

Media Information

May 2006

## **BMW Group expands technology network**

**BMW Group Research and Technology participates in European cooperation with leading companies and universities in France.**

**Munich/Sophia Antipolis.** Today, BMW Group Research and Technology has agreed a long-term joint venture with "EURÉCOM" – an inter-European institute for research and training – in the areas of IT and telecommunications. The institute was established in 1991 and is located in the Sophia Antipolis technology park near Nice in the south of France. The subsidiary of the BMW Group will thereby further strengthen its know-how in the area of vehicle IT, telecommunications and microelectronics, while expanding its global field of cooperation with universities, research institutes and industrial companies in Europe.

Prof. Dr. Raymond Freymann, Managing Director of BMW Group Research and Technology: "The Eurécom institute with its nine international industrial partners and four affiliated universities is the ideal partner for joint ventures in the world-class Sophia Antipolis technology park. The state-sponsored technology park for high-tech companies is an extremely exciting base for our technology network within Europe. The 1,400 companies based there, the university institutions of the French Grandes Écoles, the state research institutes and standards organizations represent a strategic expansion of the global research and innovation network of the BMW Group."

The focuses of cooperation are network technologies, broadband wireless networks, mobility and security. Vehicle IT and enabler and security technologies create the basis for innovations that enhance customer benefits such as entertainment functions or new applications in the area of the man-machine interface, opening up the potential of the Internet in vehicles. This is why BMW Group Research and Technology is promoting and bundling interdisciplinary cooperation across faculties in teams from business and science. This is accompanied by intensive exchange of masters students and doctoral candidates.

Boilerplate:

The Eurécom Institute is an international university network with close contacts to leading organizations notably within the framework of the EU. It has been engaged in the field of research and training in the areas of information technology and telecommunication technology since 1991. Based in the Science Park Sophia Antipolis, ten kilometres from Nice, the institute now numbers ten international companies and four European universities among its members. The companies are Swisscom, Thales, SFR, France Telecom, Hitachi, STMicroelectronics, Bouygues Telecom, Sharp, CISCO Systems, and

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BMW Group Research and Technology. The universities are the École Nationale Supérieure des Télécommunications, Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne, Politecnico di Torino and Helsinki University of Technology (TKK). The state-funded Sophia Antipolis technology park is also the base for a total of 1,400 companies from 68 countries providing nearly 27,000 jobs.

BMW Group Research and Technology is a wholly-owned subsidiary of the BMW Group and has been in charge of research at the BMW Group since 2003. Legal independence as a GmbH (limited company) guarantees the necessary freedom of manoeuvre and provides maximum flexibility.

For questions please contact:

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