Local start-up licenses from Exploit Technologies a suite of Semantic Technologies to create a unique knowledge discovery platform that seeks to relieve the stress of information overload for business enterprises

Information resources in enterprises are expanding so rapidly that managing these resources for effective and easy discovery of vital information has become a daunting task. The lack of a common interface to access the diverse underlying systems and the different data formats exacerbates the situation. The new software platform crawls, mines and aggregates data across heterogeneous data sources, residing both in legacy systems and public domains, to provide seamless access that enables discovery of meaningful information for enterprise users.

Singapore, 17 March 2010 – Knorex Pte Ltd, a Singapore start-up, had on 12 March 2010 licensed from Exploit Technologies a portfolio of technologies that has gone into the creation of an enterprise-level service-oriented knowledge discovery platform that performs meaningful aggregation, mining and integration to bridge disparate silos of information. The portfolio of Semantic Technologies is developed by Dr. Kanagasabai Rajaraman’s team at the Institute for Infocomm Research (I2R) of the Singapore Agency for Science, Technology and Research (A*STAR).

A 2009 report from Deloitte that talks about “Cognitive Overload” estimates that the amount of worldwide information doubles every 18 months, and corporate files double every 3.5 years. More than 35 billion e-mails are sent each day. Combine that with Instant Messaging, SMS, phone calls, meetings and it becomes clear that the corporate world is experiencing an information overload. To compound the problem, much of this information is residing in different data systems. Single search requests have to be made within each information repository, forcing the results to be manually integrated for meaningful analysis. Furthermore, tools and data repositories are becoming increasingly complex to use; typically they fail to allow for more natural and intuitive query. Knorex’s technology, called Knorex Lumina™, seeks to
provide a knowledge discovery and management infrastructure for seamless connection in an integrated enterprise. Knorex Lumina™ searches information from public as well as proprietary data sources in addition to structured information assets such as compound libraries and projects’ databases. The platform automatically categorises search results into meaningful groups, customised based on users’ requirements.

In the recent International Risk Assessment and Horizon Scanning Symposium (IRAHSS) 2010 event, Knorex partnered with i3S Monitor Pte. Ltd. to showcase a maritime security monitoring system using Knorex Lumina. Knorex are also working with Innovatia Inc. from Canada and several other partners to explore applications in a few other domains. Typically, the targeted users of Knorex’s solutions are medium and large sized organisations that are grappling with overwhelming stream of information and multiple mechanisms to engage that information. Other partners and customers are system integrators, software distributors, independent software vendors, researchers and software developers.

Knorex was founded in January 2010 as a spin-off from the I²R, and it is anchored with a portfolio of technologies licensed from Exploit Technologies. Knorex Lumina™ has been developed based on the licensed technology done by Dr. Kanagasabai Rajaraman and Mr Ang Wee Tiong, research scientists from the institute. Dr. Justin Choo, a former member of the research team, is now the founder and Chief Executive Officer of Knorex.

Commenting on the spinning off process, Dr. Justin Choo, the Chief Executive Officer of Knorex, said, “Dr. Kanagasabai Rajaraman and Ang Wee Tiong from the Semantic Technology Group (STG) from the Data Mining Department, I²R, have developed a technological platform that can be applied to a wide range of applications. As an early adopter of the W3C standard technologies, the STG at I²R was able to innovate in the architectural combination and synergy of these technology standards with existing in-house expertise. Spinning off was an obvious next step for us as there is a huge unmet need in enterprises for Semantic Technologies. The challenge now is to accelerate its development and to apply it to the right focus. We have been working closely with the principal inventors on many fronts to ensure that the original vision is realised.”

Dr. Christopher Baker, the former Principal Investigator of the STG at I²R, now the Chief Scientific Officer of Knorex, and Associate Professor at the University of New Brunswick in Canada added, “The emergence of Knorex is a significant milestone in the proliferation of Semantic Technologies in Asia. It shows the maturity of expertise and takes the initial reduction to practice to a new level. Moreover it comes at a critical time as more and more enterprises are acknowledging the need for semantic solutions.”
Philip Lim, Chief Executive Officer of Exploit Technologies, said, “Knorex’s value proposition aptly leverages A*STAR technology to meet the challenges facing business enterprises today. Organisations that have begun to merge their business architecture with their technology architecture will find Knorex Lumina™ a welcoming prescription in making sense of the massive amounts of data residing across different sources. The initial interest from enterprise users in this semantic technology has reached a sufficient scale that it is appropriate to set up an independent company to fully commercialise the service. The formation of Knorex is another example of the commercially relevant research being undertaken at A*STAR.”

Prof Lye Kin Mun, Deputy Executive Director (Research) of I²R, said, “With vast amounts of business and personal information being exchanged daily, it comes as no surprise that our I²R researchers (Dr. Kanagasabai Rajaram and Ang Wee Tiong) focused on technologies that fit the needs of those who participate in knowledge management. I would like to congratulate Dr. Justin Choo of Knorex for this spin-off and creating real world solutions and wish Knorex the best in their commercialisation efforts!”

