

## **Economics minister Rentsch visits “IPmotion” in Heuchelheim**

Heuchelheim (so). A stable Internet access via free WLAN in buses and on trains? That would be a real benefit for passengers, and would increase the attractiveness of (local) public transport considerably. A dream? No, because it can easily be achieved. And a small company with 15 employees in Heuchelheim knows and shows how.



Wolfgang Greilich (2nd from left) and Florian Rentsch (3rd from right) learn about the routers for buses and trains from Florian Kempff (right). (Photo: so)

“IPMotion” develops and constructs tailored WLAN routers for buses and cars, which are positioned on the market under the name Car-A-Wan and offer wireless Internet for the operation of mobile phones, tablets and laptops on the move. And independently of the vehicle manufacturer. On Friday economics minister Florian Rentsch was visibly impressed by the potential, when he paid a visit to the company together with this fellow party member, and political group chairman of the liberals in the state parliament, Wolfgang Greilich from Gießen.

Thanks to two data modules, dead spots and failed cell changes at high speed are also a thing of the past. “Work like in the office” is what managing director Florian Kempff promises even for those on the move. What once began as luxury equipment on shuttle busses for professional footballers has for some time now been mass produced, with a high level of use, for example in Switzerland. In about 1,250 buses and thus on 70 per cent of all Postauto lines, WLAN access with routers from IPmotion is available free of charge.

Surveys show that the service is proving popular even of short journeys. Users spend an average of 15 minutes online. A free network is thus also an incentive to switch to the bus or train and therefore travel in a more environmentally-friendly way. Private and business use during a journey is an additional benefit when there is a continuous WLAN connection throughout the bus or rail networks. Mr. Kempff deplores the fact that so far this is not available in Germany either in all vehicles or on all lines, that WLAN is often not free and that availability depends on the initiative of individual companies within the transport networks.

The managing director asked the minister to campaign for an Internet service to be added e.g. to the Rhein-Main Verkehrsverbund transport service, especially since Deutsche Bahn is in the midst of planning such an offer for its long-distance trains. Benefits and a loyalty factor for passengers, even making short journeys, should not be underestimated, he added.

### **First routers in Estonia**

“IPmotion” was founded in 1999, was involved in Internet radio for a while and installed its

first routers in 2003, including on trains. Namely in Estonia on trains operating between Tallinn and St. Petersburg. Serial operation in trains will hopefully be the next major development stage here in Germany.