

NEC India offers ID solution for state insurance outfit

Launches biometrics excellence centre in Bangalore

Our Bureau

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NEC India, a wholly-owned subsidiary of NEC Asia and NEC Corporation, is deploying a fingerprint and face identification-based biometrics solution for a State insurance corporation.

It is working with Wipro on this civilian identification and enrolment project that is expected to cover around 80 million people over 6.5 years.

"The project began three months ago. Any project of this sort can take 15-18 months to deploy. It will uniquely identify the insured persons without duplication," said Mr Vikas Singh, General Manager, Services and SI, NEC India, at a press conference to announce the opening of the 'NEC Biometrics Excellence Centre' in Bangalore.

The Bangalore centre, in tandem with NEC's R&D centre in Japan, will help the company expand its business in the global market. The Bangalore facility will also cater to the "emerging" biometrics market in India, said Mr Kris Ranganath, CTO, Government and Public Global Solution Division, NEC Corp.

Apart from the project with the insurance company, NEC India is also talking to a few upcoming airports (for video surveillance) and banks (for biometric ATMs). The company also sees opportunities in biometrics for law enforcement. It already supplies automated fingerprint identification systems



Mr Koji Oda, MD, NEC India Pvt Ltd (left), and Mr Kris Ranganath, CTO (Government and Public Global Solution Division), NEC Corp, at the launch of NEC Biometrics Excellence Centre in Bangalore on Wednesday. — G. R. N. Somashekar

and solutions (that help trace fingerprints at the site of crime) to the Karnataka State Police and is looking to cover other States as well.

UID PROJECT

Although the biometrics market in the country is still in its infancy, Mr Singh hopes the Government's massive unique ID project will spur growth in the sector. "We are keenly looking at the UID project. It is a big

opportunity. NEC has already supplied a back-end software application for UID for evaluation," said Mr Singh.

The company has had a couple of technical workshops with the UID implementing body to share its expertise and experience in the biometrics field.

The \$43-billion NEC Corp, headquartered in Japan, is a player in IT integration and network technologies. Bio-

metric technology is a critical component of the company's offerings. Globally, NEC's biometrics solutions have been deployed in over 30 countries across 200 applications, including South Africa's post-apartheid unique ID project involving 70 million people, immigration control systems in Singapore, automatic vehicle clearance solution in Hong Kong and immigration security in Japan.