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Will MMS follow the success of SMS? SIGOS presents new MMS Service Tester

NUREMNBURG_ Nobody could know that SMS would become *the* hit in mobile communications. If MMS will become the same killer application or not, depends essentially on the quality of the very young Multimedia Messaging Services. The Nuremberg based telecommunication specialist SIGOS has developed a test system which tests the functionality of the new mobile services fully automatically.

Take photos and send them immediately via the mobile phone, read e-mails when you are on the road, go shopping on the internet, send out animated greeting cards and video messages: sending data via the mobile phone is becoming more versatile and more promising. The new service MMS, highly promoted, has been available for a few months now. Network providers have already announced a successful start; however, it is too early to tell if it will become the new bestseller.

Most important for the acceptance and thus the success of a new mobile service is the fact that the service must be error-free. When a new service is introduced, this must be checked again and again. Errors must be detected before the customer notices them. They can hide everywhere, at the sensible air interface or at the network components which have to be maintained and enhanced in update processes. Minor errors, which creep in during one of these processes, can lead to major problems and even to a failure – very harmful for the reputation. Thus, tests play a very important role.

For the time being, these tests are executed manually, which is demanding and time consuming. On top of that, MMS is based on the GPRS technology and this packet oriented technology involves new challenges.

SIGOS has developed a fully automated MMS test system which will make it much easier to check the functionality of the Multimedia Messaging Services. With this system, network providers can simulate the behaviour of their subscribers and can take their service to a test. The quality can be checked proactively and at any time in regular or random tests.

SIGOS Systemintegration GmbH, Nuremberg, with at present workforce of 45 employees, has a turnover of approx. 5.5 million Euros. The company has specialised in consultancy, system integration and test solutions in the telecommunications branch. Customers in Europe include network operators (amongst others Vodafone, T-Mobile, O2, E-Plus, Swisscom, TIM, KPN) and manufacturers (amongst others Lucent Technologies). SIGOS has worked for years now on international standardisation committees such as ETSI or ITU-T. The company was founded in 1989 with 17 telecommunications experts.

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