

Tech News

Spreading wings in horizon

Motorola BCS rolls into a strategic tie-up with Sirius Broadband (BD) Ltd.

NAFID IMRAN AHMED

MOTOROLA'S Broadband Communications Sector (BCS) initiated a strategic partnership with Sirius Broadband (BD) Limited in Bangladesh, as it sets its eyes on expanding its role as a pioneer in the communications revolution.

This was announced at a press briefing on October 22 at a restaurant in Dhaka.

Their merger has put Sirius Broadband (BD) Limited in a position to lead the convergence of voice, video and data technologies. They have become Motorola's new authorised distributor for IP & Wireless Products in Bangladesh.

Gareth Maloney, technical account manager, Motorola BCS, Europe, Middle East, Africa, and

Nauman Bajwa, account manager, Bangladesh and Pakistan, Motorola BCS, were present during the ceremony. Ziaur Rahman, chairman, Sirius Broadband (BD) Limited, and Mansur Habib director Sirius Broadband (BD) Limited were also present.

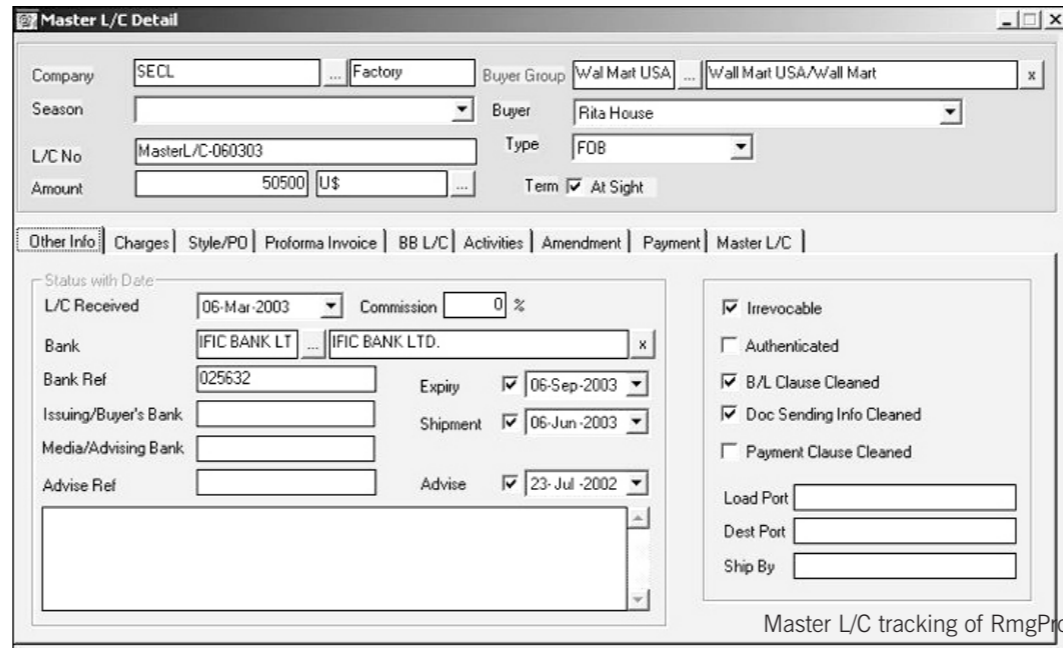
"It is strategically important for Motorola's Broadband Communications Sector (BCS) to have professional partners such as Sirius Broadband (BD) Limited within our distribution channel network," said Maloney.

He also said Sirius Broadband's experience in the Bangladesh broadband market, technical innovation and overall quality made them achieve the high standards that Motorola Broadband Communications Sector (BCS) require.

Motorola BCS is one of the world's leading suppliers of digital cable set-tops and cable modems. In Bangladesh, Motorola BCS aims to provide technology that will enable network operators and retailers to create and execute new business opportunities by providing innovative products and services.

"We appreciate Motorola's recognition that Sirius Broadband is capable of providing Motorola's next generation IP and wireless broadband solutions," said Ziaur Rahman.

