

2005 Year In Review

The response to this year's YIR was outstanding with 42 companies/industry experts responding to our questionnaire. We received responses from Canada, Australia, China, UK, Ireland, Sweden, Mexico, Germany, France, Korea, Japan and the USA.

Hear what the industry leaders thought about 2005 and what 2006 may hold for Biometrics!

Participants include:

LG Electronics, Identix, Sagem-Morpho, Daon, Accu-Time, Lumidigm, Bio-key, Identity Solutions Ltd, OSS Nokalva, Saflink, Cherry, Motorola, Acuity, Imageware, Bioscrypt, Cogent, IdentiMetrics, Control Module, Digital Persona, ZK Software, A4Vision, SecuGen, Fulcrum, TSSI, UPEK, iAccess, IriTech, Janus, Liska, Digital Defense, Cognitec, SecuriMetrics, iQBio, Precise Biometrics, Merkatum, Fingerprint Cards, American EPAY, Sense Holdings, Suprema, UltraScan, Technoimagia, Biometronix and AuthenTec.

As we compiled the results, it became clear to us that industry experts feel that this has been a year of positive growth for the Biometric Industry.

Let's take a look at a summary of our findings.

QUESTION 1.

In your view, what have been the three most significant events/announcements for the Biometric Industry this year?

The vast majority of our respondents felt that worldwide standards improvement such as M1, ISO SC 37 and more specifically, work on the HSPD-12 FIPS 201 PIV card shows growth and maturity of the biometrics industry. A total of 28 out of 42 or 67% indicating that worldwide standards improvement was the most important area for the industry this past year.

It was felt that the second most important development was the sharp increase in adoption of biometrics across the worldwide commercial and consumer PC markets, combined with the increased marketing activity to the public by IBM, Lenovo and others, with about 32% of respondents choosing this area.

Next, there were 11 different areas mentioned by at least 10-16% of respondents.

The areas mentioned were:

- L1 entry into the Biometric marketplace
- Implementation of the Transportation Worker's Identification Credential (TWIC) program
- Large-scale deployments/awards of Biometric technology (Cogent-Venezuela, LG-India, Precise- Thailand, etc.)
- Delays of biometric e-passports in EU and US
- Registered Traveler
- Increase in mergers and acquisitions; CrossMatch/Smiths-Heimann, Pay by Touch/BioPay, Technoimagia/Fingerprint Cards, etc.
- The Real ID Act and the impetus it will give to US-centric programs from drivers licenses to entitlement management programs with biometrics at their core
- Multi-modal biometric growth
- The rapid expansion of biometrics in the Asian cell phone markets
- UK Biometric Passports by 2009
- BION demonstration at BCC of the fingerprint template interoperability for minutia-based algorithms from Identix, Cogent, Sagem Morpho and Bioscrypt

Other important landmarks mentioned by at least 3 respondents include:

- The European Commission announcement of their five year action plan
- The growth of 3D Facial Recognition
- The passage of the ID Card Bill through the UK Parliament
- AuthenTec shipping 5 millionth sensor
- The increase in biometric passwords
- TSA releasing their guidance package
- ICE Challenge (Iris Challenge Evaluation) by NIST
- The announcement by Microsoft that Windows Vista will include native biometric and BioAPI support and the release of Microsoft Reader
- The launch of several fingerprint-enabled USB flash drive products into market along with many other very affordable peripherals
- The 10 Print RFI issued by DHS which requires compliance with BioAPI
- The FDIC two-factor authentication mandate for Internet banking.

Example Comments:

We think the BAAC or Biometrics for Airport Access Control guidance package will help achieve standards for programs within the Patriot Act or Homeland Defense Directive, including TWIC (Transportation Workers Identification Credential) and CAC (Common Access Card).

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