

## **Björn Steiger Stiftung LifeService eCall**

The non-profit organisation Björn Steiger Stiftung was founded after the death of the eight-year-old Björn Steiger on Mai 3rd, 1969. The boy got struck by a car and had to wait over an hour until the ambulance arrived. He died on the way to the hospital as a result of a shock.

With the goal to improve emergency services in order to save lives his parents founded the Björn Steiger Stiftung. To fulfil its mission the organization has for 40 years initiated, financed and supported different emergency programmes with an outstanding outcome.

One of the first milestones set by the Björn Steiger Stiftung was the introduction of the emergency number 112 in Germany in the beginning of the 1970's, which now is the common emergency number in the EU. Radio communication, emergency road telephones, baby ambulances as well as the German Air Rescue, which is the biggest air rescue organisation in Europe, are other programmes initiated by the Björn Steiger Foundation.

In 2006 another milestone was set by the decision to launch the LifeService platform. LifeService 112 is today used by all German PSAPs and enables caller location information from mobile devices in case of emergency, supporting the E112 initiative of the European Commission. Besides of the common localisation system LBS/cell-ID, the LifeService platform also supports the more accurate GPS position.

One year later the same system was identified as a suitable eCall carrier by leading automotive manufactures. Since then the Björn Steiger Stiftung has played an important role in the establishment of eCall in Europe.

LifeService eCall is a central European system based on dual channel technology, guaranteeing a high redundancy. In the event of an accident, the eCall unit installed in the vehicle makes an emergency call to the nearest PSAP and at the same time transmits defined data (MSD) via SMS or other technologies like UMTS or GPRS to the central LifeService system. Additionally, if no phone call could be established to the PSAP, the unprocessed eCall data set will be pushed to the local dispatcher over the central system. The system is based on the utilisation of a common emergency telephone number 112 that ensures the interoperability of the system in the entire EU. The goal is to launch the LifeService eCall functionalities in December 2008.

Since the platform is a web based solution free of charge, it is easily accessible in all European PSAPs independent of the telecommunications system and the national financial situation. The system also guarantees a high flexibility for the automotive manufactures and can easily be integrated in other systems over defined interfaces.

Currently the Björn Steiger Stiftung is conducting an eCall field test together with 20 partners from the automotive and telecommunications sector. The goal is to demonstrate that the SMS-based platform works across Europe and under the conditions of a large volume test. At least 250,000 eCalls will be triggered and the vehicles will be driven in all European countries. This will be the biggest eCall field test carried out so far in Europe.

LifeService eCall of the Björn Steiger Stiftung corresponds to significant EU requirements.