

PRESS RELEASE

**TECHNOLOGY STRATEGY BOARD**

7 August 2008

**NEW RESEARCH PROJECTS WILL HELP TO  
ENSURE PRIVACY OF PERSONAL DATA**

**The Government is to invest over £5.5m in three new research projects that will help to develop the next generation of secure identity management systems.**

Three new research projects will see businesses, universities, a city council and other research and technology organisations working together to address the challenge of ensuring that privacy and consent is preserved in the next generation of identity management systems.

The Technology Strategy Board, Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) and Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) have joined forces to back the projects with an investment of over £5.5 million.

The three projects are:

**EnCoRe**, which will focus on the issue of providing more rigorous means for individuals to grant and revoke their consent for the use, storage and sharing of personal data, bringing together technological, procedural and regulatory developments.

**VOME**, a research project that will reveal and utilise end users' ideas and concepts regarding privacy and consent, facilitating a clearer requirement of the hardware and software required to meet end users' expectations.

**Privacy Value Networks (pvnets)**, will generate a detailed understanding of individuals' and organisations' conceptions of privacy and identity across a range of contexts and timeframes - using a range of techniques including in-depth privacy value and devalue chains analysis to model the impact of the personal information.

Explaining the background to the decision to invest in the three projects, the Technology Strategy Board's Chief executive, Iain Gray, said: "The next few years will see governments and businesses around the world making substantial investments in identity management infrastructures. In order to prepare UK businesses for competition in this global market, practical and cost effective solutions need to be developed which inspire public confidence by improving privacy and enabling consent as an integral part of future procurements."

“Society demands a lot from personal data systems. We want them to give us the freedom to buy, vote and bank on the internet but we also want them to protect us from the threat of terrorism and identity theft without invading our privacy”, said Professor David Delpy, Chief Executive of EPSRC. “This fundamental research has a unique approach, looking at both the technological advances that need to be made alongside the social considerations and implications. The long term aim is to ensure a good balance between freedom and security for everyone.”

### Notes to Editors

1. The three projects were chosen following an open competition managed by the **Network Security Innovation Platform of the Technology Strategy Board**, in co-operation with **EPSRC** and **ESRC** and in association with the Home Office and Identity and Passport Service.
2. The members of each consortium are as follows. For further information about each of the projects, please contact the relevant project leader:  
**EnCoRe**: Hewlett-Packard Laboratories, HW Communications Ltd, QinetiQ, London School of Economics, University of Oxford, University of Warwick. Project leader: Pete Bramhall ([pete.bramhall@hp.com](mailto:pete.bramhall@hp.com))  
Project website: <http://www.encore-project.info>  
**VOME**: Royal Holloway University of London, Cranfield University, Salford University, Consult Hyperion, Sunderland City Council.  
Project leader: Lizzie Coles-Kemp ([lizzie.coles-kemp@rhul.ac.uk](mailto:lizzie.coles-kemp@rhul.ac.uk))  
**Privacy Value Networks (pvnets)**: University of Oxford, University of St Andrew’s, University College London, University of Bath, Consult Hyperion. Project leader; Dr. Ian Brown ([ian.brown@oii.ox.ac.uk](mailto:ian.brown@oii.ox.ac.uk))
3. The **Network Security Innovation Platform (NSIP)** brings together key Government Departments, academia and business to identify where innovation can be used to improve the confidentiality and integrity of network communications infrastructure, the information being transmitted across the network and the systems that use it to communicate. Given the key issues of privacy and the protection of personal data, an important area of NSIP’s work relates to the challenge of ensuring that the next generation of identity management systems offer assured privacy, and depend on informed consent.
4. The **Technology Strategy Board** is a business-led executive non-departmental public body, established by the government. Its role is to promote and support research into, and development and exploitation of, technology and innovation for the benefit of UK business, in order to increase economic growth and improve the quality of life. It is sponsored by the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS). For more information please visit [www.innovateuk.org](http://www.innovateuk.org).

5. The Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) is the UK's main agency for funding research in engineering and the physical sciences. The EPSRC invests around £740 million a year in research and postgraduate training, to help the nation handle the next generation of technological change. The areas covered range from information technology to structural engineering, and mathematics to materials science. This research forms the basis for future economic development in the UK and improvements for everyone's health, lifestyle and culture. EPSRC also actively promotes public awareness of science and engineering. EPSRC works alongside other Research Councils with responsibility for other areas of research. The Research Councils work collectively on issues of common concern via Research Councils UK. Website address for more information on EPSRC: [www.epsrc.ac.uk/](http://www.epsrc.ac.uk/)
6. The Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) is the UK's largest funding agency for research and postgraduate training relating to social and economic issues. It supports independent, high quality research which impacts on business, the public sector and the third sector. The ESRC's planned total expenditure in 2008/09 is £203 million. At any one time the ESRC supports over 4,000 researchers and postgraduate students in academic institutions and research policy institutes. More at <http://www.esrcsocietytoday.ac.uk>
7. To speak to a leading technologist about these projects, or about the work of the Network Security Innovation Platform, please contact the Media Relations Manager at the Technology Strategy Board (see below).

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