CASE STUDY: GUATEMALA NATIONAL IDENTITY CARD

CASE STUDY OVERVIEW

CUSTOMER: RENAP - Registron Nacional de las Personas (National Population Registry) – the National Civil Registry and Identification of Guatemala

CHALLENGE: Support the implementation of a national identification program designed to improve identification and authentication mechanisms, reduce crime, combat terrorism, control immigration, better target subsidies and provide enhanced services to citizens.

SOLUTION: An automated state-of-the-art card personalization solution that delivers highly secure electronic identity cards.

RESULTS: The card designs incorporate three levels of security measures – those visible to casual visual inspection (level 1), those visible using special enhanced visual inspection techniques (level 2) and those that require laboratory or forensic inspection (level 3) – to ensure the highest resistance to fraud and counterfeiting.

KEY POINTS

- 3 Datacard® MPR5800™ inline card production and personalization systems
- 2 Datacardtm Snooper™ card counting systems
- Datacard® Data Preparation and Process Software
- Smart Card Personalization Software
- Datacard Professional Services:
  (a) Implementation,
  (b) Installation, and
  (c) selfmaintenance training
- Security-printed polycarbonate card substrate
- Biometric enrollment solution provided by another consortium member

When Guatemala decided to institute a national identity card system to reduce benefits fraud, it wanted an electronic state-of-the-art system that would improve the process of citizen authentication on a countrywide basis. RENAP intends to issue over 11 million electronic identity (eID) cards over an 8-year period, with the majority done in the first 3 years. For added security, all the cards will be issued at a centralized government site.

The prime contractor put together a strong consortium to deliver the right technical package with competitive pricing. Datacard Group's ability to provide an integrated package of software, hardware and long-life cards was a key part of that competitive solution.

COMPLETE & SECURE DATA

For the citizens of Guatemala, the process will begin with a civil registry database using Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS) and facial recognition biometrics. AFIS is an identification methodology that uses digital imaging technology to obtain, store, and analyze finger-print data.

When a Guatemalan citizen enrolls in the program, two fingerprints will be taken and a faceprint will be made using advanced facial recognition software. These biometrics, along with the citizen's biographic information will be stored in two ways: (1) in a national registry database at RENAP, and (2) on a smart chip imbedded into the identification card that the citizen will carry.

The new eID program will be used immediately as Guatemala's primary national identification card. Once the infrastructure is in place to read and validate the cards all over the country, the new eID cards may also be used for banking and services at other government facilities.

BACKGROUND

Formerly, Guatemalan citizen registries were managed at regional sites such as neighborhood municipalities, which lacked the ability to validate the identity of their citizens. Too often fraudulent, nonsecure “paper breeder” documents were used to obtain more secure documents, and undeserved benefits were obtained using these IDs.

DATACARD GROUP DELIVERS

The cards for this program need to provide an expected usage life of up to 10 years, so polycarbonate cards were chosen. The printed personalization was laser engraved into the substrate, enhancing both durability and card security. The card designs incorporate three levels of security measures – those visible to casual visual inspection (level 1), those visible using special enhanced visual inspection techniques (level 2) and those that require laboratory or forensic inspection (level 3) – to ensure the highest resistance to fraud and counterfeiting.

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