



## **Public Access Creates New Market for Tough Keypads**

Public Terminals (or kiosks) provide widespread public access to the internet, and an infinite number of on-line services. Using credit cards, smart cards or even mobile telephone SIM cards, it will soon be as easy to use a Public Access Terminal (PAT) as it is to use a public telephone.

Providers of "on-line" services have been quick to recognise the potential offered by PATs which may be located in universities, shopping malls, hotels, airports, railway stations and other public areas. However, the hardware for use in these demanding environments is still at an early evolutionary stage. Like public telephones, the terminals must be easy and pleasant to use, but must also survive exposure to the elements and attack by vandals. Providing an efficient mechanism for the user input data presents a major challenge. Touch screens, being slow and unresponsive, are not suitable if long strings of characters must be entered (such as when sending an email). For this type of use, a keyboard is still the most efficient means of data entry. However, keyboards tough enough to survive unsupervised use by the general public are very rare.

The **STORM 1100 Series keyboard**, available from Storm Data Entry Technology, has been developed specifically for use in these demanding public locations. The keyboard's proven vandal resistant and weather resistant properties do not detract from its rapid, reliable and responsive operating characteristics. Its compact footprint and ability to be integrated within a control panel make it ideally suited for use in ATMs and PATs.

To compliment this development, Keymat has created the new vandal resistant **STORM Financial Transaction**. Originally specified for use as a secure transaction terminal the STORM FT is suited for use in public internet terminals, smartcard re-loading points, petrol retailing, product vending and ticketing applications.

Combining the patented switch technology used in Keymat Technology's weather and vandal-resistant keypads with Hypercom's encrypted data handling capabilities, the new terminal is supplied as a modular panel for installation in virtually any retail point. It consists of a tough but responsive metal keypad with a 4 line, 20 character LCD display (graphic or vacuum fluorescent display optional) and has a choice of card readers. This allows the use of either magnetic swipe cards or the latest smart card technology. The terminal provides unprecedented levels of data security as the electronic circuits required to encrypt the data are located within the back of the keypad assembly, protected by several layers of mechanical and electronic security devices. This eliminates the vulnerable transmission of unencrypted data.