

Protection against espionage with top-rate encryption

Tap-proof mobile telephone for confidential communication

■ Munich, 21 June 2001 — The TopSecGSM from Rohde & Schwarz SIT, a subsidiary of Rohde & Schwarz, is the first tap-proof mobile telephone on the market. It is based on a standard Siemens mobile phone which has been enhanced with a crypto module. By pressing a button, the user can switch to the crypto mode and carry out secure mobile communications. A combination of asymmetric 1024-bit encryption and a symmetric 128-bit algorithm offers the highest level of security. The GSM crypto telephone is particularly suited for companies, banks, authorities and governments, which also would like to protect themselves against unauthorized listeners while on the move.

Damage due to business espionage amounts to billions worldwide. That is reason enough for companies to protect themselves. Government officials, authorities or banks and insurance agencies must also ensure the confidentiality of their communications. With the TopSecGSM, Rohde & Schwarz now offers a tap-proof mobile telephone which is indistinguishable in appearance from a conventional mobile telephone. The basis is the S35i mobile telephone from Siemens, which has been enhanced with a crypto module. This allows a user to press a button and switch to the crypto mode for encrypted mobile communications.

For encrypted transmissions, the device uses the GSM data channel. First, the station being called, which must also be a TopSec mobile telephone or have a TopSec box for landline use, is contacted for key exchange. A 128-bit key is randomly determined out of 10^{38} (10 to the power of 38) possibilities, and is securely transmitted by means of a 1024-bit encryption algorithm. This encryption process, which lasts approx. 10 to 15 seconds, is also shown in the display of both devices. Afterwards, an incoming call is signalled on the device called – the tap-proof connection is established.

The TopSecGSM crypto mobile telephone, which works in both GSM frequency ranges of 900 MHz and 1800 MHz, is available immediately from Rohde & Schwarz.

Rohde & Schwarz

The Rohde & Schwarz group of companies with headquarters in Munich develops, produces and markets communications and T&M instruments and systems with the emphasis on mobile radio, broadcasting, EMC measurements, general-purpose and RF test equipment, radiomonitoring and radiolocation, radiocommunications as well as communication security. Rohde & Schwarz has subsidiaries and representatives in over 70 countries. The group with its 5.000 employees achieves an annual turnover in excess of 800 million Euro worldwide.

Rohde & Schwarz SIT GmbH

Rohde & Schwarz SIT GmbH, a subsidiary of Rohde & Schwarz GmbH & Co. KG, offers solutions to security problems in information technology. Key activities are the development of crypto products for the protection of data in modern information and communication systems as well as consulting and IT security analyses for industry and government authorities.

All press releases are available on Internet at <http://www.press.rohde-schwarz.com>.