Thumbs up!

Through its fingerprint verification device, PUC Founder (MSC) Berhad secured the MSC APICTA 2002 award in Best of Security Systems Solutions. The device is set to provide increased security and management functions for all in Malaysia.

PUC Founder (MSC) Berhad secured the MSC APICTA 2002 award in the Best of Security Systems Solutions category through its fingerprint verification device, the FingerTec Fingerprint Time Attendance and Access Control System. The first of its kind to be developed in Malaysia, the device uses biometrics to identify, record and provide/decline access to personnel for increased security and management functions.

Lee Fook Lin, executive director of PUC Founder (MSC) Berhad explained the conception and development of the security system. "It all began three years ago. At that time, we were scouting for new products to be developed and launched in the market. Funding was available through the success of our other ventures and we did not want to 'rest on our laurels', so to speak.

"Fingerprint security systems were already available in the market at the time, but it was a new concept and the

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systems were too costly. Incidentally, we discovered that Founder Group possessed the necessary algorithm technology for fingerprint identification. The algorithm captures images from one's fingerprint and transforms it into mathematical language, which is unique for each individual fingerprint. So we decided to capitalise on the situation and began developing the system and product.

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The FingerTec Fingerprint Time Attendance and Access Control System is basically a stand-alone device that monitors access to restricted areas using fingerprint verification technology, or biometrics. The technology is very reliable as it has a false rejection rate of 0.01 percent and a false acceptance rate of 0.001 percent. As compared to existing security systems, FingerTec eliminates the use of tokens like security cards and keys, which constantly need maintenance.

"The Access Control System is what we refer to as a 'true' security system, based on the third level of the 'Golden Rules of Security'. The first is password access or 'what we know'. The second being the card or key access, 'what we have' and the third is fingerprint identification, or 'what we are'," explained Lee.

"Unlike most similar products in the market, this system is equipped with two verification methods. It has one-to-one (verification with PIN numbers) and one-to-many (verification without PIN numbers) options. This means that the later feature allows different individuals access to less restricted areas without the hassle of keying in PIN numbers while the former requires individual fingerprint identification for access for highly restricted areas. In addition, the system has other flexible features such as ID pass through, bi-verification, PIN and password pass through, time zone settings, job settings, re-enrolment, suspended personnel identification and a easy-to-use reader, equipped with a keypad and a LCD display."

FingerTec's Time Control Management System is a PC-based system that uses fingerprints to record the clocking in and out of staff. It extracts data from the fingerprint readers to produce comprehensive and accurate management reports. The system also eliminates the 'buddy-punching' practice that is ever prominent among staff.

Teh Hon Seng, managing director of PUC Founder (MSC) Berhad.

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PUC Founder (M) Sdn Bhd is the holding company of PUC Founder (MSC) Berhad in Malaysia. It was initially started Lee and his partner Teh Hon Seng, to serve as an IT provider to the local publishing companies. They provided Electronic Publishing Systems (EPS) to the Chinese language press industry in Malaysia and Singapore.

Currently, the fingerprint security system research and development project is sponsored by the Multimedia Development Corporation Malaysia (MDC) under the MSC grant scheme and is in collaboration with the Multimedia University and the Peking University of China.

"Teh, who is the managing director of the company, played a vital role in the penetration of the Chinese EPS and MIS solutions market in this region. He handles the strategic planning and the overall business operations of the company," explained Lee.

The company is a member of the Peking University Founder Group Corporation, which focuses on the research, development and commercialisation of Chinese Electronic Publishing Systems (CEPS) as well as Automated Fingerprint Identification Systems (AFIS).

Lee Fook Lin, executive director of PUC Founder (MSC) Berhad.

"FingerTec's system could function as a stand-alone and in a networking environment as well based on its core fingerprint identification technology. We are looking forward to developing other related products integrated with this technology. Our target is the worldwide security market, particularly systems integrators, dealership channels and original equipment manufactures which focuses on biometrics solutions. Our product could be integrated with Smartcard readers, fingerprint locks, fingerprint security for PCs, and other related products.

"The utilisation of fingerprint identification technology has been identified in various sectors such as financial applications, residential and hotel access control systems, or governmental and civil solutions. Therefore, we see a lot of room to grow with our fingerprint identification technology," concluded Lee.