

Patent News of Japan

January, 2018

1. DENSO acquired US venture company InfiniteKey, Inc..

DENSO Corporation announced the acquisition of InfiniteKey, Inc. in October 2017, a US venture company who owns patented technologies of smart key / smart entry for using a smart phone as a vehicle key.

Through this acquisition, DENSO will accelerate business development utilizing smart keys with high security and convenience, having a view to penetration of a wide range of forms of mobility services, such as a ride sharing.

InfiniteKey is a software company owing advanced technologies of Phone-as-a-Key (PaaK) using smartphones as a vehicle key. By utilizing BLE (Bluetooth Low Energy), which is a power-saving wireless standard, it can be realized location identification technology required for smart key system with power saving and high security.

Smart key systems using smartphones can be available as temporary keys utilizing the cloud system, unlike traditional vehicle keys for vehicles. Therefore, it is also expected as a key to new mobility services such as ride sharing using one vehicle by multiple users, and certification for home delivery companies when using parking vehicles as home delivery box.

Through this acquisition, Infinite,Key became a division of DENSO International America, DENSO's North American regional headquarters. Is is said, this acquisition will further promote the speedy development of next-generation technology.

For more details, please see the news release of Denso

<https://www.denso.com/global/en/news/news-releases/2017/20171214-g02/>

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2. Amendment of Japanese FI classification.

FI is a unique classification used at Japan Patent Office, which have been developed based on IPC. Amendments are being made in several fields once or twice an year to correspond to the advance of technologies and to function as appropriate search key. For the latest FI classification table can be found in JPO website

https://www.jpo.go.jp/shiryousonota/fi_kaisei.htm.(Japanese)

Since November 13, 2017, total of 224 facet classification symbols have been abolished from FI classification. After the date, these symbols have not been classified to patent documents. It is possible, however, to search the documents by facet symbols classified by November 12. For more details, please refer the notice by JPO

http://www.jpo.go.jp/shiryousonota/facet_kaisei.htm.(Japanese)

As previously announced, broad facet symbol “ZIT” was introduced by JPO as cross-sectional classification. From April 2017, this ZIT symbols have been divided according to 12 fields. As a result, now users can search and analyze IoT related patent information in detail according to the fields.

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If you have any questions and enquiries, please contact international-dept@jpds.co.jp

