

# NEC opens biometrics centre

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BENGALURU

**May 26:** IT and networking solutions provider NEC India has launched a Biometrics Excellence Centre in Bengaluru to enable research, development and deployment of identity and forensics solutions for its clients across the globe. The centre, known as NBEC, will focus on India's law enforcement sector and civilian identification programme, company executives said.

As per a report from Frost & Sullivan, the Asia Pacific Biometrics Market has earned over \$165 million revenues in 2009 for hardware only and this is estimated to reach \$700.7 million by 2015. Other reports suggest that the market is anticipated to grow at a compounded annual growth rate of around 27 per cent during the period spanning from 2010 to 2012.

NEC India, which is a joint venture between NEC Asia Pacific and Japan's NEC Corp has been operating in India since 2006. The company has been developing fingerprinting technology solutions for more than three decades.

"The biometrics sector is yet to mature in India and there's a substantial piece of revenue in law enforcement and civilian identification programmes. We see an opportunity here," says Vikas Singh, country head of NEC India. Singh added that its fingerprinting devices have already been deployed in Karnataka's law enforcement agencies and that the company is now looking to upgrade the earlier models of the Automated Fingerprint Identification System. NEC India also hopes to soon be a part of the Indian government's unique identification programme.

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programme.

"The UID project is expected to be a Rs 150 to 200 billion opportunity for IT companies as it sets out to build an ecosystem around the project comprising biometrics, databases, smartcards, storage and system integration. The UID project is something we are following very closely," NEC India's CTO Kris Ranganathan said.

In India's aviation sector, NEC said it is looking at upcoming airports in the country to deploy its facial recognition surveillance solutions via sensitive cameras. The company said it is also currently working with a "large state insurance firm" to implement automated finger-printing technology. NEC India said it is looking to deploy products such as biometrics-based ATMs for financial institutions.