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Ottawa Business Centre

Posted Tuesday, January 29, 2002

Nolan new Kyberpass CEO

By [Leo Valiquette](#), [InBusiness Media Network](#)

Kyberpass Corp. said Tuesday it has hired Thomas Nolan to replace Ron Walker as president and chief executive of the Ottawa e-security firm.

"Walker will no longer be involved in daily operations, but will continue in his role as chairman of the board," company officials said in a released statement.

VP of marketing Robert Lendvai said Walker has decided to return to the helm of the Devon Group, the IT consulting and security firm from which Kyberpass was spun out of five years ago.

Nolan is described as a 25-year veteran of executive level high-tech roles. He was president and CEO of Xcert International, a company based in Walnut Creek, Calif. He has also held positions such as vice-president of finance and chief financial officer for several companies financed by Xerox Technology Ventures, including Phaser Systems Inc., Loral Corp. and Microcellular Systems Inc.

Like Kyberpass, Xcert is also a provider of public key infrastructure (PKI) security technology. The company was sold after it fell into financial difficulty, leaving Nolan hungry to make his mark in the e-security sector.

"I feel that there's some things in the security industry that I have to do and Kyberpass seems like an excellent platform from which to carry that through," he said.

On his second day on the job, Nolan said it was a little early to offer a concrete plan for the company, but he raised the possibility of growing Kyberpass through acquisitions. In the months ahead he wants to scout out potential acquisition targets, companies whose valuations have "imploded" due to the economic slump.

Complimentary products, lucrative distribution channels or even key talent are all factors Kyberpass will be looking for if it goes shopping, he said.

Late last year, Kyberpass was forced to return to the venture capital market after the global economic slump pushed back its timeframe for generating a healthy revenue stream from sales of its security software.

In October it secured a round of venture capital worth \$6.3 million. The money was expected to ensure the company's operations for at least the next 12 to 18 months.

But in the wake of the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, the company hoped new business would arise with the increased interest in Internet security products, Lendvai said in October.

Over the course of 2001, Kyberpass quietly reduced its workforce to about 50 from 75.

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