

PRESS RELEASE

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The first wireless device for multiple networks

EURESCOM for the first time demonstrates seamless access with a PDA

Premiere at the EURESCOM workshop 'Wireless Access' in Heidelberg on 12 March: The EURESCOM project on 'Bluetooth Access' presented the first PDA, which can seamlessly connect to different access networks, like LAN, Bluetooth, Wireless LAN, and GPRS.

In co-operation with the software company Birdstep from Norway and access point supplier Patria Ailon from Finland, the European project team implemented Mobile IP on a PDA with the operating system Pocket PC 2002. The Mobile IP PDA has a built-in priority mechanism for selecting automatically the best available network access.

Seamless access will enable the easy use of mobile devices wherever users are, as project leader Josef Noll from Telenor explains: "Leaving your office while synchronising your e-mails between PC and PDA will no longer be a problem. Just plug off from the LAN, the PDA will then switch to WLAN and — after you left the WLAN coverage area — to GPRS, continuing the synchronisation without interruption." Seamless handover between networks is especially convenient for downloading large volumes of data, explains Josef Noll: "Let us assume, I am on the move with my PDA. Via GPRS my e-mails will always be updated, but downloading large attachments, like video files, might take too long with GPRS. But as soon as I get close to a Bluetooth network, which has much more capacity, the download can immediately begin, without re-configuring the PDA."

Mr Noll expects PDAs with seamless access, based on Mobile IP, to be available for corporate customers by the end of 2002 and for private users by the end 2003. He is convinced that after EURESCOM's first successful demonstration of seamless access, others in the telecommunications domain will follow in developing Mobile IP-based devices.

More information about the EURESCOM project on 'Bluetooth Access' (P1118) is available at: <http://www.eurescom.de/public/projects/P1100-series/P1118/>

EURESCOM, the European Institute for Research and Strategic Studies in Telecommunications, performs collaborative, international R&D projects in all major areas of telecommunications.

Birdstep Web site: www.birdstep.com

Patria Ailon Web site: www.ailon.com

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