

AUTOMOTIVE

## Mercedes ups infotainment capabilities via real-time parking assistance

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*Mercedes E-Class*

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By STAFF REPORTS

German automaker Mercedes-Benz is helping drivers of its E-Class vehicles easily find parking.

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Mercedes has partnered with INRIX, Inc., a connected car service and movement analytics, to assist drivers in locating off-street parking in Europe, and in the United States later this summer. The parking assistance feature will be incorporated into Mercedes' COMAND infotainment system.

### Parking with ease

INRIX's Off-Street Parking service provides Mercedes drivers with real-time parking information, taking the stress out of circling around city blocks looking for an ideal space.

The provided information includes routes to the closest garage locations, rates, limitations and restrictions and real-time occupancy. To do so, INRIX accesses a parking database that includes more than 29 million confirmed spaces in approximately 90,000 locations within 4,000 cities in 64 different countries.

Increasing user-friendliness, INRIX Off-Street Parking only displays open spaces that are not restricted in any way. The service also tells drivers of free and for-pay location to better serve their needs.



*Mercedes' Comand Online infotainment system*

"In the era of the connected car, having access to dynamic parking information is no longer a luxury for drivers but a necessity," said Andreas Hecht, executive vice president and general manager of automotive at INRIX, in a statement. "INRIX Off-Street Parking plays a critical role for customers who expect a high standard of performance and innovation in their driving experience."

Mercedes has turned to parking technologies to show off its own high standard of performance and innovations as well.

Last year, Mercedes took another step toward autonomous driving with the launch of connected features for its latest E-Class model.



*Mercedes E-Class*

The vehicle includes an Intelligent Drive system that enables the driver to ease off the controls on long stretches of road and a Remote Parking Pilot, which lets the owner park their car while standing outside of the vehicle using their cell phone. Rolling out semi-autonomous driving in a consumer model may help convince consumers of the benefits of the now-experimental full-fledged self-driven cars ([see story](#)).