
NEWS RELEASE

HR21 Provides The First Comprehensive Human Resources Management Service To SMEs Through UOB's Payment Gateway

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e-file CPF fund contributions and IRAS tax reporting via the Internet.*

Singapore, 18 April 2002 - HR21 is pleased to announce the launch of i-HR, the first web-based, total human resource management service catering to the needs of small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) in Singapore.

For the first time in Singapore, SMEs will have access to a comprehensive, convenient and easy-to-use application with all the essential human resources management functions - enabling them to disburse payroll, maintain personnel records, e-file CPF fund contributions and IRAS tax submissions via the Internet.

Salary crediting, one of the key features of i-HR, will be processed exclusively by United Overseas Bank (UOB). SMEs will enjoy absolute convenience as their payroll submissions will be electronically credited into their employees' bank accounts through UOB's secure electronic payment gateway.

Developed from HR21's flagship enterprise software product "HRMS", i-HR is specifically tailored for SMEs, which form the bulk of Singapore's business community. i-HR is fully developed on Microsoft technology, ensuring customers of a robust, enterprise-class solution.

Its user-friendly functions are integrated with the company's personnel records, thus reducing administrative costs, human errors and delays. The i-HR database is compatible with that of HRMS. As the company grows, i-HR can be upgraded to HR21's enterprise version of the service or Human Resource Management System (HRMS) with minimal effort.

Mr. Rickie Fung, CEO of HR21, commented, "SMEs constantly face the challenge of limited internal resources, in both staff and IT infrastructure terms. "By using i-HR, SMEs will not require greater investment in software, hardware or human resource staffing. The software is centrally maintained by HR21 in a highly secure data centre environment, and all the users need is a PC with a web browser installed to make use of this service. Ease of use, low cost and comprehensive functionality are the reasons why this service has seen spectacular uptake since it was introduced in Hong Kong in November 2000. We are confident that SMEs here will be equally receptive," added Mr Fung.

Said Mr Yeo Eng Cheong, Executive Vice President of Commercial Credit, UOB, "As the market leader in loans to SMEs, UOB is well-placed to serve the needs of the SME market. We strive to anticipate the needs of our customers by offering innovative products and services that will add value to their business."

"UOB is therefore pleased to be able to offer, together with HR21, a cost-effective human resources management service. Such a unique service not only meets their needs, but also strengthens our relationship with them. We look forward to delivering more of such innovative services, that go beyond our traditional scope of credit offerings, to further benefit our customers," added Mr Yeo.

Mr Steven Cheah, Director, Software Engineering and Architecture, Microsoft Singapore said, "i-HR is a solution that will provide value-add to its customers. The demand by customers for flexible and agile business intelligence solutions is especially pertinent now, and HR21 will be able to meet the demands of such customers through a robust and enterprise-ready software such as i-HR".

"The partnership between Microsoft and HR21 will extend further into implementing i-HR on the Microsoft .NET platform. Customers can look forward to a more integrated range of services when i-HR is extended to include XML web services capabilities," he added.

i-HR is offered via an Application Service Provider (ASP) model, allowing customers to log-in and access the system at any time and from any location via an Internet-connected PC with a web browser. No installation is required and customers who wish to know more about the i-HR service may visit the HR21 website at www.hr21.com.sg.

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