

## MINI Aftersales and *smart-TEC* integrate NFC transponders into the MINI F56 car key

The MINI F56, which is due on the market in March 2014, will have a new generation of car key that can be customised with additional key caps. The interchangeable key cap is available in various designs and the built-in NFC transponder from *smart-TEC* can store a range of functions for NFC-enabled mobile devices.

Oberhaching / 04.03.14 With more than 500 million NFC-enabled mobile devices worldwide, NFC technology is continuing its triumphant advance. NFC (Near Field Communication) is an international data transfer standard that allows data to be exchanged between a microchip and a mobile device such as a smartphone or tablet over a short distance.

In lifestyle products such as the MINI, current information technologies not only play an important role in the vehicle, but in future will also increasingly feature in aftersales products such as the new interchangeable key cap. On one side of the clip, marked by a slight elevation, an NFC transponder is built in, which is programmed with various actions and activities via free apps available from the app stores of the operating systems Android, Windows Phone and BlackBerry. This is a quick and simple process that the MINI customer can do him/herself. "To ensure cross-device and cross-platform functionality, *smart-TEC* only uses chip types specified by the NFC Forum, such as, in this case, the NXP NTAG203", explains Andreas Schlaudraff, Head of the company's Competence Centre NFC. The chip has sufficient memory to store a wide range of different actions.

Here are some examples of potential applications. The driver gets into his/her MINI and holds his/her NFC-enabled smartphone briefly on the car key. The Bluetooth connection is immediately activated, the read-out mode for incoming texts is enabled and the navigation app is launched. This is achieved by means of a one-time set-up process using a free app which stores the functions "activate Bluetooth, enable driving mode, launch navigation app" onto the NFC transponder. A large number of scenarios and examples of applications can be carried out in practice using NFC transponders and NFC-enabled smartphones to speed up and simplify everyday tasks, functions or actions.

## Photos (attached):



> The NFC key cap on the MINI, among other functions, enables the Bluetooth function of the smartphone to be activated automatically.



> Different design versions of the NFC key cap on the MINI.



## About *smart-TEC*:

*smart-TEC* GmbH & Co. KG is a company belonging to the RATHGEBER Group in Oberhaching near Munich. For more than 10 years, it has been developing and manufacturing customer-specific RFID transponders. It offers products ranging from self-adhesive, printed RFID and NFC labels to robust, long-life weather- and temperature-resistant RFID transponders for the industrial sector. The majority of the RFID transponders are certified for use in explosion hazard environments. *smart-TEC* also offers comprehensive project support in cooperation with system partners.

Our core competencies:

- Robust, durable, industry-compliant, weather- and temperature-resistant RFID and NFC transponders - including for explosion hazard environments
- Customer-specific RFID and NFC labels, printed or blank, with a wide range of chip technologies, frequency ranges and forgery- and tamper-proof features
- Comprehensive NFC expertise at our NFC Competence Centre
- Expert project consulting and support

## Want to find out more? Please contact us!

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