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IRIS RECOGNITION

First IrisChip license heads to India

Indian company 4G Informatics has become the first licensee for Iridian's latest iris image acquisition technology, IrisChip. IrisChip technology has been designed to significantly reduce camera sizes and cost, and to accelerate the introduction of new image capture devices for security applications.

Iridian Technologies and 4G Informatics have signed an agreement that allows 4G Informatics of India to design and build a range of iris recognition cameras. 4G Informatics plans to develop a high-volume "public-use" camera for use in airports and kiosks, as well as a handheld camera to be used in law enforcement and other mobile security applications, and an inexpensive entry access camera.

The IrisChip system includes a modular imaging platform that combines commercial-off-the-shelf imaging technology with a chip-based implementation of Iridian's iris recognition software. The IrisChip system provides specific hardware modules and chip-based software for iris recognition processes such as iris image acquisition, image evaluation, and image-encoding, thereby reducing the size, cost, and time to market for new iris recognition cameras.

4G Informatics is headquartered in Hyderabad, India, and has previously deployed Iridian's iris recognition technology for various state and local governments in India.

According to Sreeni Tripuraneni, president and CEO of 4G Informatics: "We are confident that we can provide quality iris imagers at cost points that will be attractive to the growing security market."

Iris recognition cameras built on the IrisChip design will be Proof Positive certified.

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IRIS RECOGNITION

Smart Sensors teams up with Sarnoff

UK provider of iris recognition software Smart Sensors has teamed up with US-based Sarnoff Corporation in order to integrate its iris recognition and matching algorithm with Sarnoff's Iris on the Move technology.

Smart Sensors is a financial backer for the iris recognition work performed at Bath University

in the UK, the basis for its *MIRLIN* algorithms, which it claims are free from patent issues – an issue which has historically characterised the iris recognition sector.

Sarnoff's Iris on the Move platform allows people to have their irises verified at normal walking pace, without stopping to look at a camera. The system typically comprises four high quality cameras and infra red lighting. The cameras capture images at a rate of 15 frames/second, and algorithms detect the iris, performing a match on each image. The system performs optimally at distances up to three meters.

Sarnoff's demonstrations have so far used Iridian technology, but in its work with Smart Sensors it replaced these algorithms with *MIRLIN*.

The trial demonstration using Smart Sensors' technology was not large, but did show 100% correct recognition rate with no false matches. According to Smart Sensors founder Martin George, more importantly: "We've demonstrated that an alternative iris recognition algorithm can work in a product intended for the commercial marketplace with high speed and promising performance."

For Sarnoff the ability to prove its hardware offering is interoperable with other people's algorithms is an advantage, plus the end result could be a more competitively priced product.

In a separate development, Smart Sensors has put forward its arguments for making changes to standards governing iris recognition image exchange. According to George, his company's proposals – which were first announced at the recent ICASSP conference in Toulouse – would lead to iris images needing less storage than currently specified in ICAO's LDS for Machine Readable Travel Documents, and in ISO's 19794-6 image standard for iris images, while retaining full interoperability.

The ICASSP paper reported on the tests and theory that back up these claims and the company says its next step will be to propose the changes to the appropriate standards committees.

VISA

Biometric collection for EU visas made legal

The Commission has adopted and presented to the Council and the European Parliament a proposal which will create a new legal framework obliging Member States to collect biometric identifiers from visa applicants.

VIS is primarily being implemented to prevent visa shopping, facilitate checks at external borders and aid the fight against fraud. However, within the territory of the Member States, it will