

Easier Orientation in Hospitals

Large medical facilities with their countless buildings, halls and rooms can often be likened to labyrinths. Not only patients but also visitors often lose their way in hospitals. Researchers at the Fraunhofer Institute for Photonic Microsystems IPMS refuse to resign themselves to this state of affairs. They have developed a navigation system that works indoors, just like GPS in a car, and leads the user to his destination quickly and easily. The software developed by Fraunhofer IPMS currently supports Android 2.3. and can, for example, be used as an application on a smartphone or tablet PC. The display shows a previously defined menu of possible destinations such as doctors' offices, examination and patient rooms or lavatories. Following a success-

ful selection, the current position is determined, and the shortest route to the destination is shown in a graphic while the position is constantly updated. »It is similar to how a car navigation system works. The route guidance can be stopped at any time, and a new destination can be chosen by the user«, explains head developer Hans-Jürgen Holland and emphasizes the advantages of the system: »Existing systems work with their own hardware, which in turn makes special devices necessary. We want to solve the challenge with smartphones and standard WLAN«. The prerequisite for operation is a very good, gapless WLAN network provided by the Swiss company LPS-Services SA.



Smartphone application for indoor navigation. Photo: Fraunhofer IPMS

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100 billion € for the European Nanoelectronics Industry

In November 2012, The AENEAS and CATRENE organizations publicized a new positioning document: "Innovation for the future of Europe: Nanoelectronics beyond 2020". It highlights the need for Europe to substantially increase its research and innovation efforts in nanoelectronics in order to maintain its worldwide competitiveness. The document outlines a proposal by companies and institutes within Europe's nanoelectronics ecosystem to invest 100 billion € up to the year 2020 on an ambitious research and innovation program, planned and implemented in close cooperation with the European Union and the Member States. "Nanoelectronics is not only strategically important to Europe in its own right, it is also a key enabling technology to help solve all of the societal challenges identified in the EU's Horizon 2020 program," said Enrico Villa, Chairman of CATRENE.

Europe's semiconductor industry and research institutes remain at the heart of Europe's knowledge-based economy, contributing an estimated 30 billion € to Europe's annual revenues. Its semiconductor companies have dominant global positions in key application areas, such as transport and security, as well as in equipment and materials for worldwide semiconductor manufacturing.



Board members of AENEAS (left: Kurt Sievers - President of AENEAS) and CATRENE (Enrico Villa - Chairman of CATRENE) presented the positioning document to Neelie Kroes, Vice-President of the European Commission on 21 November 2012 in Munich. Upon this occasion, its implementation was discussed.
Photo: AENEAS/CATRENE

With the right investment and Europe-wide program coordination, the European nanoelectronics ecosystem could increase Europe's worldwide revenues by over 200 billion € per year and create an additional 250,000 direct and induced jobs in Europe.

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