



November 27, 2003

The Japan Research Institute, Ltd.

Press Release

JRI to Launch JTACTICS Employee Identification IC Card Introduction Program

Enabling Strengthened Corporate Governance, Risk Management and Business Process Reforms

On December 1, the Japan Research Institute, Ltd. (head office: 16 Ichibancho, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo; president: Shunichi Okuyama; hereafter referred to as JRI) will start providing the “Employee Identification IC Card Introduction Program,” a support service for the introduction of an IC card system for employee identification, which helps achieve greater efficiency in corporate business processes and step up efforts to comply with laws and regulations.

1. Background

In recent years, strengthening corporate governance has become one of the important issues in business management, and there is a growing social demand for the promotion of compliance systems, such as the protection of personal information and measures for environmental conservation. Much expectation is being placed on the use of an IC card system for employee identification in order to achieve the above tasks efficiently and safely.

In order to introduce such a system, however, a number of matters, including the scope of information to be input to the IC card, as well as methods for establishing an efficient IC card management system and selecting IC card technology, have to be considered, making the introduction difficult.

Based on its rich experience in the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry’s IT-equipped city research project and other undertakings, as well as its network of close alliances with top IC card vendors, JRI will launch its Employee Identification IC Card Introduction Program in order to assist businesses in developing strategies for the introduction of an IC card system for employee identification.

2. Distinctive Features of the Service

(1) Advice from a neutral standpoint

In introducing an IC card system for employee identification, it is necessary to choose the type of IC card that should be adopted from a technological viewpoint according to its use. In this regard, JRI will, from a neutral standpoint, assist customers in choosing an IC card system that best suits their needs.

(2) Program based on actual results

This Program has been developed based on actual results obtained from national and other research/study projects for IC-card-related systems, as well as consultations regarding their introduction and system construction. Therefore, JRI will assist businesses not only in introducing IC card technology but also in taking action at the business process and organizational levels.

(3) Program aimed at business reforms

This program positions the IC card system for employee identification not only as a security system but also as an infrastructure for facilitating management systems.

For this reason, it aims to carry out business reforms, including the reduction of operating cost and time, cooperation among business processes, reduction of risk, and management of progress made by implementing strategies, through the introduction of an IC card system for employee identification.

3. Program Content

This Program will provide its services in the following steps:

(1) Step 1: Analysis of required functions

As the IC card sector becomes increasingly diverse and complicated, JRI has developed an IC Card Application Map and will provide a framework for enabling businesses to choose the type of IC card that best suits their needs.

This Program uses the Application Map to determine the functions required of an IC card system for employee identification and the scope of its application, and classify IC card requirements into essential

and optional ones when setting IC card specifications. It also develops a roadmap for initial, additional and future functions of applications incorporated into the IC card system while linking them with corporate strategies.

It offers a wide range of system applications, including achieving greater operational efficiency, taking security measures, simplifying settlement means, computerizing medical information, cooperating with transport services and managing employee conduct, and assists customers in determining the scope of application and equipment that are most suitable for their IC card system.

(2) Step 2: Consultations for system application to business

If an IC card system for employee identification is used to control entry into and exit from offices, it is important to introduce such a system and at the same time establish an IC card management and operation system in order to increase the effectiveness of the IC card system. If such a system is introduced mainly to achieve greater operational efficiency, it is also important to improve business processes and reconsider management systems.

As described above, in order to ensure that the IC card system for employee identification is effectively introduced, reform processes, including business process re-engineering (BPR) for business processes to which the system is applied, are essential.

JRI will assist customers not only in introducing the IC card system for employee identification but also in improving business processes and developing ideal ones.

(3) Step 3: System construction, operation and management

Performing effective and strict issuance, renewal and nullification of cards as well as responding to loss of cards is important to ensure that the IC card system penetrates into the entire organization and attains its objective.

JRI will assist customers in developing the optimal procedures for introducing the IC card system for employee identification, including considering what the organization for operating the system should be and sorting out the portion of the system that should be operated on its own or outsourced.

(4) Step 4: Evaluation and improvement

After corporate information systems are introduced, it is important to measure and evaluate their effects. If the introduction of an IC card system for employee identification is aimed at achieving greater operational efficiency or fortifying security measures, it is necessary to measure and evaluate its effects to obtain information valuable to future projects.

JRI will apply the concept of business process management (BPM) to business processes to which the system is introduced to provide a system that makes measurement and evaluation of its effects easy. The application of BPM to IC card introduction projects will not only make measurement of effects easy but also keep the cost incurred during the phase of business process improvement low.

4. Future Development

Based on its basic program features, the Employee Identification IC Card Introduction Program shall offer customized services that suit the type of work and business of each company. The initial consultation package shall be offered at ¥5 million.

JRI aims at chalking up sales of around ¥1 billion over the next three years through businesses related to this Program by encouraging the adoption of the IC card system for employee identification.

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