A proud achievement

AN Android Vehicle Control System, which allows drivers to control the system of a car by only using a smartphone was created by a team of students from Universiti Kuala Lumpur Malaysian Spanish Institute (UniKL MSI), Kulim, Kedah and recognised in the Novel Research and Innovation Competition (NRIC) 2015 recently.

The control system, which was developed by final year students of Bachelor in Engineering Technology of Automotive (BETA) in Mechatronics UniKL MSI has indirectly defeated the other 123 groups of students from various institutes who also took part in the competition.

Norzalina Othman, advisor of the vehicle control system project said the students were able to achieve a Gold Medal and the Special Innovation Award through their participation in the event, which was organised by Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM).

The adviser said that the unexpected achievement does not only make herself proud, but also the whole UniKL MSI.

"Six quotas of smartphones are sure to reduce risk of loss of the owner if something such as losing the vehicle's key, which is very common, occur," she said.

Norzalina added that the system developed by her students is the first of its kind in the country, with various controls including a few vehicle systems, which also include the single vehicle-centred key system.

Through this system, the owners of the vehicles can lock or unlock their vehicles within the range of 17m by only using their smartphones. The system is better than the typical alarm system, which is currently used in the country's automotive industry.

As a matter of fact, by using this system, the owner or driver of a vehicle can use their smartphone to control the vehicle's signal system, audio and even start up the engine without using any key.

Norzalina also explained what makes this project more special is that the vehicle's control system can be installed in six different smartphones at one time for a particular vehicle, making it easier for the driver or owner involved.

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She said that among the benefits of the system is that owners of the vehicles will be able to get a signal through their smartphones if their vehicles are facing danger, such as disaster or burglary.

She also mentioned that the system uses a remote control connected with the vehicle's wiring system and the remote control can be controlled directly through a smartphone.

"The system can be upgraded at any time as soon as it is installed in the vehicle since a research is being done to allow the system to control more functions of the vehicle, such as the steering lock system while the vehicle is moving," explained Norzalina, who is also a senior lecturer in UniKL MSI.

For details on UniKL MSI, look out for the advertisement in this StarSpecial.