

Parking via voice control: ParkU app enables search for parking spaces in Ford dashboards

- App safe to operate whilst driving using voice control and in-vehicle display thanks to interconnection of ParkU app with the vehicle head unit
- ParkU app is compatible with open-source platform SmartDeviceLink (SDL) for connected cars established by Ford and Toyota
- ParkU is one of the first pan-European in-car apps for parking

Berlin, 28 February 2017 – Designed to help drivers find, book and pay for parking spaces, smartphone app ParkU steps it up a gear, as it will be cruising along inside of Ford Motor Company car dashboards. Connected to the head unit via Bluetooth (Android) or cable (iOS), safely booking and paying for ParkU parking spaces will be possible through the use of voice command or the in-vehicle display. The latter serves as an extended screen for the app.



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To search for parking the car driver uses voice activation. Following the driver's vocal commands, parking options are brought to the in-touch screen. The driver can compare, book directly and pay for a parking space in only a few steps. The on-board navigation system will lead the user to the destination. To use the service, drivers must have the ParkU app preinstalled on their smartphone.

ParkU's Android and iOS apps are brought to car dashboards through the open-source platform SmartDeviceLink (SDL), which empowers the integration of smartphone apps into the communication and entertainment systems of vehicles. Using voice commands and in-vehicle displays, it allows drivers to enjoy their favourite apps on the road in an enhanced, user-friendly way. Ford plans to offer ParkU as an upgrade feature along with further apps.

The SmartDeviceLink Consortium is a non-profit organisation recently established by Ford Motor Company and Toyota Motor Company to manage the SDL platform and accelerate an industry-driven standard for in-vehicle apps. Other manufacturer members include Diahatsu, Mazda Motor Corporation, PSA, Subaru and Suzuki. Applications enabled to work with the technology will be available for SDL automotive members in their vehicles.

How exactly booking and paying for a parking space works using the voice-operated connectivity system is demonstrated by Riccardo Tartari, Head of Product & IT at ParkU, at the Mobile World Congress in Barcelona at the Ford Connected Vehicle & Services stand (Hall 1, stand 1A38).

“ParkU should be used comfortably exactly where the parking space search takes place – in the car. By enhancing our services through partnerships in the field of connected cars, we want to bring safe parking experiences to car drivers. Being compatible with SDL is a first, very important step towards this goal”, says Tartari. ParkU is one of the first pan-European in-car apps for parking.

About ParkU

ParkU is the only all-in-one parking app in Europe featuring reservable parking spaces as well as information on more than six million parking spaces in more than 30 countries.

The app delivers real-time information on parking options with reservation and booking function, hence secures drivers a guaranteed parking space.

Thanks to up-to-date information on availability and occupancy, as well as details on location, distance, opening hours, tariffs, payment methods and amenities of parking spaces, car park options can be compared quickly and easily.

This way car drivers always find their ideal parking space with ParkU.

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