

Federal German Ministry of Economics and Technology key project, next generation media, presents the integration of digitalSTROM© for the first time at CeBIT

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In the Future Parc in Hall 9 at this year's CeBIT the HOMEPLANE, SerCHO and WiMAC@home projects are presenting their concept for the "Smart Home" on Stand A25 from March 4 to 9. For the first time the incorporation of digitalSTROM© is to be demonstrated, an innovative method of transmitting information via power lines. It differs from hitherto methods, fitting into a compact high-volt chip and with no high-frequency EM radiation emissions.

The WiMAC@home project investigates the wireless integration of radio and entertainment electronics in home networks based on existing WLAN technology. The project focuses on simple, clear and convenient operation. The central control element of the home network is a new type of television: The iDTV unites multiple digital functions in a single device; it serves as the central server and can also control the home automation components.

HOMEPLANE further develops the WLAN technology, particularly with regard to the transmission quality (quality of service) and is transforming today's heterogeneous network landscape - seen from the point of view of the user - into a homogeneous wireless home network that can be easily operated from any appropriate terminal device. It involves the control of integrated domestic appliances via a so-called home automation gateway as well as trouble-free transmission of broadband media content or if there are multiple overlapping WLAN networks.

At SerCHO a new approach to home networking is under development with the aid of software-based "personal assistants". These assistants, for example the energy-saving, communication or cooking assistant, support the occupant in all fields of living depending on preferences. In addition to this they ensure that devices from the fields of information technology, telecommunications, consumer electronics, building services technology and domestic appliance technology, that have been isolated to date, become individually linked. Furthermore, SerCHO provides manufacturers and service providers with a platform for developing their own products. The highlight of the presentation is the integration of digitalSTROM into the SerCHO network, which is being demonstrated live for the first time at the trade fair. This means that an open and overlapping networking approach on the software side is for the first time coming together with a new technology on the hardware side for implementing networks at an affordable price without any additional bus cables.

With the "Internet of Things" in mind, which was proclaimed to be the German government's beacon project at the 2008 IT summit, in the next generation media initiative the Federal Ministry of Economics and Technology demonstrates pioneering internet-based networking solutions for the worlds we live and work in. In a nationwide technology competition 11 projects have qualified on which a total of 70 companies and scientific institutions are working together. In interdisciplinary cooperation in the four innovative fields of logistics networks, production plants, consumer electronics and health

care they create reference models and showpiece examples to prove their feasibility and economic benefit and create incentives to imitate them.

The following companies and research facilities are involved in the projects presented at the CeBIT: Alcatel-Lucent Deutschland AG, Cycos AG, Deutsche Telekom AG Laboratories, European Microsoft Innovations Center, Fraunhofer IIS, IHP GmbH, Institut für Rundfunktechnik IRT, Lintec Information Technologies AG, Loewe Opta GmbH, Nagravision GmbH, Prosyst AG, SevenSenses GmbH, Siemens AG, TU Berlin, TU Dortmund, Weinzierl Engineering GmbH.