

RTI – navigating towards greater safety and a cleaner environment

Safety and the environment are the motives behind Volvo's investments in in-car information technology. RTI, Road and Traffic Information, is the first system on the European market to combine navigation with traffic information.

The purpose of RTI is to offer Volvo owners a system for safer, more secure and more environmentally sound driving.

RTI guides drivers simply to their destinations, wherever they may be in Europe. It helps them to find street addresses, hospitals, hotels, airports, Volvo dealerships and other important places. RTI also receives traffic information via TMC (Traffic Message Channel) and displays it in the form of messages on the screen, telling the motorist about tailbacks, accidents and road works in good time with the help of easy-to-understand symbols. RTI also helps to make driving more environmental, since the driver can both minimise the distance driven and avoid tailbacks.

The majority of the information is provided via a loudspeaker. A voice provides with instructions – in any one of seven different languages – on the simplest way to reach the specified destination. The system also says which way to turn, in good time before reaching a crossing – and the instruction is repeated just before the crossing.

Integrated screen

The 5-inch high-resolution screen is elegantly integrated into the top of the dashboard and flips up automatically when the ignition is turned on or, if the driver prefers, when the system is started via the special remote controller. The screen is linked to the main navigation unit, which is hidden behind the radio. With the help of signals from the GPS (Global Positioning System) satellite, the speedometer and a gyro, the exact position of the car can be calculated. The navigation system then works out the route to the specified destination and shows the information on the screen. The screen menu is also available in seven different languages.

Maps on CD-ROM

With RTI, the driver always know exactly where he is. And if he manages to get lost anyway, he will have no difficulty in finding his way again.

The maps that appear on the screen are stored on CD-ROM discs. When the system has been fully expanded, it will occupy six discs and cover the majority of western Europe, down to the level of small towns.

The speed at which the maps are being digitised varies in different parts of Europe.

The discs are read by a CD-ROM player which is hidden in the glove compartment without stealing any extra space.

Using the remote controller, the driver can change the map scale from 60 km per centimetre right down to 100 metres per centimetre.

RTI is a way for Volvo to highlight its ambition to provide customers with the opportunity to use modern information technology in their cars. But the technology is not an end in itself – its purpose is to make driving simpler and thereby safer.