

West Virginia Biometrics and Identity Management Newsletter

Issue Date: November 30, 2009

WVBI Web Site Now Links to NCWV Employment Opportunities

The West Virginia Biometrics Initiative Web site is now listing employment opportunities with biometrics/identity management, technology, and consulting companies doing business in West Virginia. To learn how your company can be linked to our site, contact Bob McLaughlin at (304) 677-9961 or rmclaughlin@i79developmentcouncil.com. This is a great time to "come home to West Virginia" due to the vibrant and expanding technology sector in north central West Virginia (NCWV). Contrary to most parts of the country, many companies in NCWV have the "Help Wanted" sign out. To view job opportunities, go to <http://www.wvbiometrics.org/links/west-virginia-companies-employment-pages/>.



Home Secretary Alan Johnson Pleased With Success of Face Scanning Technologies at UK Border Controls

Nearly one million passengers have used the latest face scanning technology at Britain's airports, the Home Secretary, Alan Johnson announced today. He confirmed the figure while visiting the state-of-the-art facial recognition gates at Gatwick Airport's North Terminal. More than 950,000 passengers have used the secure self-service gates which scan biometric details and then check them against a range of watch lists before allowing the passengers to enter the country. The facial recognition gates offer legitimate passengers the choice between queuing at traditional, staffed passport controls and using the self-service gates. More than 50,000 passengers have used the gates at Gatwick since their introduction in August 2009.

<http://www.egovmonitor.com/node/31138>

Research and Markets: Biometrics - Trends & Opportunities Worldwide

DUBLIN--Research and Markets has announced the addition of the "Biometrics - Trends & Opportunities Worldwide" report to their offering.

Increasing security concerns ranging from individual identity theft, corporate security, to even national security represents factors that are important to the biometrics market. Some countries have already rolled out biometric systems at airports and other ports of entry to check flow of illegal immigrants into their respective territories. On the technological front, non-contact systems could emerge as the answer to expel inhibitions exhibited by users. Development of industry-wide standards has been initiated by some industry groups, which would lead to lower costs and enable easier adoption of present and emerging technologies. Government initiatives could emerge as the key to biometrics growth.

http://www.businesswire.com/portal/site/home/permalink/?ndmViewId=news_view&newsId=20091120005236&newsLang=en

DHS Praised for International Registered Traveler Program

The U.S. Travel Association applauded the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) for expanding and making permanent its Global Entry program. Global Entry is an international registered traveler program created to enhance security and expedite the entry process for Americans and foreign visitors. The U.S. Travel Association advocated for creation of the program and funding for its expansion to the top 20 U.S. airports for international arrivals.

<http://www.travelagentcentral.com/government-regulations/dhs-praised-international-registered-traveler-program-18477>

NIST Zooms in on Iris Recognition

Irex program aims to help mature the biometric authentication method as a tool for PIV cards. The National Institute of Standards and Technology is working with industry to encourage development of standards for iris recognition technology, and a recent testing program focused on small images that could fit on identification cards. The Iris Exchange program, or Irex, "is about image-based interoperability," said Patrick Grother, a supervisory computer scientist at NIST and co-author of a report on recently completed algorithm tests. The tests were part of the first phase of Irex and included 19 algorithms from 10 providers, demonstrating strengths and weaknesses when used with various image formats and data compression methods defined by the International Organization for Standardization.

<http://gcn.com/articles/2009/11/30/update1-irex-nist-iris-recognition.aspx>

U.S., Canada will Share Refugee Fingerprints

The United States says it will join Canada, Australia and Britain in sharing fingerprints and other data to help authorities discern people's true identities in cracking down on asylum shopping and unlawful immigration. The program would allow governments to ferret out fraudulent refugee claimants by using fingerprinting and other methods to get details about identity, nationality, travel and immigration history. Canada and the U.S. conducted a trial run two years ago in which authorities exchanged fingerprints on 343 refugee claimants.

<http://www.cbc.ca/canada/story/2009/11/24/biometrics-refugees024.html>

Biometrics to be Used to Enhance Identification and Removal of Criminal Aliens in Michigan

DETROIT – Law enforcement agencies in southeastern Michigan will benefit from a new initiative developed by the Departments of Justice (DOJ) and Homeland Security (DHS) that modernizes the process used to accurately identify and remove dangerous criminal aliens from the community. The initiative, Secure Communities, is administered by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). Secure Communities enables ICE to determine whether an individual arrested by a participating state or local law enforcement agency is a dangerous criminal alien and take the appropriate action to remove that individual from the community.

<http://www.vybes.com/news/2009/11/22/biometrics-to-be-used-to-enhance-identification-and-removal-of-criminal-aliens-in-michigan/>

Biometric Sensors to Check College Absenteeism

In order to curb the increasing trend of absenteeism among college teachers, the Punjab Higher Education Department has decided to install biometric sensors in public sector colleges to have complete and exact details about their arrival and departure. An official of the department, on condition of anonymity, said the department had been receiving complaints on frequent basis that some teachers, in most of the colleges, were habitual absconders and were not ensuring their presence at colleges during the whole working hours. He said such complaints had been received even about the non-teaching staff. Biometric sensors, he said, would eliminate paper-attendance while complete record would be available on a simple click. The device would also help to assess the performance of teaching and non-teaching staff, he added. He said each staffer would have to touch the biometric sensor to check in and out, adding the device would automatically verify their thumb impressions.

