

NEC to provide fingerprint matching technology for UK passport trial

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UK Passport Service biometric pilot

NEC, one of the world's largest IT security providers, has been selected by SchlumbergerSema to support the six month trial of biometric enrolment it is carrying out for the UK Passport Service (UKPS).

The trial will run for six months from January to June 2004. 10,000 volunteers will be enrolled in the trial, using biometrics to record their unique identity, and will then receive personalised demonstration smart cards carrying both printed and electronic information.

NEC has been involved in many high profile security installations, such as the Singapore Immigration Authority project, which covered the country's three principal entry points by land and air. The NEC solution in Singapore has blended the most advanced smart card technology with its state-of-the-art fingerprint matching system. Since launching in 2001, it has dramatically improved speed of access for visitors whilst heightening security for the authorities.

The pilot will test iris pattern and fingerprint biometrics enrolment and verification. The pilot will also test collection and verification of a facial recognition biometric.

A consortium of technology providers, led by SchlumbergerSema, will design, build and maintain the pilot equipment and software. SchlumbergerSema selected NEC as its sub-contractors due to its 30-year track record of delivering robust biometric solutions for high-profile organisations, from the US Criminal Justice to the Singapore Immigration Authority.

"From NEC's worldwide experience, we've witnessed the dramatic impact that biometrics have on improving access to public services for citizens, and enabling police and immigration authorities to provide a safer environment," says Carl Gohringer of NEC Security Solutions.

Carl continues: "We're delighted to be involved in these UK trials and look forward to providing our

technology and consultancy to make them a success.”

The trial will be used to gather independent data on the public’s reactions to the biometrics being tested. The research project will be conducted by MORI.

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About NEC Corporation

NEC is one of the world's leading providers of Internet, broadband network and enterprise business solutions dedicated to meeting the specialized needs of its diverse and global base of customers. Ranked as one of the world's top patent-producing companies, NEC delivers tailored solutions in the key fields of computer, networking and electron devices, by integrating its technical strengths in IT and Networks, and by providing advanced semiconductor solutions through NEC Electronics Corporation.

The NEC Group employs more than 140,000 people worldwide and had net sales of approximately billion in the fiscal year ended March 2003. For additional information, please visit the NEC home page at: <http://www.nec.com>

About NEC (UK) Ltd

Founded in 1973, NEC UK is responsible for the marketing, sales, installation and service of a comprehensive range of NEC’s IT, communications and display technologies.

With a proven track record in technical consultancy and multiple product streams, NEC UK can design, install and manage standalone and integrated solutions for corporate clients and their networks.

In mobile communications, NEC delivers the latest handsets (3G and 2.5G) and network infrastructure. For the business market, NEC supplies converged network solutions, physical and electronic security systems and advanced IT solutions, from server and storage hardware to e-business and supply chain management services. NEC also offers a complete range of display products and managed services based on its latest display screens and projectors for the corporate, professional AV and home cinema markets.

The turnover of NEC UK in the fiscal year ending March 2003 was £297 million. For further information, please visit: www.nec.co.uk