Useful Adapter

Dear Reader,

Are we living in a brave new world? A quarter of the new cars on Germany's roads today will brake automatically in an emergency. These are the results of an evaluation carried out by Bosch on the basis of vehicle registration statistics from 2015 and the figure will undoubtedly have increased during the course of 2016. The automatic emergency braking systems of modern cars help to avoid accidents or to reduce the severity of the consequences. Severe crashes should soon be a thing of the past.

But if, despite all of this, an accident does happen, the new eCall emergency call system will automatically alert the rescue services in the event that the driver and passengers are injured or unconscious. The eCall system is already fitted in many new cars and will become mandatory for all new vehicles from 31 March 2018 under the terms of an EU regulation.

"But what about people who can't afford a new car?," asks Dr. Jens Bartenwerfer, Managing Director of GDV Dienstleistungs-GmbH (GDV DL), with justification. There are still many old cars on our roads without innovative driver assistance systems of this kind and the number has been growing since 2009.

GDV DL has developed the UMD, which is the automatic emergency call system for everyone that can be specially retrofitted in used vehicles of the old world. The solution consists of an emergency call adapter that is plugged into the cigarette lighter and a smartphone app. If the adapter detects that a serious accident has occurred, the smartphone immediately notifies the insurance company's emergency call centre. The call centre staff inform the rescue services, who can accurately identify the location of

the accident using the GPS data from the app. As a result, injured or unconscious drivers and passengers will receive help as quickly as possible.

A year after the UMD was launched, it has already produced positive results. It is being used by more than 85,000 customers and has organised rapid assistance in more than 270 cases. This is a good example of a solution from the new world helping the old world.

With best regards,

Dipl.-Ing. Michael Reichenbach
Deputy Editor in Chief