

For the benefit of road users and Germany as a business location

Greeting by Professor Dr. Horst Wieker at the CONVERGE-Workshop

“The exchange of knowledge and experience among experts”

14 February 2014
The spoken word applies

Thank you, Mr. Halldorn, for the warm welcome here at the Federal Ministry of Economic Affairs and Energy. On behalf of the CONVERGE project I would like to bid you a warm welcome to our international expert workshop and kindly thank you for your hospitality.

Next I would like to extend a warm welcome to our workshop participants. I am pleased that more than 130 participants have gathered here in Berlin. We welcome participants from 12 nations. It makes us a bit proud that our national CONVERGE project is met with such a broad and international echo.

I do not only want to welcome the guests who have travelled from far away, but also the ladies and gentlemen who have only had a short journey. I promise you all exciting hours to come.

Allow me to include another group of people in my greeting. As you may know, a total of 14 companies, institutions and administrators are involved in our research project. These partners have delegated clever and capable people to the CONVERGE project. You too, my dear colleagues, I welcome to our workshop.

On the one hand, ladies and gentlemen, CONVERGE is an abbreviation. It stands for: **C**ommunication **N**etwork for **V**ehicles on the **R**oad with a **G**lobal **E**xtension. But the solution to this abbreviation is not so important.

To us it was much more important to express the core idea when naming our project. And that is embodied in the word “converge”. In our project three economic sectors interact with each other. We are talking about the automotive, transport and telecommunication. And so it is no coincidence that the vast majority of workshop participants gathered here belong to one of these industries.

I hope that today we can work together, so that the skills of all three branches can flow together into our project... or let's say: converge.

I invite you today to join a new economic field with us. What brings us together are *Intelligent Transport Systems* in an *architecture of cooperative systems*.

For many years the automotive-, transport- and telecommunications industries have brought forth remarkable approaches for *Intelligent Transport Systems*. I have been allowed to study many of these approaches and have respect for the results.

However, all previous solutions have a decisive disadvantage: they are too rigid. They are not very flexible and usually only accessible via a single operator platform. This affects the respective acceptance and leads to considerable obstacles on the way to a most comprehensive *intelligent transport system*.

In our opinion one thing is of crucial importance: Based on the model of the Internet an ITS must, at least theoretically, be open to an unlimited number of users and service providers. And *that* independent of a particular operator platform.

This objective leads directly to our *institutional role model*, about which we will inform you in detail today.

Furthermore the hybrid communication architecture is on the agenda of our workshop. We call this architecture “Hybrid”, because we are pursuing the ability to exchange information via mobile communication- as well as Wireless LAN technology. But ultimately, our goal is a “multiple” communication architecture, which will also be open to future technologies. For this reason, we need to describe the interfaces between the components involved in a technology-neutral way.

I just mentioned that our architecture, based on the model of the Internet, should at least theoretically be open to an unlimited number of service providers. In fact, in praxis we would recommend barriers to entry. And that is exactly how the CONVERGE architecture differs from the Internet. Why these restrictions? – Because we do not want just any provider, regardless of its quality of service or other interests, to simply participate. Therefore CONVERGE will propose *recommended course of action*. It will define the conditions under which *service providers* can offer their services within the CONVERGE architecture.

In this context I would now like to turn your attention to our continuous security concept, which we are introducing to you today. The security concept will firstly involve the provider level, secondly the hybrid communications architecture and thirdly all mobile devices.

Ladies and gentlemen, it is very important to me to once again emphasise the exploratory nature of our project in this circle. We analyse and anticipate conditions. And we develop recommendations. CONVERGE cannot define or decide anything. Our primary task is to develop proposals for an *Intelligent Transport System*.

I am convinced that a whole new market for service providers and their offers is arising. The aim of CONVERGE is to develop an economically stable system in which an agile network of information services related to road traffic can flourish. – For the benefit of road users and also for the benefit of Germany as a business location. In light of our venue I would like to emphasise that once more.

Ladies and gentlemen, our workshop has the motto “The exchange of knowledge and experience among experts”. I would like to invite you to take this motto literally. We have time scheduled after each presentation for your questions, suggestions and comments. We have deliberately chosen the term WORK-shop for this event, because we want to WORK diligently with you.

Please also make good use of our invitation to the TechTalk during lunchtime. We have developed a series of posters, each dealing with a certain area of the CONVERGE project. There you will meet the specialists of the CONVERGE circle for the TechTalk. Please use these posters not only as information points, but also as meeting points for collegial technical discussions.

All that remains now is for me to wish us all an informative and exciting day. I hope that the workshop brings each of us a step further.

Thank you very much.

Dr. Horst Wieker

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