Safety & Comfort

Smartphone gains “key” role in cars

Continental showcases new development for enhanced safety and comfort at IAA 2011

Hanover, September 2011 – The smartphone looks set to literally play a “key” role in cars. Drivers will be able to use their smartphone to unlock their car, start it up and much more. Continental will be showcasing this new development at the Frankfurt Motor Show (IAA) from September 15 to 25, 2011 in Frankfurt am Main. The really ingenious thing about this innovation is that the digital key is actually integrated in the smartphone. The SIM card contains a protected, tamper-proof data record with access authorization to the car. This “near-field communication” (NFC) technology enables data to be exchanged. Receivers can be attached to the car doors and tailgate and another one can be placed in the stowage space for the smartphone, allowing future-generation cell phones to be charged wirelessly and start the engine. This revolutionary key is activated via a secure website where owners can register their vehicle and designated cell phones.

The cell-phone-integrated digital key not only unlocks your car door, but is also your key to the internet, where you can create personal profiles with your favorite radio station, preferred seating position or important phone numbers. The memory data is synchronized with the car. But that’s not all: This virtual key gives you permanent access to the on-board computer, which means you can call up vehicle data and check your fuel or charging levels – a real boon for owners of electric vehicles with long charging times.

This technology also offers anti-theft protection. The cell-phone-integrated key sounds an alarm as soon as the car is moved without authorization. You can also save your car’s location when you go to a restaurant or visit the shops – the GPS receiver will guide you back to your car when you have finished. And what’s more, if you have taken your car to the garage, a special garage chip card allows you to unlock, start and lock your car.

Vehicle access, integration and operating concepts are the latest top trends in the automotive sector. “Enhanced safety, efficiency, integration and comfort are our contributions to the future of individual mobility, which will be strongly characterized by technological diversity and complexity,” explains Dr. Elmar Degenhart, Chairman of the Executive Board of Continental. “At this year’s IAA, we want to show that we are ideally equipped to meet the challenges of this megatrend in the automotive industry.”

Illustration caption:

Your smartphone transformed into a smart car key

Your cell phone is all you need to unlock the car doors. Car keys are becoming a thing of the past and thieves have no chance. Thanks to Continental’s ingenuity, even the on-board computer can be operated via your cell phone and can set your favorite radio station or the right seating position.

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