



RUNES Technology Roadmaps at Industry Forum

RUNES, one of the largest efforts ever towards the creation of large-scale, widely distributed, heterogeneous networked embedded systems holds its first Industry Forum today in Munich as part of the 3rd International Conference in Pervasive Computing (www.pervasive2004.org).

European, Australian and American talent and expertise have been pulled together to form a global consortium led by Ericsson AB. Some of the other partners include Kodak Ltd, Sira Technology, University College London and the University of California, Berkeley.

98% of all microprocessors find their way into embedded systems in electronic devices from mobile phones, cars, and washing machines to music players with only 2% used in personal computers. This is a huge opportunity for the development of a standardised architecture, which allows self-organisation to suit changeable environments.

RUNES aims to provide an adaptive middleware platform, a common language that will simplify the application creation process. This will allow dramatic cuts in the cost of new application development and much faster times to market. The project will also examine the potential uses and implications of the technology, develop demonstrator systems and design training courses to disseminate RUNES technology.

The objective of today's Industry Forum is to present the RUNES technology roadmaps, which are a synthesis of European knowledge and views, collected over the past six months. The roadmaps identify the research breakthroughs, which can be translated into successful products and services. The roadmaps reflect the following four major market classifications for networked embedded systems:

- **Building and home automation** - Improving the comfort, efficiency and environmental impact of homes, offices and factories
- **Medical care** - Enabling sick or elderly people to remain in their own homes rather than rely on institutional care
- **Disaster management and emergency response** - Giving the emergency services new tools to help them stay safer and be more effective
- **Industrial control and automation** - Enhancing the competitiveness of manufacturing industry in the global marketplace

These diverse sectors demonstrate the pervasive nature of embedded systems and their huge potential to enrich our lives. Further information on the RUNES project and the results of the technology roadmapping process are available at www.ist-runes.org.

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