

Early Warning of Population with e*Warn

e*Message Marks Ten Years' Partnership with Federal Office of Civil Defense — Next Steps Agreed

Berlin, October, 2014. Ralph Tiesler, vice-president of the German Federal Office of Civil Defense and Disaster Assistance, visited e*Message Wireless Information Services Deutschland in Berlin in late September.

Tiesler saluted his agency's ten-year cooperation with e*Message in the field of early warning of population. e*Message is the only mobile wireless network operator to transmit official warnings from the federal agency to professional users. The reason has to do with an important property of the e*Message network: unlike mobile phone networks, the e*Message network transmits warning information to all the addressed users simultaneously. The size of the group addressed has no effect on message latency: all users addressed receive each message practically instantly, no matter whether there are ten thousand or ten million of them.

In the past year, the German civil defense agency put the fourth development phase of its satellite-based modular emergency warning system MoWaS into operation. Building on this system, new techniques offered by various providers, alongside the warning media already integrated, will be used to bridge the "last mile" to the civil population and other message recipients. Tiesler stated that the MoWaS system continues to undergo intensive development. The agency is currently pursuing tests on the integration of e*Warn in MoWaS. The federal agency and e*Message have agreed to a timetable that includes an integrated demonstration as early as late November.

e*Message provides the e*Warn service for primarily stationary use as part of the MoWaS system. Recipients preparing to use the integrated solution by means of warning sirens and pagers primarily include government agencies, industrial plants, hospitals, child care facilities and schools. Warning sirens are stationary, wall-mounted user devices measuring 20 x 15 cm. They are battery-powered in case of power outages and feature a high degree of data security and locally stored, menu-driven user guidance. At e*Message, Tiesler examined the chip that implements the warning function, which has been produced in a beta version and could be used in future to provide MoWaS information as an added function in smoke alarms. Mr. Tiesler said, "It is especially important to us that information from the state warning system is transmitted by a variety of redundant media to the citizen, or to businesses and institutions. e*Warn makes a particularly important contribution to that objective."

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High reliability and user acceptance are key qualities for good warning systems. e*Message works with a number of national and international research institutions towards these goals.

Note: Digital photographs are available on request.

About e*Message:

e*Message Wireless Information Services GmbH (e*Message Europe) is the operator of Europe's largest emergency radio network. As one of four mobile wireless network operators in the German market, e*Message maintains a satellite-based wireless network, independent of public networks, with some 800 base stations throughout Germany. e*Message provides specialized messaging services, focusing on security, mobile organizational systems and integrated solutions. e*Message services are used with digital receivers to notify, warn and alert individuals and professional groups — doctors, service technicians, government agencies, firefighters or snowplow services for example — quickly, precisely, and reliably. Founded in December 1999, e*Message took over the paging operations of Deutsche Telekom and France Télécom in January of 2000, and has continuously developed both infrastructure and applications. The group's head offices are in Berlin and Paris.

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