

Ixonos expands smartphone R&D services

Ixonos Plc expands the company's smartphone R&D services and establishes a new next-generation smartphone design unit in connection with Ixonos' site in Jyväskylä.

As a partner to leading device manufacturers, Ixonos has grown into one of the world's largest suppliers of smartphone software. In addition to software development, the new design unit will provide for mechanical engineering and electronics design.

In the new unit, Ixonos will develop smartphones for international device manufacturers and operators based on new, powerful chipsets from the world's leading technology suppliers and on the Android and Symbian operating systems.

"The smartphone market is currently in a highly transitional period. New chipsets, open operating systems and user-friendlier user interfaces as well as the productization of software all change the competitive situation between device manufacturers and boosts the demand for new R&D services", says Kari Happonen, President and CEO of Ixonos.

The forming of a unit that enables mechanical engineering and electronics design, supports our ambition to develop smartphones with an unprecedented level of innovativeness both for our current customers and for an entirely new international clientele", Mr Happonen continues. "In the new unit, we will be able to significantly speed up device R&D as well as to offer device-manufacturers and operators tailored solutions."

Next generation smartphones, as well as the Internet services they will be used for, are estimated to become a significant factor as device manufacturers and telecommunications operators compete for their share of the market.

"We have significant experience in smartphone functionality, in the development of mobile Internet services, and in uniting the two into a smooth user experience. The new unit will be in a key position as we create devices that inspire consumers with both practical use and pleasure as they take advantage of the ever-increasing supply of services on the wireless Internet", Mr Happonen says.

In connection with establishing the new unit, Ixonos purchases the equipment of Nokia Corporation's mobile phone R&D laboratory in Jyväskylä. The equipment Ixonos acquires with this deal includes mechanical engineering hardware; an RF and antenna measurement laboratory; facilities for the measurement of audio, cameras and displays; as well as devices and robot units for the testing of mobile devices.

Ixonos estimates that it will hire 20 specialists in mechanical engineering, electronics design, and R&D for its new unit in Jyväskylä by the end of 2009. The company plans to increase the unit's specialist staff to several dozen - depending on the market situation— during 2010.

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