

The new Truma iNet era begins

The Truma iNet System enables the Combi heater and Truma air conditioning systems to be remotely controlled anywhere and anytime

Words Andrea Cattaneo

The Truma iNet System is not just a remote control for the Combi heater and the Truma air conditioning systems, but paves the way for a networked Truma world inside recreational vehicles. "This is why we do not call it a GSM-Box, but an iNet System. A system that we will continue expanding and enhancing to make camping even more easy and comfortable," says Mark Joseph Müller, head of sales, marketing, service international. All future Truma devices will become part of the iNet System; this will also include new services and applications. "For example, we can imagine integrating water and gas filling level displays into the iNet world." Cooperations with external partners are also feasible. "The iNet System offers numerous possibilities; we are open to good ideas and look forward to discussions with our customers – vehicle manufacturers, dealers and end customers," says Müller. "We will decide which features to incorporate after discussing with our customers and partners in the industry." Thanks to its two TIN buses, the Truma iNet Box is open for numerous future products and solutions, and acts as an interface in the networked recreation vehicle. And not just in motor homes. Today, the Truma iNet System is also an interesting option for caravans, because the Truma air conditioning units can also be remotely controlled directly via the iNet Box and the Truma app, even without the control panel CP plus. Mark Joseph Müller: "One thing is certain: The Truma iNet System will make camping easier and more fun in motor homes and caravans alike."



Truma CP plus "iNet ready"

The new CP plus was not only adapted for remote control, it also has a new feature that guarantees more convenience when camping: automatic climate control. It allows the preferred temperature inside the vehicle to be kept constant despite the weather, and adjusts both the heater and air conditioning system in an intelligent manner. Target temperatures of between 18° and 25° C can be selected in 1° C steps. The automatic climate control only reacts if the actual temperature deviates a few degrees upwards or downwards of the set target temperature. Even brief temperature fluctuations, which can occur as a result of cooking or drying hair, do not have an impact on the automatic system. It will only readjust the units, if the temperature change remains constant for a certain time. The main sensor for the automatic climate control, which is the Combi sensor, should be located where the preferred room temperature is to be reached and it should be in a place that is not influenced by the outside temperature and direct sunlight or other sources of cold or heat. The Truma CP plus "iNet ready" has temperature displayed in Fahrenheit and Celsius, and the time in a 12-hour or 24-hour format. The warm water levels were also changed from 40° C to 'Eco' and 60° C to 'Hot'. As in the past, it is possible to retrofit the digital control panel in all vehicles with older Combis (grey casing) by exchanging the Combi PCB and installing the CP plus. As of the end of August 2015, all Truma CP plus control panels will be iNet-ready and contain the new automatic climate control.



How the iNet System works



The heart of the system is the Truma iNet Box. It is the central control unit and enables communication between the Truma app on the smartphone or tablet and the Truma devices. In close proximity, this takes place absolutely free of charge via Bluetooth, i.e. the signals are sent directly. "Once outside the Bluetooth range, the iNet Box automatically switches to SMS communication," explains Martin Krauß, head of the energy systems product group at Truma. "Depending on the settings made in the app, an automatically generated SMS is sent. A personalised response SMS confirms that the required settings have been made. "This makes this intuitive system very easy to use." The Combi heater and the Truma air conditioning systems can be controlled automatically with the iNet System, thanks to the automatic climate control that is integrated into the new CP plus iNet ready. It ensures and maintains the perfect temperature inside the vehicle, regardless of the weather, via intelligent coordination of the heater and the air conditioning system. The automatic climate control can also be easily activated via the Truma app from a smartphone or tablet: Just set the required temperature and you don't need to worry about what the weather will do during the day or night. The iNet System also has other practical features: the status of the devices can be queried via the app, i.e. the settings of the operational



Truma devices. "If, for instance, I am unsure whether or how I have set the heater, the iNet Box can send me the information I require," says Krauß. The same also applies when querying the vehicle status. The iNet Box reports the current temperature inside the vehicle, the water temperature of the Combi, the on-board voltage and whether a mains supply is available. The equipment status and the inside or water temperature can now be queried by SMS, all other features are also available in the Bluetooth range. In addition, error codes of the Truma devices and the GSM status are also shown in Bluetooth mode – for example, whether a signal is available or if the SIM card is blocked. And that's not all: campers can also set an alarm function in the Truma app which will inform them via SMS if the temperature or on-board voltage in the vehicle has dropped below a value that the camper can set himself. "True to the 'plug and play' motto, we have ensured that the system can be installed intuitively in just a few simple steps," explains Krauß. In Bluetooth mode, up to twenty smartphones or tablets can be logged on; four smartphones/tablets can control the Truma devices at the same time. A mini SIM with its own call number, either prepaid or contract, is required for the GSM communication via SMS.

Company Profile

Truma has been supplying convenient accessories for caravans and motorhomes since the foundation in 1949 by Philipp Kreis, when he developed the "first officially recognised caravan heater" in 1961, therefore making it possible for the first time to consider winter camping. Today, Truma is an internationally successful familyrun company based in Putzbrunn near Munich that develops, produces and markets products from one single source. The Truma product range includes heating and air conditioning systems, through to hot water products and manoeuvring systems for caravans. Gas pressure regulators and power supply products round off the extensive product range.

