

“FastFoot-Challenge”: First LIVE Channel for GPS Games

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The spin-off company “urban team” of the Center for Computing Technologies (TZI) has caused a furor with FastFoot-Challenge in the world of video games. The former computer scientists of the University of Bremen have brought together, what did not belong together before: the combination of sports and video games. In the action game FastFoot-Challenge, up to five players compete against each other with their mobile phones and GPS receivers and transform 2km of city, park, or forest into their playing field.

But GPS games are not only fun for the players, they are exciting for the audience, too. With FastFoot-Challenge LIVE, urban team now offers the players a virtual stadium. On the basis of the satellite maps of Google Earth, viewers from all over the world can follow the games live on the Internet. With the high level of detail of the live broadcast, the audience can exactly see the positions of the players and can get a picture of the players' strategies. Because FastFoot-Challenge is playable in most parts of the world, the viewers will be taken on a journey to a variety of locations. “We want to establish GPS games and GPS sports as exciting live entertainment and provide the players with a broad audience.”, says Tom Nicolai of urban team.

The website www.fastfoot.mobi is the entry point for the live channel. A list of upcoming play events acts as a program. Viewers can directly tune in to ongoing games. The application Google Earth is needed for watching, which provides satellite maps of the playing field. The live positions of the players, the borders of the playing field, and the current scores are directly streamed into the Google Earth. Further information about the players is also accessible.

The premiere of the live channel is on Oct. 12th, 2008, at 15:00 UTC and is then open to all FastFoot-Challenge players. Early players are awarded with a prize. They can win an accommodation at Langnau in the Emmental (Switzerland) or in Bremen (Germany). Langnau offers its visitors the first GPS outdoor playing area in Switzerland. But not the players with the most points will win. Only those who are able to reach the broadest audience have a chance to win.

FastFoot-Challenge was released in June this year on the videogame event Games08 in Berlin, Germany. Playing is free of charge. The game was developed to run on a variety of today's mobile phones. Currently, over 200 different models are supported, including Windows Mobile devices.

urban team was founded in March 2008 as a spin-off company of the Center for Computing Technologies (TZI) located at Bremen, Germany. On top of its MCSP development platform, the company offers various products and services. urban team produces and distributes location based games, organizes GPS events, and realizes specialized projects in the field of location based services. The company is supported by the Bundesministerium für Wirtschaft und Technologie (BMWi) and the start-up network BRIDGE.

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