

Getting Lost Becomes A Thing of the Past

July 15 2004

Getting lost in strange towns and cities or trying to find the right way to a particular destination is no longer a problem thanks to new navigation software that provides 'on the move' information for drivers and pedestrians within seconds.

Developed with the help of almost £1.3 million from the Information Society Technology (IST) Programme of the European Union's Framework Programme, PEPTRAN gives drivers and mobile users information on the best possible routes within seconds, using their smartphones or a navigation system installed in their cars.

“This will provide major benefits - particularly for tourists, professional drivers and possibly for car-sharing and rental services that are looking to improve their services for clients,” says project Manager Rory Doyle from UK partner British Maritime Technology. “Users simply enter basic information about their journey and our innovative route navigation software tells them the easiest way to get there either by car, public transport or on foot - or by using a combination of them.”

Peter Walters, UK National Contact Point for IST within the EU's Sixth Framework Programme, added “This project has made the best possible use of Framework funding - the EU's main method of providing funding for collaborative research and innovation - to develop something that will be useful to us all. Not everyone is comfortable reading a map and even those who can will have first hand experience of how difficult and often time-consuming it can be trying to use paper maps and timetables on the move. I am also hopeful that PEPTRAN will help reduce

congestion, as people trying the system for the first time admitted that they were more inclined use local public transport instead of using their own cars.”

“The current Framework Programme (FP6) runs until 2006 and organisations wanting free, easy to access, information on the ^17.5bn of funding available to support internationally collaborative R&D should log on to fp6uk.ost.gov.uk or call central telephone support on 0870 600 6080.”

By inputting the date and time of the journey and start and end locations (street names or coordinates, if known) into their mobile or car navigation devices PEPTRAN uses the information gathered from existing street navigation systems, cars and public transport servers to supply the route-plan. This information takes account of public transport timetables, the real-time progress of public transport vehicles or guidelines to a particular route and how to get there. It also tells the user how and where to change buses to minimise the total journey time.

Car drivers are directed to the nearest parking space before using public transport in an attempt to avoid city traffic. In both car navigation and mobile options, information is presented to the user by means of maps or simple text directions.

As time becomes more constrained and transport needs are increasing, the new technology will in the future give Europeans a seriously convincing reason for opting for their local bus or train.

Source: [The Glasgows Group](#)

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