



Automatic hand reader ATM coming to Spain?

XELIOS says they are negotiating with eight financial institutions to install a system that enables cash withdraw without cards.

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Imagine: you need money for an emergency, but forgot your debit card. You go to the ATM and make a withdrawal by placing your finger in a device that reads fingerprints. It may sound like something from a science fiction novel, but this technology is already in use in countries like Brazil (Bradesco and Itau), Colombia (Bancafe), Mexico (Banco Azteca) and Japan (Mitsubishi-Tokyo). The question is, will these terminals arrive in Spain?

The president of XELIOS Biometrics, Mr. Francisco de Asis, said yesterday that "about eight banks" want to test the system. He revealed that they have been working with Santander, but gave no more specific names or schedules for testing.

Identification using biometric technology came about because of security uses in the military, explained Francisco de Asís. For example, fingerprint verification is required in order to launch missiles from certain aircraft.

No two fingerprints are alike, and a fingerprint remains unchanged throughout the life of the individual. Fingerprint identification systems are frequently used to control physical access to buildings, access to the medical records of patients in hospitals, and it's being introduced to U.S. airports as well as Charles de Gaulle airport in Paris. Portugal's Galp also uses the technology to authenticate payments at its stations.

According to Xelios, installation is economical - 1,400 euros per terminal - and it helps combat fraud.

BBVA is at the forefront of biometric technology deployment. The bank tested an iris recognition-enabled ATM in the late nineties, and since 2006 its Chilean branches have machines that verify an individual's identify via fingerprint before pension benefits are paid. Later this year BBVA may decide to deploy the Chilean system in Spain.

If a person is coerced to "borrow" their fingers to a thief, the bank system allows the user to launch a silent alert by various means. Xelios has also developed devices to automate payments in shops and online stores, preventing theft of credit card numbers.

But is it that easy? Financial sources explained to *El Economista* that biometric systems still face challenges. For example, what if the ATM screen breaks or lots of dust accumulates on the fingerprint sensor? Will the system still function correctly? Time will tell.

For more information please contact Xelios Biometrics Inc. Visit us online at www.xeliosbiometrics.com