



Press release

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APLICOM ANNOUNCES THE NEW F-SERIES, A VERSATILE, POWERFUL VEHICLE WORKSTATION IN A STANDARD CAR RADIO SIZE FORMAT

A new compact and powerful vehicle workstation that fits neatly into the dashboard DIN-slot has been announced by Aplicom, Europe's leading designer and manufacturer of vehicle computers for professionals.

The new Aplicom F-series is a revolutionary vehicle workstation range that opens up new opportunities for mobile data and fleet management applications for professional use. Never before has a vehicle computer has been as versatile and as easy to install as the Aplicom F-series.

The compact Aplicom F-series vehicle workstation offers an open platform for a wide range of applications. The clear and simple to use DT 1000 display is an ideal interface for the driver, and it neatly fits in any dashboard, either in the standard car radio format (DIN) slot or separately mounted. The Aplicom F-series offers an unmatched set of interfaces for both vehicle data and peripherals. Its integral GPS module also supports Automatic Vehicle Location (AVL) functions.

The Aplicom F-series is the ultimate tool to integrate vehicle-based units with the information systems of the user organisation and thus enhance the operation processes for increased productivity. It can be used for basic messaging and AVL, but its high processing power and versatile interfaces also facilitate the implementation of most industry specific applications.

The key benefits of increased efficiency, productivity and cost-effectiveness have been design priorities from concept through to the end product. The traditional reliability and open platform of Aplicom's vehicle computers are naturally maintained in the F-series: it is built to last in continuous professional use.

The user interface of the F-series workstation is the unique DIN-size display unit DT 1000. As it is a graphic touch screen, the whole user interface, including operating buttons, can be presented on the screen. This means that it can be used without a separate keyboard, but separate keyboards are also supported. The rugged custom-designed screen and touch panel operate in all normal conditions of a vehicle cabin and also in low temperatures. Up to two display units can be connected to the F-series vehicle computer.

There is an increasing demand for using vehicle data in applications and connection to different peripherals, including PDAs. The F-series has all common vehicle data interfaces such as CAN, RS 485 and even ISO 9141. Binary inputs, pulse counters and analogue/digital inputs are also provided. Peripherals can be connected via the four external serial ports. The internal options include a GSM/GPRS modem and a GPS receiver. Aplicom has also included an expansion module space that can be used for future developments.

Aplicom Sales and Marketing Director Lasse Paakkola says: "The Aplicom F-series features a unique combination of a compact format and a wide set of functionality. It has been developed not just for today's needs, but because we fully understand the demands of end users when they realise just how much can be achieved in operational savings and productivity. This product supports our strategy of providing the ultimate platform for systems suppliers, not just in terms of hardware, but also in software and support. We do not provide end user solutions, which means we are a totally independent and open partner for any system supplier of mobile solutions."

Aplicom offers a full set of development tools for the F-series, including peripheral device drivers and function libraries, like IP stack and the FMS (Fleet Management Standard) library. Aplicom's partner approach guarantees the system supplier not only state-of the art hardware and software but also a long lasting partnership for efficient creation of solutions for users. As with all Aplicom vehicle computers the comparatively low initial investment is matched with a very high return, including significant and measurable cost-savings.

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Aplicom is a leading manufacturer of professional vehicle computers in Europe. With over ten years experience in mobile data communication design and production, Finnish-owned Aplicom is focused on developing and marketing high quality, technologically advanced, fully programmable vehicle computers for professional use.

With Aplicom products companies can link vehicles to their information system and improve the productivity of their vehicle fleet. Service improves and fleet management becomes more effective, which enhances their market competitiveness. A vehicle computer improves safety and the monitoring of vehicle movements and status.

Aplicom vehicle computers increase the productivity of professional fleets, such as local authorities and government departments, freight forwarders, customer service organisations and local authorities. Aplicom products have been adopted as standard by several internationally known organisations including Schenker-BTL, Germany, ambulance trusts in the UK, international hauliers Hungarocamion, the Norwegian postal service, DaimlerChrysler's Fleetboard service, many drivers' associations in Central Europe, and a variety of transport industries in Scandinavia.

Aplicom sells its innovative products through a strong partner network covering 18 countries, and more than 90 percent of Aplicom's products are exported. Aplicom's headquarters, research and development unit and production department are located in Äänekoski, Finland. Sales and marketing functions are carried out in Helsinki, Finland.