Product focus : Bringing access to smartphones

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With more than 20 years of offering high-quality, innovative products and exceptional customer service, STid designs and markets readers and tags to be used for security and industrial track and trace solutions. These two fields have extremely demanding requirements and we had the opportunity to interview Vincent Dupart, CEO of STid, about how STid's teams stand out from the competition.
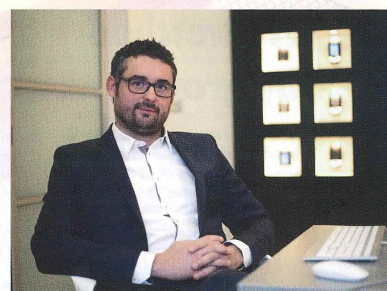
Could you introduce your company?
Vincent Dupart: STid is a French company with a worldwide reach that specialises in contactless Radio Frequency Identification technologies such as RFID, NFC and Bluetooth Smart. We have been inventing and providing solutions for more than 20 years. Our products are RFID readers and tags for the most demanding security and industrial asset tracking markets. We are now the French market leader in high-security access control solutions and are expanding overseas, with subsidiaries in Mexico, the UK and Australia, as well as teams in Europe and North America that are growing. A key factor for success is to be close to our partners, to provide them with support in choosing their access control system and in managing their technological migration.

The competition in this field is high. How do you distinguish yourselves from other vendors?
Vincent Dupart: As RFID pioneers, we manage the entire RFID equipment design and manufacturing process. Innovation is a key part of our DNA, with a constant focus on technological research and creation of added value for all in the value chain. We support and train companies, industries and governments in protection of people, their sensitive data and assets. Our solutions are developed using open, non-proprietary technologies. Our customers choose STid freely, not because they are forced to in any way. We offer all the tools that Chief Security Officers (CSOs) need to work independently in managing their security. The difference between us and our competitors is more than just our products – it's a question of corporate culture. All our activities are based on a close relationship of trust with the clients, which is how we fulfil our mission - promoting trust and ease of use in the digital world. We also offer the most secure access control readers on the market – as certified by an independent body, the French Network and Information Security Agency (ANSSI). We were the first manufacturer to receive the First Level Security Certification.

Which future trends do you see in the access control market?
Vincent Dupart: In our connected society, ensuring security in the access to corporate data and information has become a priority. But beyond economic issues, security is an issue for all, as recent tragic events have shown. Protecting people, by ensuing that their identity and access rights are secure, is now an absolute necessity. With increasing mobility in businesses, a technological revolution is under way, with interconnected resources. Access control is changing, with new uses and new equipment. Smartphones offer new ways of interacting with access control readers. Our STid Mobile ID offering already anticipated these trends.

Access control solutions need to be secure and user-friendly at the same time. How do you manage to get this done?
Vincent Dupart: In this context, STid is reinventing access control, to make it more intuitive for users, alongside the use of badges. To achieve large-scale roll-out of mobile solutions, the applications must be fun and user-friendly. For example, with STid Mobile ID, your smartphone can now be used to open the door to your office simply by tapping the phone or by using a hands-free function – and the smartphone is still in your pocket the whole time! With part of the security solution now in the smartphone, the technology and security aspects need to be very well managed. Mobile solutions need to demonstrate protection levels, based on recognised encryption methods that comply with government requirements. Confidence in the solution is a key factor for success. And again, depending on the level of security and independence the client is looking for, the solution may require tools for storing sensitive data on the user's premises and not in a proprietary cloud system. We are the only company able to offer that today.

Could you describe how STid Mobile ID works in

few words?
Vincent Dupart: STid Mobile ID has been developed with RFID and Bluetooth Smart technologies, bringing the access badge onto smartphones. It can work alongside or replace traditional RFID access badges. This virtual badge offers a range of intuitive and user-friendly methods that can be tailored to use in any situation – proximity or hands-free mode, 'tap tap', remote control, touch and more. With the online application, a virtual badge can be sent instantly to a remote user with an Android phone or iPhone. The offline application can be used to create virtual badges, in the same way as conventional badges. Our solution is 'plug and play' thanks to the free CSN access card which is directly included in our application.

More information: www.stid.com / info@stid.com / +33 (0)4 42 12 60 60.

STid Mobile ID won the Smart Access Control category of France's Trophées de la Sécurité, in Paris. This solution installs access credentials on smartphones, to complement or replace traditional RFID cards

STid - STid Mobile ID