

E-mail from the skies

ESYS plc recently announced its participation in the market-leading project, *Wireless Cabin*, that plans to demonstrate the first complete wireless environment designed to work on commercial airliners. The project, part-funded by the European Commission, aims to design a communications architecture that would allow airline passengers to use their own mobiles, PDAs and laptops whilst flying with their favourite passenger airline. By giving passengers access to e-mail, the Internet and their own company networks, it is hoped that flights can be utilised to best advantage by busy business travellers. The technology will be based upon emerging industry standards including UMTS for mobile phone users and Bluetooth or 802.11 for computer network access.

ESYS plc are undertaking the market definition element of the work, exploring the market demand from both the passenger and airline perspective. The overall project is co-ordinated by the German aerospace centre DLR, backed by a team of major industry players including Airbus, Ericsson, Inmarsat, Information Society Technologies, KID-Systeme, Siemens, TriaGnoSys, University of Bradford and ESYS.

Lead consultant for ESYS, Dr Andrew Rogoyski, said: "This project isn't just about technology, it's about giving airline passengers the chance to work more effectively, keeping in touch with friends and family as well as the office, all in a natural, straightforward way. The facility to use your own mobile or send and receive e-mail in an airliner is long overdue".

The addition of wireless technology in aircraft is also expected to provide benefits for the aircrews and ground staff at airports, with services such as text reminders to passengers on check-in times and boarding gates, help with baggage location and improvements in passenger security being just some of the innovations envisaged.

Dr Rogoyski adds, "Of course, these services aren't just for business travellers – Imagine you're flying off on holiday and want to check out the attractions at your destination, make reservations at a theatre, hire a car, or even get advice on how to use the local public transport systems, it could all be possible. The availability of these services is expected to become a major influencing factor in people's choice of airline, so we expect there to be fierce competition and innovation in the provision of these services".

ESYS plc are setting up an online market survey in order to gain feedback and market data from the public around the world. It can be accessed via the project's web site at : www.wirelesscabin.com or via ESYS's web site at www.esys.co.uk.

About ESYS plc

ESYS is an independent public limited company, registered in the UK and based in Guildford. Founded in 1990, ESYS' business originally grew out of the space and satellite communications sector. ESYS has now made inroads into the areas of defence, education and research. Operating with a team of over 30 senior consultants, ESYS combines skills in business analysis, market strategies and technological skills providing clients with quality advice in leading edge technologies applied to a business context.

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