

Dashboard Devices Bows Car Computer

By Amy Gilroy -- TWICE, 12/23/2008 9:14:00 AM

Clearwater, Fla. — Market newcomer Dashboard Devices will unveil a \$2,700 in-dash double-DIN computer for the car at the **2009 International CES** that reads aloud the users' email and has other advanced features.

The computer series, called the ENV, is slated for spring production and will be sold initially through computer resellers and then to CE car audio retailers, said the company. Dashboard claims its computers are unique because they offer true dual zone ability, where kids can control their programs from the rear seat and adults can control their A/V and navigation from the front.

The Dashboard Device ENV computer features Wi-Fi, voice activation of many functions and full computer capability plus navigation and DVD. The device runs Windows XP with an automotive interface and has a 160GB hard drive. It will have Internet radio capability, USB iPod control, satellite-radio capability and possibly built-in HD Radio. A second version will offer full GSM cellular capability, and the company is in talks with AT&T as a service provider. The system uses a 7-inch touchscreen; additional screens may be purchased for the rear seat.

The computers will also allow automatic software updates, said Dashboard Devices.

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