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### **SIGOS awarded major orders worth millions by UMTS companies**

**Despite the current crisis in the telecommunications branch, SIGOS Nuremberg is witnessing a remarkable increase in orders: D2 Vodafone has ordered a GPRS test system, VIAG Interkom one for SMS services. The new mobile telecommunication network operators, Group 3G and Compaq have also opted for expert SIGOS support in the extension of their network and quality assurance of their products. The medium-scale manufacturer of test equipment and telecommunications services provider announced that further orders worth millions have been placed.**

The major German mobile telecommunications operator, D2 Vodafone has been purchasing part of its test equipment in the Franconian metropolis for years now. The new order comprises the construction of a test platform with which modern services such as GPRS, WAP and SMS may be tested automatically. An absolutely new feature: the system can automatically check the correctness and audibility of voice response services like, e.g. those encountered when requesting one's current bank statement. Previously this was a cost-intensive job performed manually by employees.

Already underway for some months now is the construction of a SMS test system at the Munich-based VIAG Interkom. At the end of year it is intended that a testing unit will be installed at every SMS switchboard in Germany for the purpose of transmitting and checking the quality of short messages throughout the country. The investment is a further impressive proof of the economic status, which, meantime, short messages have attained.

The mobile telecommunications network operator, Group 3G, a joint company of the Spanish Telefónica Móviles and Finnish Sonera also wish to have various network components and services tested. In this case, SIGOS will accompany the entire process, from the initial design stage to the testing itself and even through to the final analysis stage.

Compaq Computer Corporation has also secured the mobile telecommunications know-how of SIGOS employees. The company, with extensive experience in European and worldwide telecommunications markets, intends to have its HLR (Home Location Register) applications thoroughly tested by SIGOS. Compaq HLRs support more than 70 million mobile users in major mobile networks in North and Latin America. The HLR, a core application in any mobile network, enables the user to roam throughout the network coverage area and still retain all personal mobile services. Essentially, HLRs are database systems in which all the relevant information about mobile phone users are stored. When the mobile phone is switched on, this information is transmitted to the current mobile switching center (MSC). What seems easy in theory is, in practice, highly sophisticated and demands expertise in the GSM sector – expertise that SIGOS has possessed for years.

SIGOS Systemintegration GmbH, Nuremberg, with a present workforce of 50 employees, has a turnover of approx. 12 million German marks. 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.

(3695 characters; sample publications requested)

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