

Collaborations, the key to future innovation in biometrics

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Collaborations between major companies and Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) will lead to greater innovation in the field of biometrics, said UK face recognition experts OmniPerception.

The company, which is at the forefront of developing face recognition solutions for law enforcement, border security and leisure industries, has teamed up with defence and security giant BAE Systems to conduct cutting edge research into the development of biometric recognition technology.

The ground-breaking project which started last year is part of BAE Systems' Investment In Innovation (I3) programme, set up two years ago to encourage and support innovative small and medium sized enterprises in the development of innovative security solutions.

Stewart Hefferman, CEO of OmniPerception said there were clear benefits to collaborative working for the SME.

“It gives us access to resources of a large company like BAE Systems, reduces time-to-market and enhances our accessible markets,” he explained.

“It also provides us with access to other businesses within the BAE systems group.”

He explained that larger companies can also benefit from the agility of the SME to react to demands of commercial opportunities.

“Collaborative working can also provide the larger company with access to niche technologies, reduced time to market and enhance their reputation in the SME community as a credible partner.”

Dave Mullin, manager of Investment In Innovation said “I3 engages in an open manner with the future supply chain of BAE Systems to provide capability for our security and defence customers. The relationships we put in place through the programme should harness the best of what all parties have to offer and ultimately our customers will benefit.”

Initial project findings are expected to be released later this year.

OmniPerception showcased their technology at the recent BAE System Technology Conference on 4th February 2010. The conference highlighted the importance of flexibility and agility in order to meet evolving customer needs.

NOTES TO EDITORS

About BAE Systems

BAE Systems is the premier global defence, security and aerospace company delivering a full range of products and services for air, land and naval forces, as well as advanced electronics, security, information technology solutions and customer support services. With approximately 105,000 employees worldwide, BAE Systems' sales exceeded £18.5 billion (US \$34.4 billion) in 2008.

About OmniPerception

OmniPerception, a private British company based in Guildford, Surrey, is a global supplier of computer vision capabilities, specialising in facial biometrics and advanced image processing. The company's software is in widespread use in the UK and internationally, providing automated solutions for the recognition of objects and people in a wide range of customer applications – including secure biometric access control and facial imaging for police custody management and criminal investigations.

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