

***Hermine*, the Talking Washing Mashine**

At CeBIT 2003 SPEECH EXPERTS demonstrates how a washing machine can be operated by speech. The prototype "sits" in a machine provided by B/S/H/. *Hermine* is not only easily and comfortably controlled by speech. She also gives assistance in garment sorting and in how to treat your laundry.

The dialogue with the washing machine is designed for natural and flexible speech interaction. The machine understands you - no matter if you use simple commands or sentences such as *I want to wash silk at 30°C without spin-dry*. Of course, the washing machine also understands extra settings like *prewash* or *delay the start for half an hour*.

The big plus of *Hermine* is that she proves as an adviser in doing the laundry. She has tips for adequate detergents and setting the best program. She knows about how to clean your cloths of chewing gum or wax. For "absolute beginners in the launderette" she offers a special assistance. In a tutorial she tells you from scratch what you need to do with the laundry. She will help you in how to tread the stains, in garment sorting or how to properly load the machine. Simply ask *Hermine*, and you will receive the right answer.

SPEECH EXPERTS develops intelligent speech systems for automatic services. Besides from household applications we are experienced in the field of automotive and telephone applications. Our core competences comprise dialogue design and specification, rapid prototyping and the evaluation of dialogue systems and multi-modal systems.

SPEECH EXPERTS was founded in 2002 as a company with limited liability. The company has over 15 years of experience in the research and development of speech technology.

The founding members of the company have been involved in a number of projects with prime companies such as Audi, Bosch-Siemens Household Appliances, DaimlerChrysler, Ericsson, Sony, Telekom, Temic and Toshiba.

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