



PRESS RELEASE

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A*STAR'S WIRELESS STORAGE DEVICE CONVERGES DIGITAL STORAGE AND WIRELESS CONNECTIVITY

DSI researchers start company – EDS Lab Pte Ltd – to commercialise “Wi-DRIVE”

No bigger than an average-sized computer mouse, the *Wi-DRIVE* converges storage and wireless technologies, offering seamless data connectivity and mobility – without the need for physical cable connection.

Invented by the research team at A*STAR's Data Storage Institute (DSI), the *Wi-DRIVE* features proprietary wireless storage transport protocol and optimised power consumption, providing seamless access to data and data mobility to multiple devices simultaneously. This peer-to-peer wireless device is based on the widely adopted 802.11b/g Wi-Fi standard. The *Wi-DRIVE* addresses data security concern by employing a password-controlled access feature as well as optional data encryption facility. The “block-level” storage access makes it similar to an internal hard drive providing better efficiency and direct storage management functions.

EDS Lab Pte Ltd, signed a licensing agreement with Exploit Technologies Pte Ltd, the commercialisation arm of A*STAR, to make and sell the wireless storage device.

“The driving principle for DSI's research and development is to exploit and advance data storage technology for the benefit of Singapore's economy,” said Professor Chong Tow Chong, Executive Director of DSI. “The commercialisation of the *Wi-DRIVE* validates DSI's cutting edge research in network storage. The innovative convergence of storage device and wireless storage transport protocol pushes the paradigm of storage and mobility.”

EDS Lab will commence its pilot production in March 2006 and expects the product to be commercially available at retail stores in May 2006 through global original equipment manufacturers (OEMs), original design manufacturers (ODMs) and regional distributors. EDS Lab's team of R&D will be led by DSI's inventors of *Wi-DRIVE* to further develop the *Wi-DRIVE* for the consumer electronics, entertainment and education markets.

“With the *Wi-DRIVE*, users have an economic option to all those temporary storage technologies with a single compact device,” said Tay Kin Hock, CEO, EDS Lab. “With the proliferation of Wi-Fi enabled consumer products in the market such as

PDA, portable game consoles, laptops and mobile phones, etc., the Wi-DRIVE takes these devices to a whole new level of storage and connectivity. Whether for work or play, high resolution videos, photos or large data files can be stored and retrieve in seamless connection to these devices.”

EDS Lab will be exhibiting its Wi-DRIVE at CeBIT 2006, the international infocomm technology trade show in Hannover, Germany in March 2006.

“EDS Lab is the latest example of how A*STAR match-makes researchers who innovate and undertake good science efforts with investors to realize successful high-tech spin-offs,” said Mr Boon Swan Foo, Managing Director, A*STAR and Executive Chairman, Exploit Technologies. “The EDS Lab spin off will license the technologies for the Wi-DRIVE from Exploit Technologies, making this a win-win partnership for us all. We envisage this innovative solution for work and leisure to enhance the digital lifestyle of today and look forward to seeing EDS Lab penetrate international markets with A*STAR’s technology.”

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About A*STAR

A*STAR's mission is to foster world-class scientific research and talent for a vibrant knowledge-based Singapore. The Agency comprises the Biomedical Research Council (BMRC) and the Science and Engineering Research Council (SERC), Corporate Planning and Administration Division (CPAD), the A*STAR Graduate Academy (A*GA) and its commercialisation arm, Exploit Technologies Pte Ltd (ETPL).

The two research councils fund and oversee 12 public research institutes in areas such as bioinformatics, genomics, molecular biology, bioengineering, bioprocessing technology, chemical sciences, materials, high performance computing, information technology and communications, manufacturing technology, microelectronics and data storage.

(website: www.a-star.edu.sg)

About Exploit Technologies

Exploit Technologies Pte Ltd is the commercialisation arm of the Agency for Science, Technology and Research (A*STAR). Its charter is to identify, protect and exploit promising intellectual property (IP) created by the Research Institutes under A*STAR. This includes facilitating the IP management process, protecting inventions through patents and copyrights, evaluating A*STAR's IP, identifying their strengths and the markets that they can serve, and working with companies to commercialise the technologies.

(website: www.exploit-tech.com)

About Data Storage Institute

The Data Storage Institute (DSI) is a member of the Agency for Science, Technology and Research (A*STAR). Established in 1992 as the Magnetics Technology Centre (MTC), it was renamed Data Storage Institute in 1996. The research institute's vision is to be a vital node in a global community of knowledge generation and innovation, nurturing research talents and capabilities for world-class R&D in next generation storage technologies. DSI is a member of the non-profit Information Storage Industry Consortium (INSIC) of USA. For more information, please visit www.dsi.a-star.edu.sg

About EDS Lab Pte Ltd

EDS Lab Pte Ltd is a Singapore-based technology company that is principally engaged in the business of research and development, manufacturing and sale of Wi-Fi Enabled external storage products. It provides Product Design in Consumer Electronics and Computer Peripherals in applications such as portable digital storage device with high mobility for personal computers, notebooks, laptops, home/office network and a wide array of consumer electronics and communications applications. For more information, please visit <http://www.edslab.com/Home.htm>