

# Firm accuses ex-staff of misusing trade secrets

## STX seeks legal action to stop three from using information to jump-start own business; trio dispute accusation

By **ALETHEA LIM**

A COMPANY has accused three of its former employees of using its trade secrets to jump-start their own business and steal its clients.

STX, which designs, makes and supplies parts such as keypads for mobile phones, remote controls and other electronic items, is taking legal action to stop the three from doing so.

STX, formerly part of listed company San Teh before being sold to the American corporation ITT Industries, has customers and

businesses in competition with STX.

The three — Ms Teng Hui Tin, 29, Mr Lee Seng Heng, 38, and Mr Yap Chin Kuan, 38 — countered that the clauses were “unreasonable”.

Their lawyers, Mr Christopher Woo and Mr Andy Lem, argued that STX was trying to stop them from being involved in any company worldwide in a similar business.

None of the information was a trade secret or confidential, they said.

Mr Lee and Mr Yap, they added, were told by their

parents Enterprise. At the same time, she was the senior administration officer for Memtech, Globatronic's marketing arm.

All three companies are in the same kind of business.

Mr Lee was a senior sales executive with STX when he quit after six years, on Sept 30 last year, to become Memtech's marketing manager.

Mr Yap had been with STX for 17 years and was a senior manager when he quit on June 30 last year to be-

come Memtech's general manager.

STX said all three have access to confidential information, such as its customer base, pricing policies and manufacturing processes, and were also dealing with some of its clients.

It wants the High Court to enforce that two-year competition clause with effect from the dates that the three left STX.

Hearing before Justice Tan Lee Meng continues.

