ESPRIT project enters its final phase

The ESPRIT project has entered its final phase in the run-up to the project finishing at the end of October, with efforts focusing on developing the vehicle and making preparations for the final demonstration events at the three sites in August and September (see details on page 3). The ESPRIT project consortium met in Chemnitz at the end of March to discuss progress and to elicit feedback from the Expert Advisory Board. One of the ESPRIT prototypes was present in Chemnitz, which gave the opportunity to many of the consortium and EAB members to drive the vehicle for the first time (see photos).
Valéry Cervantes (CEA) was at the Transport Research Arena 2018 in Vienna in Austria (16th – 19th April 2018) to exhibit the ESPRIT vehicle (photo: above). Other GV-5 projects, such as RE-SOLVE, were also present at the event (photo: below). CNR were also at the event to present on ‘Modelling and Control of Innovative Car Sharing Services based on Stackable Electric vehicles’.
Carolin Wendler and Stephan Jurowsky (shown in the photo above) of Hörmann Rail & Road (HRRE) exhibited the ESPRIT vehicle at the Hannover Messe (23rd—27th April 2018). The Hannover Messe is the world’s biggest industrial fair, with over 6000 exhibitors and attracting more than 200,000 visitors. With its parallel trade fairs, the Hannover Messe covers a wider range of themes and exhibits including: research and development; industrial automation and IT; industrial supply; production engineering and services; as well as energy and environmental technology. HRRE was invited by the Saxon Energy Agency – SAENA - (http://www.saena.de/) to present the project at the Saxon joint stand of Energy Saxony. The visitors were very interested in the ESPRIT mockup and the coupling device. HRRE got very good feedback and some visitors are interested in joining the demonstration events. Martin Grismajer from SAENA presented the project within his presentation concerning projects with Saxon participation.

**ESPRIT FINAL DEMONSTRATION EVENTS**

Planning is underway for the ESPRIT final demonstration events later in the year, by which time there will be 3 completely functional ESPRIT vehicles, 3 extra mockup vehicles for illustrating the road train concept, and a mobile station for illustrating the station docking procedure. The events will last for 2 days, with the first day focussing on giving people the opportunity to try out the ESPRIT vehicle and give feedback on their experience in focus group sessions. The second day will centre around a key stakeholder workshop which will include presentations and discussions, as well as demonstrations of the ESPRIT road train and station docking. There will be an ESPRIT exhibition running throughout.

The dates and venues for the 3 events are as follows:

- **Lyon** – Confluences, Cours Charlemagne, Wednesday 29th and Thursday 30th August 2018 (contact: Geraud Moulas, ARTTIC, email: moulas@arttic.eu)
- **Glasgow** – Evolution Court, Hillington Park, Tuesday 11th and Wednesday 12th September 2018 (contact Richard Mounce / John Nelson, UNIABDN, email: r.mounce@abdn.ac.uk / j.d.nelson@abdn.ac.uk)
- **L’Hospitalet de Llobregat** – Avinguda Joan Carles I / Hotel Porta Fira, Tuesday 25th and Wednesday 26th September 2018 (contact: Marc Segura, LHCAT, email: msegurat@h.cat)
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