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**To the Press**

## **T-Engine Forum to Start Feasibility Study Experiments for “Ubiquitous Food Information Infrastructure Systems”**

T-Engine Forum

<http://www.t-engine.org/>

The T-Engine Forum (Location: Shinagawa, Tokyo, Chairman: Ken Sakamura, Professor at the University of Tokyo) has been conducting research and development on Ubiquitous ID technology, which enables the automatic identification of physical objects and places, to provide various services utilizing information attached to these physical objects and places towards the realization of a ubiquitous computing society. Starting in the fiscal year 2005, feasibility study experiments for “Ubiquitous Food Information Infrastructure Systems” that use the Ubiquitous ID technology promoted by this forum will commence in cooperation with CO-OP Sapporo (Location: Sapporo, Hokkaido, Administrative director: Takashi Matsumura), MITSUKOSHI, LTD (Location: Chuo, Tokyo, President: Kunio Ishizuka), Summit, Inc. (Location: Suginami, Tokyo, President: Hiroshi Takata) and others. These feasibility study experiments will be conducted as part of the “2005 Ubiquitous Food Safety and Security System Development Activities” of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries.

Last year, the T-Engine Forum conducted “Development and Verification of Integrated Food Traceability Systems that Utilize Ubiquitous ID Technology” (As part of Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, “2004 Food Traceability Development Activities”) using fruit and vegetables, meat, everyday household products, and processed food. This year, based on the results from the last year’s experiments, we will securely link food production history, process history, distribution history and sales history to individual food items (actual goods) by utilizing ubiquitous computing technology. We will effectively manage such information using information systems in order to realize food traceability systems to supply food more safely and securely. Furthermore, as a secondary effect, we will develop general purpose and multi-purpose infrastructure systems for food distribution efficiency and food reliability improvement, in-shop food sales promotion activities and production support in the production stage, and will conduct feasibility study experiments for such systems.

In these feasibility study experiments, various types of food items, including farm products (vegetables and fruit), livestock products (beef, pork and chicken), seafood products (domestically cultivated fish) and processed food will be handled. Cutting-edge ubiquitous computing technologies, such as the UC-phone which is a mobile phone with RFID reading capability, battery-operated active tags, and uTAD data format standard that ensures consistency of data between ultra-tiny sensor networks and distribution EDI systems will be used and utilized. The establishment of expert systems in production sites, automation of data collection, rationalization of food distribution, provision of food information that matches individual profiles and the establishment of third party audit systems, will be attempted and the result will be evaluated.

Please note that these experiments will use the latest ubiquitous technologies which are the results of “Research and Development of Ubiquitous Network Technologies” project (Ultra-tiny chip networks) commissioned by the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, and “Research and Development of Basic Network Protocols that Realize Ubiquitous Computing Environments” project commissioned by the National Institute of Information and Communications Technology. Both these projects have been awarded to YRP Ubiquitous Networking Laboratory which has been carrying out research and development of the projects.

In addition, the “Ubiquitous Food Information Infrastructure System Committee” will be launched within the T-Engine Forum as an organization that will be responsible for the evaluation, control and adjustment of overall activities. A cooperative system composed of the Ubiquitous ID Center, the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, the University of Tokyo, and the Ubiquitous MD Research and Council will be established. Experiments for information recording in production sites and feasibility study experiments in stages of processing, distribution and sales will be conducted from this autumn and this winter respectively.

□ **Main sponsor**

- T-Engine Forum, Ubiquitous ID Center  
(Location: Shinagawa, Tokyo, Chairman: Ken Sakamura)

**Prospective Participating Organizations (In alphabetical order)**

- CO-OP Sapporo (Location: Sapporo, Hokkaido, Administrative director: Takashi

Matsumura),

- .. ● Meat Companion Co., Ltd. (Location: Tachikawa, Tokyo, President: Tokuji Abe)
- .. ● MITSUKOSHI, LTD (Location: Chuo, Tokyo, President: Kunio Ishiduka)
- .. ● NIKO Co., Ltd. (Location: Chuo, Tokyo, President: Shigehiro Matsushita)
- .. ● Sakamura Laboratory, Graduate School of Interfaculty Initiative in Information Studies, University of Tokyo (Location: Bunkyo, Tokyo)
- .. ● Summit, Inc. (Location: Suginami, Tokyo, President: Hiroshi Takata)
- ...● Sun Fruits Co., Ltd. (Address: Chiyoda Ward, Tokyo, President: Seiichi Ishizuka)
- .. ● Yokohama Marunaka Seika, Co., Ltd. (Location, Yokohama, Kanagawa, President: Kuniyuki Suzuki)
- .. ● YRP Ubiquitous Networking Laboratory (Location: Shinagawa, Tokyo, Director: Ken Sakamura )
- .. ● Ubiquitous MD Research and Council (Location: Sapporo, Hokkaido, Representative: Hideaki Ohmi)

□ **Inquiries regarding this press release**

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