

ADnota speaker with SVOX Text-to-Speech reduces barriers to cell phone usage by blind and visually impaired

Within the next few days, adnota is going to start the distribution of its new products, ADnota speaker and the ADnota merker. The growing market for cell phone software for blind and visually impaired welcomes these innovative products due to their excellent usability and outstanding SVOX Smart Text-to-Speech (TTS) voice quality.

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Within the next days, the Berlin-based personal information retrieval company adnota officially launches its ADnota speaker. This cell phone software for blind and visually impaired removes existing barriers to mobile phone usage by blind and visually impaired people. In fact, ADnota speaker enables its users to utilize their mobile phones via a convenient speech dialogues, and facilitates their everyday life with a broad range of useful features. In particular, ADnota speaker sets itself apart from its competition due to its easy access to core cell phone functions.

The adnota software converts written information on the cell phone-display as well as text messages and emails into clear and natural-sounding speech. In addition, ADnota speaker puts notifications such as battery status, date and time as well as network coverage at the user's fingertip. The intelligible voice featured by the TTS engine SVOX Smart is delivered via loudspeaker or headset. Mr. Wallers, managing director of adnota GmbH emphasizes the good collaboration with the Swiss speech technology specialist: "When looking for the right TTS partner, it was very important for us to work with a text-to-speech provider specializing in embedded TTS. Furthermore, SVOX has also received an excellent feedback from our customers. In particular, they have ranked SVOX higher on intelligibility and naturalness as compared to other TTS players".

SVOX Key Account Manager Brona Collins confirms: "In 2003, we were the sole company developing and marketing Symbian solutions. Recently, many companies have recognized blind and visually impaired people as an attractive market segment. Nevertheless, adnota stands out from the crowd due to its successful response to its customers' primary need, i.e. ease of

use". According to Mr. Wallers, ADnota speaker primarily targets the European market. This constitutes another reason why SVOX optimally suits adnotas' TTS needs. With currently twelve languages and five more to be released in 2006, SVOX boasts a strong language portfolio covering the main European and world markets.

Based on its ADnota speaker, adnota has developed two further software solutions for blind and visually impaired handset users: ADnota merker and ADnota guide. The former is a speech-based notebook with a unique voice search feature that allows for easy retrieval of speech notes, while the latter provides a GPS-based route recording and guiding system.

About SVOX AG

SVOX AG is a leading provider of embedded speech output solutions for the automotive and mobile device industries. SVOX's core product is the SVOX Text-to-Speech system. The company makes computers and other electronic devices talk by converting written text into natural-sounding and easily comprehensible speech. Its focus on embedded speech allows for specifically optimized solutions. Therefore, SVOX speech applications are small, fast, and multilingual. With SVOX's software architecture, customers are offered a speech engine that can be easily tailored to their technical requirements and market needs.

About adnota

adnota GmbH is an innovative developer of personal information retrieval solutions for mobile devices. Core competences: application of speech technology for the personal data management. adnota GmbH is a member of the Nokia Forum PRO and was founded in 2003 as a spin-off from digital design GmbH. The employees of the company have a longstanding experience in design of premium software in the telecom sector.

The adnota technology was developed during the last few years in a project aimed at creating a voice-centred personal database, a database quite different from the classic ones. With the recent addition of location information, it provides a basis for powerful personal information retrieval tools.

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