

Hitachi launches compact, contact-less Finger Vein Authentication device and SDK in Australia

TOKYO, Japan, 20 July 2007

Hitachi, Ltd. (NYSE:HIT / TSE:6501) today announced that it will begin the sale of its compact and contact less Finger Vein biometric authentication device and SDK (Software Development Kit). Full-scale availability and sales begin in July 2007 in Europe, North America, Asia, Oceania and others. Hitachi developed the product, based on the original model designed for the Japanese market and sold in Japan since October 2006. PC users can now guard against illegitimate access or leakage of information on their computers by using the vein patterns in their finger as the key to manage their computer login process. The finger vein unit has achieved its small size, high accuracy rate and low cost by employing a single-chip LSI design with this device. In addition, an SDK is available to allow for development of custom applications or integration into existing application environments.



Following several years of research and development of the finger vein pattern recognition technology at the Hitachi, Ltd., Central Research Institute in 1997, the company received a substantial number of patents. Thanks to the unique and "non-traceable" nature of the biometric technology, counterfeiting is not possible. Given the progress of today's ubiquitous information society, the need for practical and accurate biometric solutions is growing at a fast pace. Finger vein pattern recognition meets effectively these demanding requirements and allows for the efficient deployment of biometric authentication devices for a variety of applications.

As adoption levels of finger vein pattern recognition increase in Japan, the level of interest in the overseas market is also increasing. To date, Hitachi is seeing sales increases of the device in Southeast Asia, including Singapore. In addition, growth potential is expected in the United States and Europe, particularly for access control and related applications. Hitachi recently installed a system at the Shinkin Central Bank, New York branch.

The finger vein pattern recognition technology employs the vein pattern of the finger as the biometric feature. The finger vein pattern is impossible to counterfeit because the vein is inside the body. With some of the existing biometric systems, it is possible to acquire biometric data without the knowledge of the individual [e.g. finger-print, facial recognition, iris-scan etc.]. It is not possible to acquire the finger vein biometric feature without the knowing consent of the individual meaning that from a societal aspect, finger vein pattern recognition is safe and secure for the individual. In operation, the process of data collection is based on a contact-less principle. Light penetrates through the finger using a light-transmission technique to allow the detection of the structure of the vein pattern.

The vein pattern is image-processed and uses a special algorithm resulting in digital data that can be stored in a relevant data repository. The device is compact and can be applied in a variety of ways including for car entry, personal authentication, PC login, and validation for ATM machines.

Hitachi has now commercialized the operating system and various applications including PC login devices and validation devices for ATMs for various fields in Japan. The validation device for ATMs is fast becoming a de facto standard, with about 80 percent of the financial institutions in Japan adopting finger vein biometrics as of the end of March in 2007 (based upon Hitachi's independent ATM market analysis within the banking sector).

Hitachi is increasingly focusing on creating solutions to answer various market trends aiming at the achievement of a safe, comfortable, ubiquitous information society, exemplified by making finger vein technology the de facto standard for high-security biometrics. For more information on Hitachi Finger Vein Authentication device, visit www.hitachi.com.au/australia.

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Hitachi USB Finger Vein Biometric Scanner PCT-KC8203

No.	Item	Specifications
1	Capture system	Infrared LED + camera
2	Interface	USB 2.0
3	Dimensions	59 (W) x 82 (D) x 74 (H) mm
4	Weight	96g
5	Power	DC5V +/- 5% < 500mA (Power from USB bus)
6	Environmental conditions Ambient temperature Humidity	5 – 35 deg. C 20 - 80% (No condensation)
7	USB cable	1.8m
8	Software	Windows logon Screensaver Unlock Substitute Password Typing
9	Maximum Enrollment	100 fingers
10	Accuracy	False Rejection Rate: 0.01%, False Acceptance Rate: 0.0001%, Failure To Enroll Rate <0.03% ISO Standard based evaluation (ISO/IEC 19795-1)
11	OS	Windows XP (Home/Pro) Windows 2000 (Pro/Server) Windows Server 2003 (Std/R2) English version ONLY

Software Development Kit (SDK)

No.	Item	Specifications
1	Software Development Kit (SDK) (English version)	BioAPI2.0 Interface Appended Security Functions Available ANSI C source code using SDK (For Reference) Available OS: Windows XP Professional (SP2) English Version ONLY

For media and sales enquiries, please contact:

Nigel Best

Hitachi Australia Pty Ltd

Tel: + 61 2 9888 4176

Email: nbest@hitachi.com.au

Web: www.hitachi.com.au/australia

Hitachi, Ltd., (NYSE: HIT / TSE: 6501), headquartered in Tokyo, Japan, is a leading global electronics company with approximately 384,000 employees worldwide. Fiscal 2006 (ended March 31, 2007) consolidated revenues totaled 10,247 billion yen (\$86.8 billion). The company offers a wide range of systems, products and services in market sectors including information systems, electronic devices, power and industrial systems, consumer products, materials and financial services. For more information on Hitachi, please visit the company's website at <http://www.hitachi.com>.