

Biometrics guarantees digital signature authenticity

MIOTEC AND AVAIN TECHNOLOGIES TO COOPERATE

Miotec has signed a technological cooperation agreement with Avain Technologies, specialist in electronic transaction solutions. The companies have developed a digital signature based on biometrics, using Miotec's biometric PKI card and Avain Technologies' X-Sign application.

The solution is one of the first to combine biometrics with digital signature. The signature is secured by fingerprint instead of a PIN, which ensures absolute security. Miotec's PKI card is also interoperable with the X-Sign; the signature is then used with the card and a PIN. Miotec's smart cards and the browser-based X-Sign make up an overall solution offering customers secure electronic transactions. As each companies' know-how support the other, and as their customer segments are similar, cooperation between Miotec and Avain Technologies is a natural way of gaining new customers.

"As a result of this cooperation, we now have an electronic transactions and information management service solution that is secure and easy to use," says Pekka Kuosmanen, CEO of Avain Technologies. "The solution is applicable in governmental organizations as well as in private enterprises, and is being jointly marketed in Europe, the main marketing area for both companies".

According to Miotec CEO Timo Friman, the goal is seamless interoperability of different companies' products. "That benefits Miotec as well as our partners and customers," Friman states. "The solution developed in cooperation with Avain Technologies is special, as the PIN can be replaced with biometrics".

For further information, please contact

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Miotec's mission is to develop, market and produce cards and chip related software for secure transactions. Miotec's core competence is in specific smart card technologies and related software: biometrics, PKI, contactless chips, and their combinations. Miotec's turnover for the financial year 2001 amounted to 10.6 million euros (15 months). 64 per cent of the company's turnover comes from exports. In the beginning of 2002, staff numbered 120. Important customers are companies with large loyalty programmes, government and corporate sector, as well as banks and credit institutions. Miotec partner network is built in cooperation with system integrators and software houses, security system providers, teleoperators and local card manufacturers. For more information, visit www.miotec.fi.

Avain Technologies Oy is a Finnish company founded in 1997. It is specialised in electronic transaction solutions. Avain Technologies develops and tailors browser-based, user-friendly, secure and flexibly managed ready-made products for companies and organisations, allowing them to digitise customer service, workflow and decision making processes. By working in close and interactive cooperation with customers and partners, Avain Technologies develops products that allow companies and organisations to improve their operations and services, reduce costs and increase the commitment and satisfaction of both personnel and customers. X-Sign, the main product of Avain Technologies, is a unique key to the versatile and secure use of internal and external electronic services. With X-Sign companies can offer their customers and personnel a flexible and reliable way of making important transactions and electronic or biometric signing via the Internet or mobile phone - and in the future, also via digital television (Digi-TV). For further information, visit www.avaintec.com.