash.

Position, time & vehicle data

At first glance, an eCall seems like a ‘normal’ voice call. However, the details show that further crash data (GPS position, time of the accident, vehicle data, number of persons) is communicated simultaneously. Even if the accident victim is unconscious, finds it hard to communicate (e.g. language), or cannot give precise details due to the accident-related shock, the automated emergency call still reaches its target – the emergency control centre!

Assistance in the first hour (“golden hour”) is crucial for the survival of a severely injured person. The additional data shortens the rescue chain by up to 50 percent.

Frequentis CTO Hermann Mattanovich: “The eCall technology is currently being implemented across all of Europe. Consequently, our customers, the emergency control centres in the area of Public Safety, are adapting to these new requirements, too. In Germany, the first rollout is already under way; with this test we want to demonstrate – together with our partners A1 and Gemalto – that with our Public Safety communication systems we are well positioned in Austria.”

Marcus Grausam, CTO of A1, points out: “Particularly when it comes to eCall’s, high network availability as well as a stable connection play a vital role, and in case of emergency, they can be life-saving. Our society, the economy and the world of work are subject to constant change. The internet of things (IoT) and machine-to-machine communication are gaining more and more importance. With our networks, we provide the basis for the digitalisation in Austria and we accompany our customers on their path to the future.”

The data communication during an eCall works via Gemalto communication technology; Gemalto holds a global leadership position in the area of digital security. “Our mobility concept is focused on people”, says Thorsten Wiemann, who is responsible for the Automotive Modules portfolio at Gemalto. “Cars are increasingly becoming digital platforms; for us as a creator of solutions in the field of digital safety they thus form the access point for several digital services.”

Obligatory installation of eCall in every new vehicle starting in 2018

It is the European Commission’s goal to finish the introduction and implementation of eCall functionality by the year 2018. As of 2018, the emergency call system is an obligatory feature of every newly standardised car. The time that passes between an incoming emergency call and the arrival of the emergency personnel – which is a major quality sign with emergency call centres – will thus be shortened by 40-50%. According to estimates by the EU Commission, the number for accident fatalities will be reduced by up to ten percent. The partners involved in the eCall test run – Frequentis, A1, Gemalto – are looking forward to being able to make their contribution here.

<http://www.apa-fotoservice.at/galerie/9091> - Credits: Frequentis AG / APA

Background information about FREQUENTIS

The Austrian company Frequentis is an international supplier of communication and information systems for control centres with safety-critical tasks. Such 'control centre solutions' are developed and marketed by Frequentis in the business sectors Air Traffic Management (civil and military air traffic control, air defence) and Public Safety & Transport (the police, fire brigade, ambulance services, shipping, railways). Frequentis has at its disposal a worldwide network of branches, subsidiaries, and local representatives in more than 50 countries. Products and solutions from Frequentis can be found at more than 25,000 working positions and in more than 125 countries. The company Frequentis is the world market leader in the field of voice communication systems, making our world safer day in, day out.

Detailed information about Frequentis can be found on the website www.frequentis.com.

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Background information about A1

With close to 6m mobile users and more than 2.2m landline phones, A1 is Austria's leading communication provider. The customers profit from a comprehensive service offer from one provider, consisting of voice telephone services, internet access, digital cable television, data and IT-solutions, wholesale services, and mobile business and payment solutions. The brands A1, bob, Red Bull MOBILE and Yesss! stand for top quality and smart services. As a responsible company, A1 integrates societally relevant concerns as well as environmental topics into its core business.

A1 (legal entity A1 Telekom Austria AG) is part of the Telekom Austria Group – a leading provider of digital services and communication solutions in the CEE region with more than 24 million customers in seven countries. In the business year of 2016, the Telekom Austria Group (ATX:TKA) that offers communication solutions, payment, and entertainment services as well as integrated business solutions, reached a turnover of more than 4.2bn Euro, of which almost 2.6bn were generated by A1. More than 18,000 staff and state-of-the-art broadband infrastructure allow for a digital lifestyle and enable customers, companies and devices to connect anywhere at any time. As the European Unit of América Móvil, the world's third-largest communications provider, the group is headquartered in Vienna and provides access to global solutions.

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Background information about Gemalto

Gemalto (Euronext NL0000400653 GTO) is the global leader in the area of digital safety with a turnover of 3.2bn Euro in 2016 and customers in more than 180 countries. In an increasingly connected world we build trust. With our technologies and services, companies and authorities can authenticate and protect data to provide security and to enable services on personal devices, connected objects and the cloud.

Gemalto offers up-to-date solutions for a modern lifestyle, from payment systems to corporate security and the Internet of Things. We authenticate persons, transactions, and objects, encrypt data and offer new possibilities for software. We enable our customers to deliver safe digital services for billions of people and things.

Our more than 150,000 staff work in 112 subsidiaries, 43 personalisation and computer centres as well as 30 research and software development centres in 48 countries.

For more information visit www.gemalto.com or follow us on Twitter via @gemalto.
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