"Motorola cable TV and optical node solutions will also be available for our customers. We're looking forward to the opportunities presented to us by having Motorola solutions on our shelves."



Spectrum's ERP solution for RMG

SADIA MAHFUZ

THE only sector to have single-handedly contributed to bolstering the economy is the Ready-made garment (RMG) industry. The apparel industry contributes a generous 76 percent to Bangladesh's net earnings -- approximately \$5 billion.

However, this industry still operates using antiquated methods that are almost redundant in the rest of the world. In this Digital Age, the garment industry could use a transition from manually operated business processes to an automated one.

The use of just about any enterprise resource planning (ERP) software will not bring about the desired effect of an automated process -- customised RMG software should be tailor-made for the specific industry.

Attempts at creating specialised software addressing the needs of the local industry have

so far been few and feeble. One such endeavour would be that of Spectrum Engineering Consortium Ltd. (SEC).

With the aim of automating and integrating business operations and processes of the RMG sector in Bangladesh, SEC has come up with an ERP solution package called RmgPro.

A seminar was held on October 21 at a local hotel to launch this software and discuss the needs of implementing the ERP software. Experts, garment unit representatives and senior Spectrum executives spoke on the qualitative business advantages offered by RmgPro.

RmgPro is a composite software incorporating the functions of merchandising, warehouse management, inventory management, production planning, production management, delivery management, human resource management, accounts and finance, security and data transfer and management information

system.

Designed for operation at mid-level managerial positions, this software is said to encompass the entire life cycle of an export order. SEC claims that this software will provide a host of benefits to the company including fully integrated operational and planning control, reducing time loss and other errors incurred during manual processes, bridge information gap between head office and factories, and provide database support for the much-needed business intelligence analysis.

Based on a five-year study on the garment industry, SEC adopted the practices of 20 RMG companies based in Bangladesh for RmgPro. The application requires OS: Windows 2000/NT/Unix for server, Windows 2000/98/95 for workstation, Memory: 4GB for server, 20MB for workstation, and Oracle for the database. Tools used in building the software are Oracle 8i and Visual Basic.

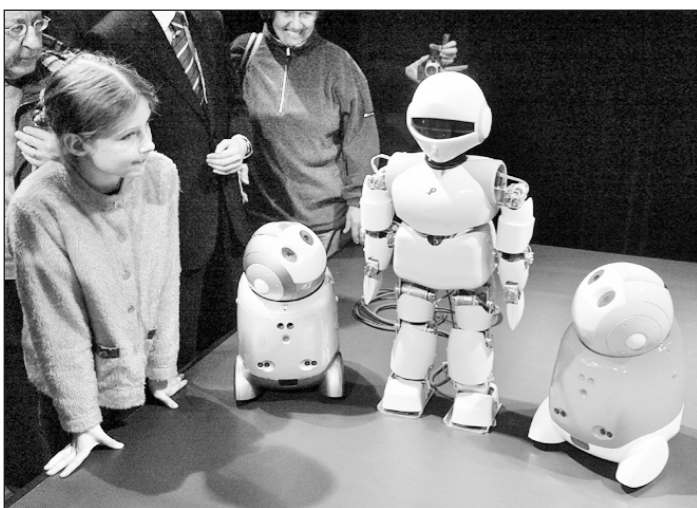


From left, Ziaur Rahman, chairman, Sirius Broadband, Gareth Maloney, technical account manager, Motorola BCS, Mansur Habib, director, Sirius Broadband and Nauman Bajwa, account manager, Bangladesh and Pakistan, Motorola BCS.

Tech Toon



From Utopia to Reality



A girl looks at robots PaPeRo (L and R) and Pino (C) displayed during the "Humans and Robots, from Utopia to Reality" exhibition on October 27 at the Japanese Cultural Centre in Paris. The exhibition will commence from October 28, 2003 to January 31, 2004.

Tech News

Microsoft unwraps new OS

REUTERS, Los Angeles

MICROSOFT Corporation on Monday gave its most detailed look yet at the next version of Windows, code-named "Longhorn," which promises new methods of storing files, tighter links to the Internet, greater security, and fewer annoying reboots.

