

Object of desire

C SEED 201

Following on from the April deluge, most people are wishing for some summer sunshine.

If by some miracle, we are blessed with a fantastic sun-filled season, the C SEED 201 could come into its own. This 'ultimate addition to a luxury home, hotel or smartly run business operation' is a giant LED television built for outdoor use.

The sleek screen, designed by Porsche Design Studio in cooperation with C SEED Entertainment Systems, is 201 inches in width, waterproof, and designed to work in bright sunlight. It can appear from or disappear into the ground in seconds, like a rocket launcher in a James Bond movie.

Managing partner at C SEED Entertainment Systems, Edouardo Saint Julien-Wallsee declares, 'We saw the need for outdoor home entertainment systems, and with the C SEED 201 we created a



completely new product category – something that has never been seen before.'

This is not available from your local John Lewis or Dixons. Being 15 feet in height when fully extended, with a screen of 116 square feet, it needs to be custom-installed. 'The company wouldn't talk prices, but warns that the giant screen will only be available 'in limited numbers'. We're guessing that's not likely to be a problem. ■

Business diary

31 May 2012 – London

M&A Awards 2012

The sixth annual M&A Awards takes place in the Millenium Mayfair Hotel and celebrates the achievements of those who have demonstrated dealmaking excellence.

June 2012 (date tbc) – London

Information Age – Enterprise Security

Our sister title *Information Age* hosts a conference to discuss the important issues surrounding information security.

27 September 2012 – London

Investor Allstars Awards 2012

Now in its tenth anniversary year, the Investor AllStars awards brings together the leading lights of venture capital. Held this year at the Park Plaza Riverbank.

27 September 2012 – London

TechTour Solutions

European technology entrepreneurs and investors will attend this inaugural conference that complements the Investor Allstar Awards (see above) and is held at the same venue.

Contact Jenna Parker on 020 7250 7043 for details.

The next big thing

Palm-reading ATMs

Anyone who has ever mislaid his or her bank card will remember the sheer frustration it entails – having to traipse into a branch with your passport, and possibly endure the horror of queuing, until your new card eventually arrives.

This may soon be a thing of the past, at least in Japan. A regional bank has announced that in September it will roll out a number of palm-reading ATMs, possibly making the bank card a thing of the past.

Ogaki Kyoritsu Bank in Gifu prefecture will launch the new system across ten of its ATMs using technology pioneered by IT

giant Fujitsu. According to Fujitsu, the system assesses vein patterns to distinguish between different people.

Users will simply have to scan their hand and enter a PIN and their date of birth and then they will receive the desired cash amount in the usual fashion.

The motivation behind this innovative banking system is more than just efficiency. It stems from the 2011 earthquake and tsunami that wrecked havoc and left many people without their personal ID documents and cards.

The bank states that it will be the first in



Japan and the second in the world to introduce biometric-dependent ATMs, after Turkey's largest state bank, Ziraat Bank brought in palm-reading technology.

Time will tell whether the idea will spread further, but if it does we will no longer have to worry about losing, destroying or forgetting our precious bank cards. ■