

Wireless growth

Antenna and wireless communication specialist Smarteq at Enebyberg north of Stockholm is on its way up again after some troublesome years. A fast growing multitude of mobile 'phone brands and models made it increasingly difficult to develop and produce hands-free in-vehicle solutions for most of them.

CEO Lars Ericson and technical director Henrik Lindén.



Smarteq has now abandoned the hands-free 'phones and concentrates on other wireless automotive applications. They are all based on advanced antenna technology with a tendency for integrating antennas into the vehicle's body or glass surface.

- We supply both car and heavy vehicle producers, says Lars Ericson, new managing director with a past at Segerström Automotive in Eskilstuna. He sees a growing market for wireless communication between vehicles and the outside world for several applications.

One is for navigation and infotainment systems for cars with premium cars first in line. One is for fleet management

and user service for commercial vehicles. And one is for surveying and monitoring road traffic. Such systems are developed with the support of IVSS, the Swedish Intelligent Vehicle Safety Systems programme.

Customers include premium car makers Volvo, Mercedes and Bentley as well as truck makers Scania and Volvo.

After a reconstruction in 2003, Smarteq's main owner is now the international businessman Christer Ericsson's investment company Consafe IT. Smarteq now has about 40 employees, of which half in product development for innovations and customer solutions. Production is outsourced to a number of suppliers.

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