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The world's largest GPRS conference soon to take place in Rome

SIGOS, Nuremberg, to head a workshop on GPRS testing

ROME – At a trade congress in Rome in the middle of May around 400 mobile phone experts from all over the world will examine the opportunities and risks of the recently launched GPRS market. This will be followed by a workshop in which SIGOS, Nuremberg will present some approaches to testing GPRS networks.

From the beginning of the year, the four German mobile phone operators have been offering GPRS (General Packet Radio Service). The standard is, at least theoretically – up to 20 times faster than the conventional GSM standard and already operates with packet-oriented transmission technology. Most subsequent UMTS applications will therefore already be GPRS-compliant.

In this light, GPRS may thus be seen as testing the water for the future UMTS concept. In the middle of May all the major movers in the world of mobile communications will be gathered in the Italian capital. SIGOS GmbH, Nuremberg, with its many years' experience in the planning and testing of mobile phone networks, will also be present.

“Whether GPRS will be accepted by customers and thus become a hit on the market depends entirely on the quality of the newly introduced network”, explained Adil Kaya, SIGOS's GSM and GPRS expert. “We anticipate initial difficulties. The promised transmission rates will not be achieved to begin with. A lot of test work lies ahead of us however we are confident that GPRS will be a success”. Together with a Dutch colleague, Kaya will lead the workshop and discuss initial approaches to testing GPRS networks and services. Besides, SIGOS will also speak about the possibilities of testing the function of international roaming and invoicing systems. The latter, in particular, must be completely reformed due to packet-oriented transmission technology as henceforth payment will be on the basis of data packets sent and not minutes.

SIGOS Systemintegration GmbH, Nuremberg, has a current turnover of approx. 12 million DM with a workforce of 42. The company has specialised in consultancy, system integration and test solutions in the telecommunications branch. Customers in Europe include network operators (amongst others, Vodafone, Viag Interkom, E-Plus, Swisscom, Telecom Italia, KPN) and manufacturers (amongst others, Ericsson Eurolab, Lucent Technologies). SIGOS has worked for years now on international standardisation committees such as ETSI or ITU-T. The company was founded in 1989 by 17 telecommunications experts.

(2866 characters; sample publications requested)

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