

INNOVATING A SECURE WORLD



It's our intellectual property and technology that sets us apart. They underpin the products and services we offer – so that's what we're building as our platform for the future.



Q: Why is innovation important for De La Rue?

A: Innovation is nothing new at De La Rue. Going back to the envelope folding machine, the perforated stamp and the ATM, we have a long history of being first. And innovation is right at the heart of what we do and how we do it.

Why innovate? Because it's what the counterfeiters do. We need to stay ahead of them, and that requires serious investment, great people with great skills, and a lot of commitment. And as the world changes we need to invest in new products and services that our customers require. Doubling R&D spend by 2020 is our recognition that it's our intellectual property and technology that sets us apart. That's what customers pay for – so that's what we're building as our platform for the future.

Q: How is De La Rue moving to be more technology-driven?

A: Our R&D programme focuses on two areas: digital solutions and the more traditional but highly skilled area of material science which De La Rue is renowned for.

Our team of material scientists needs to continue to produce secure, distinctive and easily recognisable features. We have a systematic approach that ensures we bring new products to market faster and more regularly.

The digital innovation that is happening at De La Rue is perhaps less well known. We offer a suite of digital solutions that complement our more traditional products.

Our software development team has doubled in size this year, and we are sourcing experts and highly skilled employees around the world to ensure we deliver excellence.

We also see opportunities to accelerate our technology development through partnerships and acquisitions.

Our acquisition of DuPont Authentication and the strategic partnerships with Opalux and Optel Group, are great examples – they all have unique technologies that work well with our products.

Q: So what are the new opportunities?

A: Number one, automation. How can we use technology to improve the way we work? Clearly, there are opportunities in the manufacturing stage, especially in how we handle or finish banknotes.

We have seen a major shift in the application of data and insights. Our customers appreciate being able to work with us and draw insights from the data we generate as a business to help them make decisions. Our DLR Analytics™ software is an example of this.

Data is also enabling us to improve the way we work. Analysis of our processes helps to drive manufacturing efficiencies which also open up possibilities to save energy and resources.

Q: What's your view on disruptive technologies, such as blockchain and 3D printing?

A: We believe blockchain technology will have most impact for our product authentication customers. Why? Because it can track products from source to customer, assuring authenticity across continents through checkpoints and other interventions. Blockchain could also have implications for our identity business. We see limited application for a central bank digital currency using blockchain.

3D printing is another area where the upside is qualified by the potential downside. Yes, using it to create banknote printing plates could help us be more efficient – but if we can print our own plates, so too can others. Used unwisely, it could be a counterfeiter's dream.

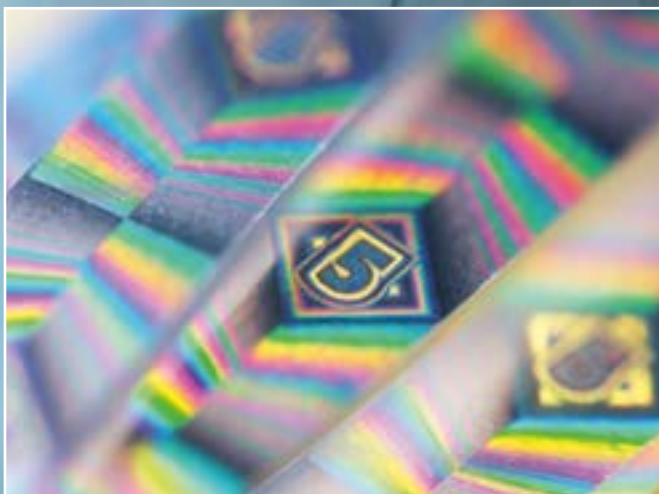


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Selva Selvaratnam

Our Chief Technology Officer explains how innovation is shaping the future of De La Rue.

Visitor



PureImage™ – Our latest holographic thread based on secure and proven technology. It can integrate with covert features such as UV fluorescence and machine readable materials



Ignite™ – A new premium feature combining liquid crystal colour-shift with complex microstructures to create dynamic and distinctive effect for public authentication