<http://www.thenews.com.pk/print1.asp?id=210320>

UK Cops 'Arresting People to get their DNA': Report

Three-quarters of young black males now listed in database, report says

Police in Britain are regularly arresting people just to get their DNA samples into the country's massive biometric database, says a new report from a British government watchdog. The report from the Human Genetics Commission also says race is a factor in the arrests: While about eight percent of the British population is now listed on the DNA database, more than three-quarters of young black males, aged 18 to 35, are listed.

<http://rawstory.com/2009/11/uk-cops-arresting-people-dna-report/>

Face-Recognition Technology may be used at Hong Kong Border Checks

Hong Kong - Face-recognition technology might be used to screen the residents at Hong Kong border checkpoints, Security Secretary Ambrose Lee said Thursday. The wealthy city of seven million already uses fingerprint checks to allow permanent residents to pass through unmanned checkpoints using ID cards at its airport and land border crossings. Now the city is considering introducing face-recognition technology similar to that being put into use at Beijing's international airport, Lee said in a written answer to the legislators.

<http://trak.in/news/face-recognition-technology-may-be-used-at-hong-kong-border-checks/22604/>

Coast clubbers face fingerprint scans

GOLD Coasters could soon be required to have their fingerprints scanned to get into their local pub or club. Options Tavern in Helensvale has already taken the severe security measure, where a photo, driver's licence and fingerprint scan must be provided by a patron before entry. It is the first Gold Coast venue to introduce the tough measures and Surfers Paradise Licensed Venues

Association president Lino Girardi said others were looking to follow suit.

http://www.goldcoast.com.au/article/2009/11/23/161501_gold-coast-news.html

Indian capital Delhi pays 22,000 'ghost workers'

The government of the Indian capital, Delhi, has been paying salaries to 22,853 civic workers who do not exist.

Salaries for the missing Municipal Corporation of Delhi workers add up to nearly \$43m a year, City Mayor Kanwar Sain said in a statement. The "gap" was discovered after the authorities introduced a biometric system of recording attendance. Correspondents say it shows some civic officials created a list of "ghost workers" to siphon off state funds. The Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) employs more than 100,000 cleaners, gardeners, teachers and other workers.

http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/south_asia/8380010.stm

National Biometric Database on Hold

A joint Knesset committee on Wednesday formally approved delaying the establishment of the controversial national biometric database for two years. In accordance with the compromise set forth by Minister Michael Eitan, during the two year period, those citizens wishing to take part in the database may do so, but no one be compelled. The biometric issue recently reached a peak, with many rejecting its legitimacy, insisting it represents a gross violation of one's privacy, and poses a major security risk, two points which outweigh all the benefit of such a database opponents insist. Proponents state that in today's day and age, the database is essential, and its benefit is immeasurable in many areas, including defense and law-enforcement, as well as for identification of victims.

<http://theyeshivaworld.com/article.php?p=42611>

Meeting and Conference Dates

2009 Mid-Atlantic SBIR/STTR Conference

The 2009 Mid-Atlantic SBIR/STTR Conference will bring together federal agencies, entrepreneurs, small companies, large companies, researchers, colleges and universities, venture capitalists and angel investors, federal laboratory and university representatives, as well as experts who provide assistance to or have an interest in doing business with ventures at various maturity levels.

Dates: November 30 – December 2, 2009

Location: Waterfront Place Hotel, Morgantown, WV

<http://www.midatlanticsbir.com/>

WVDEC ExporTech Conference

ExporTech - "Doing Business in the Americas" is a two-day, intensive education program designed to jump start your export growth in Latin America and other foreign markets. Through a combination of expert speakers, and small group discussions - combined with real world company research on what separates the most successful exporters from the rest - this program will help you answer key strategic questions about how to grow your business in Latin America and other international markets.

Dates: December 7-8, 2009

Location: The Greenbrier, White Sulphur Springs, WV

<http://www.buyusa.gov/westvirginia/exportech.html>

The 3rd International Conference on Ethics and Policy of Biometrics and International Data Sharing

In order to continue and expand to those in Asia interested in the international dialogue on biometrics, data sharing, privacy and security issues already started by the two previous conferences held in Brussels (2005) and Washington (2006), the EU funded initiative RISE (Rising pan-European and International Awareness on Biometrics and Security Ethics), will organize the 3rd International Conference on ethics and policies of biometrics in China, on the 4th and 5th of January 2010. This high level event will be hosted by the Biometric Research Centre of the Polytechnic University of Hong Kong, one of the most geographically and strategically attractive locations in Asia.

Dates: January 4-5, 2010

Location: The Hong Kong Polytechnic University, Hong Kong

<http://www.comp.polyu.edu.hk/conference/iceb/>

Winter 2010 Biometrics Summit

Attend the longest running, world renowned forum for advanced identification solutions including...Finger Print Technology, Iris Recognition, Smart Cards, and Vascular Biometrics. There will be over 20 innovative speakers who will share strategies and experiences in implementing biometrics. Register by December 8th to receive a discount.

Dates: February 22-25, 2010

Location: Miami, FL

http://www.aliconferences.com/conf/biometrics_summit_winter10/index.htm

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