At a conference for Microsoft programmers, Microsoft founder and Chairman Bill Gates said Longhorn, when it arrives, would rank as Microsoft's largest software launch this decade and the biggest since its Windows 95 operating system.

Gates and other Microsoft executives did not say when Longhorn would be released, but promised outside programmers that the platform would represent a breakthrough in the way that computer users send, receive and work with information.

Applications built by outside developers for Windows have long been crucial to the success of Microsoft's flagship software, which runs on more than 95 percent of the world's personal computers.

Jim Allchin, the Microsoft executive charged with the development of Windows, drew a lengthy round of applause when he announced one his main goals for Longhorn, ridding a scourge that has perpetually plagued Windows users.

"I'm on a campaign to get rid of reboots, not only in our code but in

any of the code," he said.

Gates gave an upbeat and forward-looking address on the future of software, saying that much more needed to be done before it would allow users to realise the potential of interconnected services.

For the next generation of software, Gates promised software advances like speech recognition and synthesis, integrated telephone services and better graphics.

"It's very clear we're at the beginning of this process," Gates

Microsoft said that Longhorn would tackle key problems facing computer users today -- an overload of information and hard-to-find files.

Longhorn Demo

During Gates' address, a Microsoft staffer gave a demonstration of Longhorn, highlighting among other features the "sidebar," an area on the right side of the screen capable of displaying messaging lists, stock quotes, news feeds, clocks, and pictures.

Sohn said Microsoft would not

follow the beta version by three months to a year.

The company also talked about the four key "buckets" it sees comprising Longhorn: fundamentals like security and scalability; new presentation technology that includes a rebuilding of Windows' graphics system; a new file storage system called WinFS that makes heavy use of XML, extensible markup language data; and new Web services and communications technology.

The company also unveiled "WinFX," which it described as a new application programming model for Windows that is the evolution of its .NET programming framework.

A demonstration of its next-generation storage technology, WinFS, featured a method to "stack" documents by author in a window, with the heights of the stacks corresponding to the number of documents, as well as file views that showed snapshots of documents, rather than just file names.

Allchin also showed "XAML," a declarative language for programming that would make it easier to create programs and features.

In the shorter term, Gates said Microsoft would have a beta version for the second service pack of its Windows XP operating system this year and a beta for the first service pack of the Windows Server 2003 system in the first half of 2004.



Bill Gates, chairman and chief software architect of Microsoft Corporation, address the audience during the Microsoft Professional Developers Conference at the Los Angeles Convention Center on October 27. Microsoft gave its most detailed look yet at the next version of Windows, code-named 'Longhorn'.

to the developers. "We need your feedback. We need your involvement to get this right."

focus on the timing of the consumer release, although final versions of software usually

Star Tech Quiz

63

Check the box beside the correct answer

1. To be bootable a DOS partition must be:

open close

active copied

2. What is the data transfer rate for USB 2.0?

100Mbps 300Mbps

200Mbps 400Mbps

Name: _____ Occupation: _____

Address: _____

Contact Number: _____ E-mail: _____

Last week's answers

1. sound 2. dot pitch

Winners: Habibullah Khan
H#82, R#3, Nasirabad, Chittagong.

Please fill this up and send your answers to Star Tech Quiz, The Daily Star, 19 Karwan Bazaar, Dhaka 1215 by November 3, 2003.

Dino Tech

Scientists find first dinosaur brain tumour

REUTERS, Chicago

SCIENTISTS reported on Thursday they had found the first evidence of a brain tumour in a dinosaur, in the fossilized remains of a creature that lived 72 million years ago in present-day Montana.

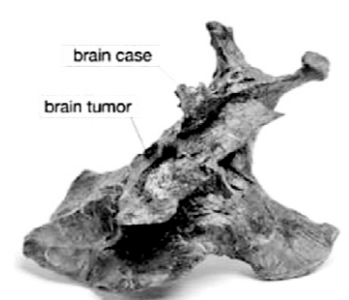
"Although we haven't conclusively identified the type of brain tumour found in this specimen, we are sure the tumour impaired the mobility of the dinosaur," said Rachel Reams, a veterinary pathologist at Eli Lilly and Co. who participated in the research.