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Enc: Notes to the editor

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About Knorex Pte Ltd
Based in Singapore, Knorex Pte. Ltd. is a privately-held software development company specialized in the development of knowledge discovery applications using Semantic Technologies. We offer companies and individuals a complete and flexible platform for easy acquisition, aggregation, heterogeneous integration and reasoning of proprietary and externally acquired data to enable smarter knowledge discovery and better intelligence. Highly modular and customizable, integrated access and intuitive, our software makes it easy and simple for even non-expert or non-technical users to engage in expert-intensive domains to efficiently and effectively make sense of their data and resources to gain competitive edge, deeper understanding of their operation/activities, or to uncover new opportunities for growth or better use of resources.

For more information, please visit www.knorex.com

About Exploit Technologies Pte Ltd
Exploit Technologies is the strategic marketing and commercialisation arm of the Agency for Science, Technology and Research (A*STAR). Its mission is to support A*STAR in transforming the economy through commercialising R&D. Exploit Technologies enhances the research output of A*STAR scientists by translating their inventions into marketable products or processes.

Through licensing deals with industry partners and spin-offs, Exploit Technologies is a key driver of technology transfer in Singapore. It actively engages industry leaders and players to commercialise A*STAR's technologies and capabilities, bridging the gap from Mind to Market. Exploit Technologies’ charter is to identify, protect and exploit promising intellectual property (IP) created by A*STAR’s research institutes.

For more information, please visit www.exploit-tech.com.
About Institute for Infocomm Research (I²R)
The Institute for Infocomm Research (I²R - pronounced as i-squared-r) is a member of the Agency for Science, Technology and Research (A*STAR) family. Established in 2002, our mission is to be the globally preferred source of innovations in 'Interactive Secured Information, Content and Services Anytime Anywhere’ through research by passionate people dedicated to Singapore’s economic success. I²R performs R&D in information, communications and media (ICM) technologies to develop holistic solutions across the ICM value chain. Our research capabilities are in information technology, wireless and optical communication networks, interactive and digital media; signal processing and computing. We seek to be the infocomm and media value creator that keeps Singapore ahead. Website: www.I2R.a-star.edu.sg.

About i3S Monitor Pte. Ltd.
i3S Monitor Pte. Ltd. (formerly known as Intsight Pte. Ltd.) is a company providing solutions for organisations to monitor critical issues of concern and emerging risks and opportunities. The i3S Monitor team has its roots in the Singapore Government's Risk Assessment and Horizon Scanning programme and brings with it experience in scenario planning, environmental scanning methodology and military intelligence processes. i3S Monitor leverages off technology and a network of experts in various domains to bring its clients robust solutions to solve business problems.

For more information, please visit www.i3s-monitor.com.

About Innovatia Inc.
Innovatia Inc. offers an expansive set of Next Generation Knowledge Solutions and capabilities, including an eLearning content library, training, documentation, technical support, and professional services. Our solutions help businesses reduce costs and improve productivity through effective creation and distribution of information. Innovatia employs more than 300 people in Canada, United States and India and serves customers around the world in the telecommunications, information technology, energy, and health sectors.

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Information on Knorex Lumina™

Benefits:

• Standards-based components means users have the flexibility to choose best-of-breed solutions to tailor to their unique business environment while at the same time ensuring interoperability
• Enterprise-grade architecture that offers a complete workflow to support Semantic-based knowledge discovery
• Can be easily deployed or create new customised applications by leveraging on a scalable platform
• Saves time and money by focusing on relevant results instead of searching/sifting through returned results which still require more processing and more understanding

Key Features:

• Easy automation to crawl specified content sources
• Integrated access to a broad range of content sources including PDF, HTML, MS Word, MS Excel spreadsheet, relational databases, plain text files, RSS feeds, audio/video transcripts and so on as if they are one
• Keyword based interface or an intuitive drag-and-drop visual query builder to create query to return relevant results
• Enables discovery of new knowledge and connections between data sources through inferencing
• Semi-automation of learning and enrichment of ontology capability
• Domain-independent system that can accept any well-formed ontologies
• Empowers end users instead of simply experts to work directly with the contents
• Semantics based on formal specification with system components that comply with W3C standards
• Highly modular and versatile platform that allows for easy and rapid customization to adapt to new application. Simply plug in your domain ontology to get started
• Successfully deployed to a spectrum of domain applications

Key Technical Features

• Written entirely in Java and uses enterprise level frameworks
• API-based and Service-Oriented Architecture (SOA)-enabled. Use either way to create mashups, desktop application or Rich Internet Application (RIA) to powerful enterprise applications that can run on the Web, desktop or server to support cross-platforms such as Windows, Mac or Linux
• Semantics based on formal specification with system components that comply with W3C standards
• Supports a range of querying languages: nRQL, SPARQL and SeRQL
• Supports both RDF and OWL Ontologies
• Triplestore adapters are available to connect to Sesame, Oracle 11g, OWLIM, AllegroGraph and more
• Supports partial inferencing, OWL-Lite and full OWL-DL reasoning through direct interfacing with RacerPro, Pellet and other reasoners

Product Editions

Depending on users’ access and usage patterns, Knorex offers the following solutions:

• Knorex Lumina Server
• Knorex Lumina Enterprise
• Knorex Lumina SDK