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NTU STUDENTS DEVELOP WIRELESS APPLICATIONS FOR INDUSTRY

Students from the School of Computer Engineering (SCE) at Nanyang Technological University (NTU) have developed wireless applications for commercial use. These have been adopted by leading wireless communications company, Motorola Electronics Pte Ltd, and Digital Network Access Communications Pte Ltd (DNA Comms).

One such application is ‘Buddy Finder’, which was developed by NTU computer engineering undergraduates, Mr Rahul Nath, Mr Nikhil Khandelwal and Mr Andreas Hadimulyono, in their third year of study last year. ‘Buddy Finder’, which was developed over a period of a year, allows users to determine the location of their online ‘buddies’ on a Singapore map through the phone’s Global Positioning System receiver.

‘Buddy Finder’ drew rave reviews from the staff at Motorola Electronics Pte Ltd’s Research Centre in Florida, United States of America, in March this year. This new application has already been preinstalled in all Motorola i830 phones which was recently released for sale in Singapore and will be included in later Motorola models as well.

‘Buddy Finder’ can be used by a company to locate its nearest employee to perform a job or delivery. On a more personal level, one may use the ‘Buddy Finder’ to locate family members and friends in Singapore.

‘Traffic Cam’ is another example of a wireless application developed by an NTU computer engineering undergraduate. Miss Liu Hui, who has since graduated, developed a wireless service that provides live traffic monitoring over mobile
phones, as her final-year project in 2004. Called ‘Traffic Cam’, the application is in talks to be released commercially.

These two applications illustrate NTU’s efforts in encouraging learning in the real world through work attachments and projects with industry. SCE students have been working with Motorola to develop applications for the wireless market since 2001. Nine projects have been completed so far, including ‘Buddy Finder’ and ‘Traffic Cam’.

Says Mr Jeffrey Tan, President, Motorola Electronics Pte Ltd, “The applications show how our business and personal lives can be made smarter, safer, simpler and more synchronized."

To formalize and strengthen the current tripartite relationship among NTU, Motorola Electronics Pte Ltd and DNA Comms, the three parties are signing a Memorandum of Understanding on 25 August 2004. This MOU makes formal an arrangement whereby NTU students can work on innovative projects using Motorola hardware and DNA Comms’ network capabilities.

Says Mr Lim Meng Poo, Chief Executive Officer, DNA Comms, “Based on our experience working with NTU students on previous projects, we have full confidence in the technical capabilities of NTU students and we look forward to more working opportunities.”

Says Asst Prof Yow Kin Choong, Sub-Dean, SCE, NTU, “The computer engineering programme at NTU has always been special in the opportunities it presents students to create innovations that serve the needs of industry. This partnership with Motorola and DNA Comms illustrates our strong links with industry and our emphasis on providing our students with an education that meets real world needs.”

**About Nanyang Technological University**

The Nanyang Technological University (NTU) is a top-tier university, ranked among the best science and technological universities in Asia. It has a business school that is consistently ranked among the top ten in Asia.

Established in 1991, the university has since been positioning itself to be a global university of excellence and is committed to its mission of *Educating Leaders and Advancing Knowledge for Singapore and Beyond.*  NTU has an undergraduate and graduate enrolment of about 25,000 and an international faculty of over 1,500. It offers a broad-based curriculum, which focuses on the development of global views, entrepreneurship and adaptability, through the following schools:

1. **College of Engineering**, which consists of five schools:
- Civil and Environmental Engineering
- Computer Engineering
- Electrical and Electronic Engineering
- Materials Engineering
- Mechanical and Production Engineering
2. Nanyang Business School
3. School of Biological Sciences
4. School of Communication and Information
5. School of Humanities and Social Sciences
6. School of Art, Design and Media (to be established by 2005)
7. School of Physical Sciences (to be established by 2005)

For more information, visit http://www.ntu.edu.sg/.

**About the School of Computer Engineering**

The School of Computer Engineering (SCE) at NTU offers two undergraduate courses: Computer Engineering and Computer Science. These provide a firm, broad-based education, with a provision for a substantial amount of specialization in the final year of study. The courses provide students with a solid foundation to meet the future challenges brought on by the rapid pace of technological changes, and prepare them for a life-time of learning and upgrading of skills.

The Computer Engineering curriculum integrates broad knowledge of programming and electronics with specialist skills in software and hardware interfacing. Computer Science focuses on the efficient application of computing technology, through the design of efficient algorithms and data structures, design methodologies and language paradigms.

Both courses incorporate a mandatory six-month industrial attachment stint, an Innovation and Design group project, an individual final-year project and numerous mini-projects.

A total of 2,470 undergraduates are enrolled in SCE in academic year 2004-2005. Third-year undergraduates, numbering about 500, were attached to some 200 companies and organizations for work stints last semester.

Students who perform extremely well in their studies in the first semester of their first year may be offered the Accelerated Bachelor stream whereby they can obtain an Honours degree in seven instead of eight semesters.