



Example 32                    **Mobile Internet Service Especially for Blind People**  
 Country                        **Germany**  
 Similar service in            Austria, Switzerland

good practice for people with ...	kind of vehicle	kind of measure/approach
... visual impairment	city bus regional bus tram underground local train	engineering/technology approach organisational/operational support

**Project description**

Comprehensive additional functions of mobile phones are gaining increasing importance for their users. Nobody wants to be without SMS, phone book, diary or email. Interactive user displays further increase the comfort of mobile phones. Now there are certain devices with special large-sized fonts that might be used by people with partial visual impairment. The problem is that completely blind people cannot use such phones.

The programme “TALKS”, from the company ScanSoft, offers a potential solution for this problem. It uses an integrated loudspeaker to offer the display information in understandable language. Blind people are able to use almost the entire scope of services that modern mobile phones with Symbian-Software offer (series 60 and 80). Beginning with the current TALKS-Version 2.0, blind people have access to GPS-based navigation systems and can call up information with the WAP-browser of the mobile phone from the Internet even when they are on the go. The Wireless Application Protocol (WAP) allows the transfer of Internet information to mobile phones. Additionally, options to operate the mobile phone using Braille input and output (Talks&Braille) have been developed and are now sold in Germany, Austria and Switzerland.

The latest news is the inclusion of information about public transport into the WAP-services. The following services are offered (see <http://wap.mobilitaetsportal.info>):

Station query: After keying in a station name, all lines that service this station and can be used by handicapped persons for free are displayed. More details are displayed when clicking on a certain line.

Station descriptions: Here one can find information about station accessibility and special features that ease navigation through the station. The footway from the main entrance to the platforms is described and includes all information that is especially useful for blind people.

For both services either the name of a city, a complete station name (e.g. Heidelberg HBF), a part of the name or the licence number must be entered. Additional information about travelling for people with visual impairments who intend to use public transport can be found on the Internet.

Source:  
 Seh-Netz: Visor-Info „W@P - Erstes Angebot in Deutschland speziell für Blinde“ (de),  
<http://www.seh-netz.info/visor/info/01/index.php> (18/10/2007)

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