"It almost certainly affected

its balance and locomotor function," she added.

The announcement was made in Indianapolis by the Children's Museum of Indianapolis and the Black Hills Institute of Geological Research.

Evidence of the tumour was found in a fossil of a 25-foot-long predator called Gorgosaurus, a meat-eater closely related to Tyrannosaurus rex, the announcement said. The fossil was discovered in 1997 at the Two Medicine Formation in western Montana's Teton County.



Peter Larson, co-founder of the Black Hills Institute, said in an interview that the tumour was likely cancerous, "but we can't say that for sure. ... We do know that it was life-threatening, and if

it did not directly cause death, it led up to it."

He said the finding is significant because it is the first brain tumour found in any kind of fossil -- dinosaur or otherwise -- and it shows that problems like brain tumours "have been around basically forever."

The ball-shaped mass was about two inches in diameter in a brain that was about half the mass of a human brain. The tumour took up almost all of the cerebrum, the part of the brain that processes higher thought, and was pressing against the brain stem, Larson said.

Tech Snaps

Multimedia Software Fair 2003

SYED TASHFIN CHOWDHURY

THE eight-day 'Multimedia Software Fair 2003', held at Sheltech Sierra, drew visitors from far and wide of the city -- from enthusiastic techy teenagers to professional software developers.

The fair had all sorts of software on display. The best part was that there was something for everyone. They had tutorials, movies dubbed in Bangla, interactive programmes, educational software and anything that one could ask for.

The tutorials included Microsoft PowerPoint, MS Word, Windows 98, Visual Basic, MS Access and Microsoft Office Suite. The fair also had a collection of computer magazines on sale, covering religious aspects, gaming, travelling, hardware assembling, social life and so on.

Some websites like www.bangliana.com and www.mollahjee.com were successful at creating interest amongst the crowd because of their humour, attractive presentation and catchy phrases. The most visited stalls were the ones that created a sensation at the fair with their 3D animation.

The fair was able to create a much-needed awareness of what is available in Bangladesh.

A guest at the fair summed it up all: "A lot of people think that Bangladesh is backward as far as IT is concerned and that Bangladesh would not be able to match the developed world.

"Let's not forget that India is taking the US IT market by storm. The Indians are developing software which are being sold in the US at exorbitant prices and if they can do it, so can Bangladesh. Coming to this fair made me realise that."

Photo Tech



Japanese optical maker Volks employee Kanae Fujii wears a goggles-shaped electric pulse massager for the skin around the eyes, with 22 vibrators inside to massage skin and relax eyes and remove fine wrinkles, at the annual International Optical Fair Tokyo on October 28. The Volks will put it on the market soon with a price of 4,500 yen (41 USD).

Best 10 Websites

Category: Humor & Jokes

- Comedy Central**
Comedy, BattleBots, movies, downloads, comedy radio & more.
URL: <http://www.comedycentral.com/>
- Laughter**
Jokes for public speakers, social climbers, party hosts & comedians.
URL: <http://www.laughter.com/>
- Family Humor Archive**
Good clean fun.
URL: <http://www.slonet.org/%7Etelldor/>
- Starting Page**
List of best humor & joke sites on the web.
URL: <http://www.startingpage.com/html/humor.html>
- Just Joking**
Hundreds of ha ha's.
URL: <http://justjoking.com/>
- FanoFunny**
International festival of humor & satire.
URL: <http://www.fanofunny.com/>
- Joke Of The Day**
Daily email jokes.
URL: <http://www.joker.org/>
- Another-Joke-of-the-day**
Enough to make you cry.
URL: <http://www.joke-of-the-day.com/>
- Chuckle**
Designed to offend everyone.
URL: <http://chuckle.com/>
- Comedy Zone**
Big collection of comedy.
URL: <http://www.comedy-zone.net/>