

28th August 2008

CONTROL YOUR CAR AUDIO SYSTEM WITH YOUR VOICE

Toshiba to demonstrate world leading speech and Bluetooth technology

At IFA 2008, visitors to the Toshiba stand will be able to see speech technology applied as an interface to a hands-free in-car Bluetooth kit with both speech recognition and text-to-speech synthesis features. The video demonstration will be showing on stand number 101 of hall 21.

Using Toshiba's system, without any training or enrolment, drivers can make a phone call by either dialling the number or selecting contacts from their phone book using their voice whilst driving. Voice feedback allows the driver to keep their eyes on the road.

In the future, drivers will be able to find and retrieve the song they want to listen to from either a mobile phone or MP3 player by simply saying its title or the artist's name for example. Furthermore, they will be able to hear text messages or emails read out to them while they are on the move. The technology will also enable consumers to command their TV using only their voice or use a mobile device as a verbal translator when travelling abroad.

Dr Kate Knill, Manager of Interaction Technology at Toshiba's Cambridge Research Laboratory, said, "A speech interface is ideal for in-car use, allowing the driver to keep their hands on the wheel and eyes on the road. The largest challenges are to deliver robust reliable recognition even under noisy driving conditions and to provide voice synthesis that sounds natural and is intelligible. Our team in Cambridge has been working hard to meet both of these."

The system will be able to handle complex words and phrases including people's names, band names and even music titles such as 'Nocturnes Op.27 No.1'. It can cope with multiple languages including English, Japanese and Mandarin.

Kate continued, "Speech is a natural complement to other input and output devices. It offers great advantages to finding a specific person, song or programme from a long list. Imagine saying "Show me last night's England match" and the football immediately starts playing on your TV."

Thanks to speech researchers and engineers in Toshiba worldwide, the technology has enabled Toshiba to improve its Bluetooth chipsets and speech engines to recognise the user's speech much more reliably and make the synthesis output sound natural and highly intelligible.

A version of the speech recognition technology is already available in some current car models in North America.

Toshiba is combining Bluetooth and speech to create revolutionary applications in the mobile space. Toshiba is a promoter company of the Bluetooth Special Interest Group and has developed and promoted its applications across its product range.

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About Toshiba's Cambridge Research Laboratory

The Cambridge Research Laboratory (CRL) was Toshiba's first overseas corporate level R&D laboratory. Originally the Toshiba Cambridge Research Centre, it was established in 1991 to undertake scientific studies which may lead to the semiconductor technology of the 21st century.

For nearly 20 years the group has been producing ground breaking research and developing technologies which have the power to revolutionise the future of electronics. CRL currently consists of

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three research teams: Quantum Information, Speech Technology and Computer Vision.

Visit <http://www.toshiba-europe.com/research/crl/> for more information.

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