

London, 21 July 2009

HITACHI'S FINGER VEIN SECURES ACCREDITATION FROM FRENCH DATA PROTECTION AUTHORITY

London, 21 July 2009 - Hitachi's Finger Vein scanner, Biovein®, has achieved accreditation in France from CNIL, the French data protection authority.

Biovein® has been developed in partnership with Easydentic, the French leader in biometrics for enterprise security, and is comprised of Hitachi's finger vein authentication system in the form of door-access systems.

The global approval from CNIL marks a significant change for the French corporate security market, enabling all businesses to implement biometric recognition to secure and control access points.

Biometric technologies in France are subject to tight constraints to protect users' civil liberties. Hitachi's Finger Vein technology, however, enables the identification of people via recognition of their finger's vascular image, which is not considered by CNIL to be replicable. The accreditation means Biovein® is no longer subject to the same constraints that fingerprint biometrics are.

With Biovein®, Easydentic now has a major competitive advantage, allowing it to grow its market share in corporate security, notably in France, Italy and Luxembourg.

Hitachi's Finger Vein Authentication System captures images of the vein patterns inside the user's finger. The technology works by passing a near-infrared light through the finger, allowing an image to be recorded on a CCD camera underneath. The vein patterns, like other biometric data, are unique. But significantly, because they are inside the body, they are virtually impossible to replicate. In addition, the authentication process is quick, discreet and non-invasive.

As a result of the CNIL decision, Easydentic has experienced a double-digit rise in its share price. Patrick Fornas, Chairman and CEO of the Easydentic group, said: "The decision by CNIL to give its global approval for Biovein will give our sales networks a quicker sales cycle, as well as a unique positioning in this market. We therefore anticipate rapid growth in the coming months."

Ravi Ahluwalia, Head of Business Development EMEA at Information Systems Group, Hitachi Europe Ltd., commented: "As a leading security specialist, Easydentic is the perfect partner to help Hitachi make in-roads into the European access-control market.

"The combination of Hitachi's biometric scanner, which detects each user's unique finger vein pattern, and Easydentic's tried-and-tested external unit, will provide businesses with a quick and easy way to safeguard their assets, especially given that the global approval announced on 21st June 2009 confirms that Biovein fully meets CNIL specifications.

Ravi continued: "In our experience, European countries tend to follow the lead of CNIL. This decision will have a huge impact on the success of our Finger Vein scanner and will promote the spread of the technology across Europe."

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- **About Hitachi Europe Ltd.**

Hitachi Europe Ltd., is a wholly owned subsidiary of Hitachi, Ltd., Japan. Headquartered in Maidenhead, UK, it has operations in 13 countries across Europe, the Middle East and Africa and employs approximately 550 people.

Hitachi Europe comprises of nine business areas: rail systems; power and industrial systems; information systems; digital media and consumer products; display products; industrial components and equipment; air conditioning and refrigeration systems; manufacturing systems; and procurement and sourcing. Hitachi Europe also has three Research and Development laboratories and a design centre. For more information about the company, please visit <http://www.hitachi.eu>.

- **About Hitachi Ltd.**

Hitachi, Ltd., (NYSE: HIT / TSE: 6501), headquartered in Tokyo, Japan, is a leading global electronics company with approximately 400,000 employees worldwide. In fiscal 2008 (ended March 31, 2009) consolidated revenues totaled 10,000 billion yen (\$102.0 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, logistics and financial services. For more information on Hitachi, please visit the company's website at <http://www.hitachi.com>.

- **About Easydentic (www.easydentic.com):**

Easydentic is a major European player in innovative corporate security technologies. The Group operates in 12 European countries (France, Belgium, Germany, Spain, Netherlands, UK, Czech Republic, Portugal, Ireland, Italy, Switzerland and Luxembourg), and has 6 brands (EASYVEIN, EASYDENTIC and OYTECH for biometric access control, INNOVATYS and UNIWAYS for IP-based video surveillance and EDEN for R&D of software used in access management and access control system applications).

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