Innovation Days 2009 – A Little Anniversary!

For the fifth time in a row, the Vodafone Test & Innovation Center presented trends and developments in the telecommunications market on 5 and 6 October in Düsseldorf, Germany. Hartmut Kremling, CEO of Technik Vodafone Deutschland, opened this year’s Innovation Days by stating, “Innovation is the engine of our success”. In addition, Jan Geldmacher, CEO of Enterprise Vodafone Deutschland, gave a lecture on how innovation and technical evolution can contribute to a company’s success.

At more than 30 booths, the exhibitors gave journalists and the representatives of numerous companies a look at the newest technologies and future trends of information and communication technology (ICT). Their exhibits clarified “Long Term Evolution” (LTE), the future generation of mobile data transfer, for example, as a tangible concept. Under live conditions, bandwidths of up to 100 MBit per second have already been achieved downstream, thus enabling the transmission of high definition (HD) quality TV programmes, among other things.

An interesting lecture programme rounded out the event. Professor Dr. Wippermann (Trend Office), for example, spoke about current developments of the Internet and his vision of mobile networks.

For the second time, the Vodafone Application Awards were conferred in the categories Machine-to-Machine, Industry Solutions and Innovation. Out of about 60 applicants, a total of 9 participants who presented their solutions at the Innovation Days 2009 were nominated. The journalists present had the honour of selecting the winners. The following solutions were awarded the €5,000 Application Awards:

- The “Machine-to-Machine” category was won by Dr. Neuhaus’ “Smart Metering”, an electricity meter with a mobile communications-module and application for displaying metered values.
- The “Industry Solutions” category was won by “Movientofleet” from the firm ISec7, a product that facilitates GPS tracking and transport fleet scheduling via mobile communications.
- “Funksell” by Loyalics received the prize for the best innovation. The product permits the securing of any user-defined objects, supported by a primary control unit and deployment teams.

The Vodafone Test & Innovation Center also provided information about the testing services it offers. Cooperation with Linde AG was shown here as an example (see article on next page). In the guided tours, the guests were also able to see the size and capability of the testing laboratories.

After the successes of the past few years, we are already looking forward to Innovation Days 2010 and the opportunity to meet you there.
Linde AG hires the Test & Innovation Center

Linde AG has assigned the Vodafone Test & Innovation Center to inspect its new pressure and filling level indicator for gas tanks for correct functionality in order to rule out any malfunction before the market introduction. This indicator has a mobile communications module by the manufacturer Telit that is equipped like a mobile phone with a SIM card or an eSIM (SIM-Chip). This Telit module is controlled by an intelligent application that regulates data transfer between the gas tank and the Linde head office. In the Vodafone Test & Innovation Center, the inspection of such and similar products is done in 2 phases:

1. The function of the integrated GSM-/GPRS-/UMTS mobile communications module is tested on the basis of global test criteria in different network infrastructures.

2. Based on these test results, the complete solution is inspected – especially the interplay of the mobile communications module and the application in the mobile communications network. This ensures that the operability of the entire solution is guaranteed in nearly every mobile communications environment.

After tests are successfully performed in the Vodafone Test & Innovation Center, a product is finally certified – as is the case with Linde AG, which has also received a certificate for its pressure- and fill level-indicator.

In the future, you will be able to inquire on the Vodafone homepage about different manufacturers’ mobile communications modules that are already tested and certified. Therefore, for a Vodafone certification of new products that use these modules, the first step of the module test is not necessary, enabling you to introduce new products into the market more quickly.

Vodafone boosts DSL speeds – new technology in the test

Preparations are currently underway for the launch of local VDSL networks in the cities of Heilbronn and Würzburg. This new technology allows data transfer speeds of up to 50 MBit/s, a 3-fold increase compared to the previously available maximum values of up to 16 MBit/s. The required system technology (DSLAM), including the network management system and customer modems, was tested in the Eschborn Test and Innovation Center. During the tests, the suppliers Alcatel-Lucent and Huawei worked hand-in-hand with Vodafone test experts to ensure flawless functioning of the systems in the end-to-end tests. Several test systems were installed, which in the future will be available as reference systems, enabling new functions and expansions to be extensively tested prior to their integration into the Vodafone network.

Home Entertainment Tests in the Test & Innovation Center

In collaboration with Sony Alsace TEC, France, home entertainment devices were tested in a new project. In order to prove the compatibility of its own products with the most important DSL/ WLAN routers on the German market, Sony tested its newest Blu-Ray Player with integrated WLAN interface in the test environment of the Test & Innovation Center in Eschborn. Because the Vodafone Competence Center for IPTV, Video and Home Entertainment is also located there, Sony was able to rely on first-class support. Employees of SONY’S Interoperability Test Lab in their Quality Engineering Department carried out tests of the expanded WLAN configurations according to standard 802.11n using Universal Plug and Play (UpnP).

We’re here to help you!

Our team would be pleased to advise you on the wide variety of possibilities available to your company. Please contact us:

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