

**IA INTERNATIONAL HOLDINGS LTD:  
THIS COMPANY IS UNLIKELY, EVER, TO COMPETE WITH BILL GATES**

While IA International Holdings Ltd (Code: 8047) claims to be principally engaged in becoming an 'information-on-demand (IOD) systems solutions' provider, it appears that, thus far, it has been nothing more than a vendor of specialised consumer electronic devices, the type of devices that hook onto television sets, such as decoders, etc.

This Company, with just 31 months of history, has come to The Growth Enterprise Market (The GEM) of The Stock Exchange of Hongkong Ltd in order to raise about \$HK22 million, gross, by Placing 55 million, 5-cent shares at a Premium of between 35 cents per share and 37 cents per share.

Page One of the Placing Prospectus makes the following statement:

*'... An IOD system solution enables Internet users to obtain and process information via the Internet.*

*'The IOD system solutions to be offered by the Group comprise two components that inter-relate with each other:*

*(1) an e-commerce platform with features such as security enhancements and the ability to communicate with Internet appliances with proprietary interface protocol; and,*

*(2) Internet appliances developed by the Group which allow access to content stored in specially formatted DVD's (Digital Versatile Disc).*

*'With the above two components, users will be able to access the compressed content stored in specially formatted DVDs using the Group's Internet appliances after obtaining authorisation from the e-commerce platform via the Internet and without having to rely on a communication network to access remote servers. Once the authorisation has been obtained, the content in the specially formatted DVDs will be decompressed by the Group's Internet appliances to enable the users to access the content stored in the DVDs. This aimstonhance security for content providers and minimise reliance on a communication network.'*

This system will be launched, according to the present timetable, in the first quarter of the year 2003.

That is about 17 months from now.

Of course, in the meantime, one must speculate as to what technological advances will take place in the field of electronics, prior to the launch of this system.

For the past few years, this Company has been doing quite nicely in selling hardware (set-top boxes), with customers' labels ... [CLICK TO ORDER FULL ARTICLE](#)

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