

# News Release

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## **Hitachi's new hand gesture biometric technology raises the bar for computer security**

*New finger vein technology set to remove passwords from the IT user's world.*



**LONDON, 00:01 GMT, Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> September:** Hitachi Europe Ltd., a wholly owned subsidiary of Hitachi, Ltd. (TSE: 6501, "Hitachi") today announced a first-of-its-kind biometric technology that allows users to unlock their computer by simply raising their hand. The intuitive biometric finger vein scanning technology is set to revolutionise computer security, challenging facial recognition, fingerprint scanning and password security as the easiest and most secure method of authentication.

Passwords, the traditional security method, are too easily lost, shared or guessed, to provide a credible line of defence in the face of mounting cyberattacks. For businesses, the cost of managing passwords is significant - Gartner<sup>1</sup> estimates that 40% of all contact volume for IT service desks is password-related, significantly driving up costs.

Newer biometric methods, such as facial recognition and fingerprint scanning have failed to provide total security. Commercial grade facial recognition technology is focused on convenience overprotection and fingerprint scanners, require the addition of specialist technology.

The benefits of this new technology in the areas of security, ease of use and cost are significant:

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.gartner.com/en/documents/2761018>

- The finger vein technology uses the computer's existing camera, removing the hassle and additional cost of hardware tokens, smartcards or biometric readers
- Non-replicable – finger vein patterns are unique and, being located inside your body, are very difficult to be copied
- Finger veins, unlike fingerprints, do not change with age or skin tone
- Unlike a password, the information cannot be lost, shared or guessed

Ravi Ahluwalia, General Manager, Hitachi Security Business Group EMEA and NA, said, "We have known for years the fallibilities of current authentication methods, but a viable alternative wasn't available. Our new hand gesture technology provides a major step forward, both for the user who doesn't have to remember multiple passwords, and businesses who want a cost-effective solution."

To verify their identity, the user simply raises their hand in front of the computer's in-built camera – the system captures the image, analyses the unique finger vein patterns and securely stores the data. When multiple finger patterns are matched, access is granted.

Hitachi's finger vein biometrics is already recognised as one of the most secure biometrics in the market and is used by banks for authorising transactions, password replacement, single sign on and ATM machines, in Japan, North America and Europe. Unlike fingerprints, vein patterns are extremely difficult to spoof or replicate. The scanned finger must be attached to a live human body in order for the veins in the finger to be authenticated.

The technology which will be demonstrated for the first time in London on September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2019, will first be available in 2020 in Europe and is part of Hitachi's commitment to partnering with clients to safeguard our future. Businesses have a collective responsibility to develop technological solutions and improve the security of data and access, that help to facilitate change in a safe and sustainable way. Environmental and technological concerns must be at the forefront of all business and industry to ensure real impact.

#### **About Hitachi Europe Ltd.**

Hitachi Europe Ltd., a wholly owned subsidiary of Hitachi, Ltd. (TSE: 6501, "Hitachi") is headquartered in Maidenhead, UK. The company is focused on its Social Innovation Business - delivering innovations that answer society's challenges. Hitachi Europe and its subsidiary companies offers a broad range of information & telecommunication systems; rail systems, power and industrial systems; industrial components & equipment; automotive systems, digital media & consumer products and others with operations and research & development Laboratories across EMEA. For more information, visit <http://www.hitachi.eu>.

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