



Europe-wide cooperation for integrated transport safety

Web-based collaboration helps companies launch new standards in the vehicle industry

After three years of intensive cooperation, the Europe-wide EASIS project (Electronic Architecture and Systems Engineering for integrated Safety Systems) to improve transport safety by integrating more efficient and standardised safety systems in passenger vehicles and HGVs has been successfully completed.

The goal of EASIS was to make technology available which includes reliable concepts for modular electrical systems. All leading European vehicle manufacturers and suppliers for the automotive industry took part, as well as independent market research companies. 23 companies were involved in total, communicating in five different languages.

The project was instigated by the European Union in January 2004 and awarded a budget of EUR 9 million. Dr Vera Lauer, Manager E/E Concepts and Technologies at Daimler AG – Research and Technology, was responsible for managing and coordinating the project

“The EASIS project focused on electronics – hardware, software and other tools. Both the active and passive safety of vehicles was at the heart of the concept. Warning and support systems to help prevent accidents are just one example. But the protection and rescue systems which are activated once an accident has taken place also played a major role. Integrated safety systems are playing an ever more important role for the automotive industry, as they help to reduce the number of accidents and limit their consequences.”

Special requirements for the EASIS project:

- Special software services to guarantee safe processes
- Development of software that works safely even in the event of a fault
- Development of sensors to help avoid severe dangers outside the vehicle
- Integration of overlapping safety functions with a high level of reliability
- Management of highly complex systems
- Integration of night vision devices, speed sensors and other functions to optimise interaction with other vehicles

Dr Lauer and other members of the project were released by their employers to devote all their time to EASIS. Others, however, had to complete their tasks alongside their actual work. Information was therefore often exchanged in online meetings or telephone conferences. The EASIS participants used the project collaboration platform Projectplace to plan and implement these web-based conferences. 75 active users at 23 different locations exchanged documents and information via Projectplace, defined responsibilities, carried out approval procedures and drew up quarterly project reports for the European Commission. 3.5 GB of data was processed via Projectplace.

EASIS is just one of many projects dealing with integrated safety in vehicles.

“The web-based service provided by Projectplace helped us immensely during the implementation of EASIS: it is easy to use and is completely self-explanatory”, states Dr Lauer. “Now that the EASIS project is complete, we are using Projectplace for a number of different projects where team work is essential and the project members are based in several different locations.”