

POWERED BY WINDIGO

Hot on the heels of mobile phone technology came hands-free Bluetooth headsets that made it possible for people to walk and talk on their phones or listen to their MP3 players without having to connect their phones or players physically with their headsets.

Windigo Systems, a Wearnes subsidiary, has spent the last few years chasing the Bluetooth boom. Its first Bluetooth product – headsets for mobile phones – was a big success and is used all over the world today under various brand names. One reason for its early success was because it was the first to offer eight hours of talk time, cancel out background noise and have an extended battery life to boot.

Today's headsets are more sophisticated than the early models. They allow the user to switch between mobile phones and MP3 players automatically. This means that if a call comes through while the user is listening to music, the headset will automatically switch to the mobile phone and the user can take the call. When the call ends, the headset automatically switches back to the music player.

The headset can also be used on devices that combine mobile phones and Personal Digital Assistants like the Blackberry. There is also one developed for use with the Apple iPod. For those who want better sound quality, there are headphones which offer stereo sound quality.

There is more. Bluetooth can be found in cars as well. They automatically connect devices in the vehicle, such as GPS devices which use satellite technology, the car's stereo system and your mobile phone. So you can switch from one device to another using your headset without having to fiddle with any buttons on the dashboard. In fact, some car manufacturers are looking at using Bluetooth to wirelessly connect parts of the car engine.

The products, although manufactured by Wearnes, do not carry its name. It produces them for clients to their specifications and under their own brands. Wearnes gets a fee but not the credit, although somewhere on the product there is a very telling stamp which says "Powered by Windigo".

Which also helps bring new clients to Wearnes.

