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Asian Computer Monthly

Asia's leading EDP magazine | Established 1977 | February 1983

Mr Bhakat demonstrates the Apricot system to the Indian High Commissioner in Singapore, C. Dasgupta and members of his staff at the recent AutomAsia '82 exhibition

Indian system in S'pore

An innovative factory control system which was developed in India has now become available in Singapore, *writes Frances Lai.*

Apricot, an attendance, production, recording, and information control terminal system was built by Delhi Cloth and General Mills, the fifth largest company in India.

It is being sold in Singapore by International Engineering and Textile Services, an Indian-backed company which set up in Singapore four years ago.

The Indian government has yet to approve the technology and capital transfer that would enable IETS and DCGM to carry out their plans of jointly manufacturing terminals and badge readers in Singapore.

Until then IETS will install and service units imported from India.

Apricot is made up of a pocket-sized badge reader which can linked to a terminal driven by a computer, either mainframe or microcomputer, although the system is best adapted to use with the latter.

Any micro that has an RS232 port, that runs under the CP/M operating system, and uses the Basic language can be used to format and process data picked up by the Apricot terminal.

An entry system which includes a terminal, two badge readers, and software will cost about US$10,000.

It can be used for recording employee attendance data, inventory control, and job costing.

"The badge reader has taken eight years to develop, and it can withstand most factory conditions," said S. Bhakat, the managing director of IETS.

Mr Bhakat went on to say that his company has flown out two programmers for the system from India, and that he intends to employ at least 22 Singaporeans when manufacturing operations begin.

IETS is owned by the Mehta brothers of India's Star group.