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Partnership: TÜV Rheinland/Berlin-Brandenburg and 7 layers

**World's first network for the qualification of Bluetooth products**

Joint objective is market leadership as Bluetooth service provider

Tokyo / Monte Carlo / New York. The TÜV Rheinland/Berlin-Brandenburg international service group and the engineering service provider 7 layers have agreed on a worldwide cooperation for the Bluetooth technology.

"Bluetooth will lead to revolutionary changes in daily life in the area of mobile phones, computers, printers, hifi systems and many other electronic appliances. With our certification activities we are contributing to the guaranteeing of maximum technical safety in this high technology area", explained Prof. Dr.-Ing. Bruno O. Braun, Chairman of the Management Board of TÜV Rheinland/Berlin-Brandenburg group of companies, in the run-up to the world's largest Bluetooth Congress, to be held from 13 to 16 June in Monte Carlo. "Together with 7 layers, as No. 1 among the independent service providers for the Bluetooth technology and the leading co-designer of the Bluetooth Qualification Program, we are now offering our customers rapid and uncomplicated tests and certification for their products. As a result, TÜV Rheinland/Berlin-Brandenburg will continue to operate as a leading company in the market for the safety, controllability and efficiency of new technologies."

Dr. Hans-Jürgen Meckelburg, member of the Board of 7 layers, also sees an enormous synergy potential in the cooperation. "7 layers is an engineering service company which, among other things, supports the developers and manufacturers of Bluetooth technology. We accompany our customers from technology development right through to qualification of chipsets, software or modules. Our partnership with TÜV Rheinland/Berlin-Brandenburg guarantees our customers that the integration of their Bluetooth developments in products and their subsequent testing and certification are optimally coordinated."

### **Global testing network and high-tech complement each other perfectly**

For a successful market launch of the Bluetooth technology, it is necessary to guarantee the conformity of each product with the Bluetooth specifications. In addition, the communication between the products of various manufacturers must function smoothly. Here, the cooperation between TÜV Rheinland/Berlin-Brandenburg and 7 layers provides an optimal solution.

The TÜV Rheinland/Berlin-Brandenburg already has a global network of testing laboratories and possesses the authorization to certify products in over 100 countries. With the support of 7 layers, these laboratories will now be developed into Bluetooth test centres. Within only a few months, it is planned for the first Bluetooth Qualification Testing Facilities (BQTF) to be ready for operation in America, Europe and Asia. Until this stage is reached, the customers of the two partners can rely on 7 layers' Bluetooth reference laboratory in Ratingen (Germany). In addition to the test laboratories of TÜV Rheinland/Berlin-Brandenburg, the test laboratories of the 7 layers customers will be supported and synchronized by 7 layers. As a result, a self-contained development, testing and certification cycle is established.

Today, the two companies already control 6 of worldwide 14 Bluetooth Qualification Bodies and are thus authorized to include products in the "Bluetooth Qualified Product List". This list documents, especially for end-consumers, the perfect function of electronic equipment from various manufacturers, which are linked together via the new wireless interface technology. Both TÜV Rheinland/Berlin-Brandenburg and 7 layers have the objective of becoming leading Bluetooth service providers.

### **Unique innovation**

Bluetooth is the result of a unique, worldwide cooperation. Global players such as Ericsson, Nokia, Intel, IBM, Toshiba, Microsoft, Lucent, 3Com and Motorola have joined forces with around 2,000 other firms in a working group (Bluetooth Special Interest Group). Behind the innovation – the name of which comes from the Danish King Harald Blåtand (English: Bluetooth) – is a wireless technology which makes cable connections, for example between PC and printer,

superfluous. And the troublesome cables behind stereo systems with CD-player, cassette deck, radio and amplifier will also disappear. The data exchange functions by radio in the 2.4 GHz frequency range.

Bluetooth can also be used to operate mini networks, so-called piconets, for example, with up to eight computers within a distance of ten metres.

### **Bluetooth Expert Forum at TÜV**

With the agreement now reached between TÜV Rheinland/Berlin-Brandenburg and 7 layers, the two companies will begin a long-term cooperation which, following the Congress in Monte Carlo, will also be presented at an international Expert Forum on 26 June in Cologne. Among other things, the "Bluetooth Spokesman", Larry Jones, will speak about the future of the new technology.

Information on other items featured at the Expert Forum is available from TÜV-Akademie Rheinland GmbH, Tel.: ++49 (0)221 / 806-3065.

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