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Experts to discuss acceptance of biometrics in immigration services and identity management. New technology demonstrations presented as well.

Sydney – Friday 19 February 2010

In October 2009, the new Immigration Act passed into law in New Zealand. According to the Immigration Minister, Jonathan Coleman, it will enhance border security and improve the efficiency of immigration services. "Key aspects of the new Act include the ability to use biometrics, a new refugee and protection system, a single independent appeals tribunal and a universal visa system."

Over 50 experts from government and industry will gather at Holiday Inn Hotel in Wellington for the [6th Biometrics Institute New Zealand Conference & Exhibition](#) on the 26 March 2010 to discuss biometrics in identity management and immigration services and to see the latest developments in biometrics technology. The event is organised by the independent Biometrics Institute.

Free press passes for the media are available for this event (accredited press pass required).

The General Manager of the Biometrics Institute, Isabelle Moeller, describes the conference as "a must attend event, bringing the private and public sectors together to discuss how biometrics can help to strengthen homeland security, combat identity fraud and create efficiencies." She states: "We are extremely pleased that the New Zealand Privacy Commissioner Marie Shroff has agreed to address this forum about the importance of data protection in the context of biometrics".

The Biometrics Institute is the peak body representing over 100 organisations. It has been established to promote the responsible use of biometrics technologies.

It is independent and not-for-profit and has user and vendor members covering a significant span of Australian and New Zealand government agencies and users. These include entities such as Qantas and other key New Zealand and Australian vendors responsible for this cutting-edge technology.

Arron Baker, Group Manager (Acting), Service Design of Department of Labour will talk about Biometrics and Immigration while Fiona Lavin, Business Advisor and Tim Waldron, Senior Business Advisor from Identity Services of the Department of Internal Affairs as well as Janette Haughton, Assistant Secretary Identity Branch from the Department of Immigration and Citizenship Australia will address Identity Management issues.

Leading companies such as the Platinum Sponsor *Fujitsu*, Gold Sponsor *Unisys* and Silver Sponsors *Raytheon* and *Sagem Australasia* will showcase their latest technologies and services which can help counter the threat of terrorism, identity fraud and provide improved security and efficiencies.

"The conference provides a unique forum," comments Isabelle Moeller, "where users and vendors of biometric technologies come together to debate the issues openly and share their experiences. And the exhibition will offer a hands-on insight into the latest technology developments and is almost sold out."

Biometrics covers a variety of technologies in which unique identifiable attributes of people are used for identification and authentication. This includes voice, iris, face, hand and fingerprint recognition, which can be used to validate the identity of individuals seeking to gain access to computers, airlines, databases and other areas which may need to be restricted.

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