

5.4.8 Descartes Biometrics



Juniper Research interviewed Michael Boczek, President & CEO, Descartes Biometrics in August 2014

i. Corporate Profile

Descartes Biometrics is a US-based technology company that specialises in the research, design and development of biometric identity and access management solutions specifically for the mobile sector. An independent company, Descartes Biometrics has developed a range of fully integrated, easy-to-use biometric authentication solutions for smartphones and tablets, as well as other portable devices.

According to Manta.com, Descartes Biometrics generates annual revenues of around \$1-\$2.5 million.

ii. Geographic Spread

For Descartes Biometrics, rates of adoption in US are impacted by the gap between perceived risk and actual risk of using biometric authentication. The company has observed that the UK is ahead of the curve in terms of adoption rates, with the US lagging behind.

iii. Key Clients & Strategic Partnerships

Major industries in which Descartes Biometrics operate include transportation and security.

iv. Products and Services

Descartes Biometrics has 3 core products:

ERGO (patent pending) is an ear biometric authentication technology designed specifically for smartphone users. It offers intuitive and non-invasive authentication for touchscreen devices and is premised on the combination of the gesture of lifting the phone to ear, in tandem with the unique geometry of the ear. Identity verification requires a combination of biometric data, as well as behavioural data derived from the speed at which smartphone is raised and the tilt of the phone when held against the ear.

OATH is a lock screen technology that provides an innovative way to unlock individual's stored profile. OATH uses a simple touch pattern on the tablet screen, to recognise instantly an individual user and provide immediate access to their Android profile.

Key Features:

- Fun and easy to use unlock technology for Android tablet
- Touch pattern and sequence recognition
- No more PINs and Passwords to remember
- Share a single tablet across multiple users of all ages
- 3 security settings to accommodate every use case

Descartes Biometrics has also developed a hand geometry/pattern recognition system that leverages the same underlying technology used to capture, recognise and detect an ear using a front facing camera. The hand geometry/pattern recognition system will be added to OATH at a later date.

HELIX (patent pending) is a new cross-platform ear biometric image capture technology specifically designed for the mobile phone sector. Rather than taking an imprint of the ear, as ERGO does, it captures an image of it, cross matching unique reference points to authenticate the user.