

Press release: March 2010

Cobra Automotive Technologies: innovation through open standards and open source software

With more than 30 years of experience in the security business focalised in the automotive, the Italian group Cobra Automotive Technologies has developed a widespread know-how in analysing and understanding the security needs of drivers. This is the reason why vehicle manufacturers chose Cobra as partner in the development of security programs for their future models.

In this highly competitive scenario, Cobra Automotive announces the support for the open source royalty-free project ERIKA Enterprise (<http://erika.tuxfamily.org>).

ERIKA Enterprise, initially developed by Evidence Srl and by the ReTiS Lab of the Scuola Superiore S. Anna, is an Open Source Real Time Operating system specially tailored for automotive systems and implementing an API similar to the OSEK/VDX specification. The OSEK/VDX Specification is the hearth of the Operating System of most Automotive electronic devices, including those developed in the security business area.

The usage of open-source projects is not new in the automotive market. In particular, Embedded Linux Systems are gaining market share in Body electronic. Using an open source version of the OSEK/VDX API helps bringing innovation and cost reduction directly at the hearth of small automotive subsystems, allowing direct exploitation of innovations produced by international research groups in the real-time and automotive area.

Cobra Automotive Technologies will support the open source project ERIKA Enterprise providing architecture portings for various microcontrollers which will be used in its future products in the security area.

Cobra Automotive Technologies, based in Italy, is a leading international group providing worldwide user friendly vehicle-centric solutions, integrating advanced technologies that enhance transportation and property security thus helping to manage risks associated to vehicles, like theft, hi-jack, frauds and low speed manoeuvres.

Cobra provides stolen vehicle recovery services at a pan-European level (Audi, Bentley, Ferrari, Lamborghini, Maserati, Nissan Europe, Porsche, Renault), in Russia and in Malaysia.

Within Europe, Service Operation Centers assist customers in 36 countries.

Founded in 1975, Cobra is partner to the main European and Asian car and motorbike manufacturers, for whom Cobra develops solutions integrated in the original equipment.

Cobra has direct operations in Brazil, China, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, South Korea, Spain, Switzerland and in the UK, with a network in the global markets of approximately 40 commercial partners.

Cobra designs and manufactures electronic systems at the company's facilities in Varese, Italy for the European markets, in Beijing, China and Giheung, South Korea for Asian markets with the development of software applications for location based services at facilities in Switzerland and Sophia Antipolis, France.

Cobra was listed on the Milan Stock Exchange, STAR segment, on December 12, 2006.

The group's turnover in 2008 totaled 121,2 million euro, increased by 4,2% compared with the previous year.

Evidence Srl, based in Italy, was established at the end of 2002 as a spin-off of the ReTiS Lab of the Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna (Pisa, Italy) by a group of researchers expert in real-time scheduling analysis, operating systems, control systems, and multiprocessor scheduling techniques. Evidence operates in the field of software for embedded real-time systems and provides innovative software solutions for the design and development of real-time embedded systems, with a special focus on multi-core hardware platforms. Today, Evidence is a dynamic company having collaborations in the field of electronics, telecommunications, automotives, and industrial automation markets. Evidence has developed Open-Source Real-Time Operating Systems (RTOSs) for small microcontrollers (It is leading the development of the ERIKA Enterprise RTOS) and other operating systems (Embedded Linux) for embedded devices.

For Press Contacts

Antonella Riva Spolini
Cobra Automotive Technologies
Tel: +39 0332 825 111
Fax: +39 0332 222 005
e-mail: a.riva@cobra-at.com
web-site: <http://www.cobra-at.com/>

Giovanna Caridi
Evidence Srl
Tel: +39 050 9911224
Fax: +39 050 991 0812
e-mail: info@evidence.eu.com
web-site: <http://www.evidence.eu.com/>