Mongolia’s national eID initiative

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Mongolia is an inland country spread over 1.5m sq km in the Central Asia plateau. It’s a largely urbanized country - a third of its population of 3m live in the capital Ulan Bator, a third in other urban areas and remaining inhabitants geographically spread across rural pasturelands. The country is upgrading transportation, industrial and civic services in its transition to a market economy.

Mongolia’s administration is organized in 21 provinces, with democratic elections for the national government held every four years. Civic registration of Mongolian citizens eligible to vote is held centrally, and everyone over 18 is required to show a civic ID card to cast their vote.

In 2008, the Mongolian government decided to embark on a modernization program, called the Policy of Millennium Development, to replace the country’s previous personal identification system with a new electronic ID card. Millions of civic archive materials were updated on the civic population eligible to receive a new e-ID card.

Securing identification and modernizing government services

This new smart card includes an embedded microprocessor containing all personal data with biometric facial and fingerprint ID systems linked to a secure database serving government agencies such as the electoral authority, tax, customs, passport and military agencies. The Ministry of Justice and Internal Affairs, which is leading the project, aims to ensure fast and secure identification of people in their dealings with municipal and national governmental services.

Secure electronic documents represent a leap forward in security that surpasses the visual security of conventional documents such as ID cards. It is impossible to tamper with the civil data stored electronically and biometric data is kept confidential and out of reach of unauthorized parties. It increases citizen protection and offer effective means of ID checking that stays one step ahead of ID fraud.

The migration to an e-ID system will help the government improve security through positive proof of the bearer’s identity but also, into the future, enable it to deploy new e-government applications and facilitating the delivery of public services such as social security and health care and education services at reduced administration costs.

Visibly secure, Gemalto’s Sealsys Window counterfeiting deterrent is a breakthrough in ID, driver license and passport security. Its ingenious design incorporates a transparent opening that is impossible to delaminate or fake.

The e-ID card at a glance

- Embedded microprocessor to securely store citizen’s personal data, including digital photograph and fingerprints
- Encryption keys to enable identification and authentication of card holder
- Secure printing innovation of clear window in the card body to protect against forgery
BioPIN delivers security, privacy and convenience to drive user adoption

Gemalto’s Sealys BioPIN, “Match on Card” feature, allows fingerprints to be checked locally using the microprocessor of the eID card. It ensures the citizen’s information never leaves the card and does not require any connection to a central database. This security feature has demonstrated its excellent performance and interoperability during the MINEX II qualification awarded by the US National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST).

Hassle-free deployment equipment is made possible by interoperability with the majority of available extractors and sensors.

Launch in May 2012

Gemalto was selected at the end of 2011 to work with the government to supply the new civic e-ID with its Sealys multi-service secure electronic ID card.

Mongolian government officials and representatives from the project’s IT coordinator, Bodi International, visited Gemalto’s center of excellence for secure identity solutions in Vantaa, Finland to agree on card format and encryption standards.

The site, near Helsinki, has over 120 years of experience in security printing from bank notes, visas, payment cards to more technologically advanced security documents. 400 security specialists create, develop and produce a range of traditional and electronic passports, visas and e-visas, e-ID cards, driving licenses and healthcare cards, with particular expertise in polycarbonate document manufacturing.

The issuance of the new electronic ID card started on May 25, 2012. Citizens receive their new smart ID card from the administration of the local districts and khoroo (administrative unit of a district). As written in the law of Mongolia, the new electronic ID card is issued free of charge once to Mongolian citizens.

Expertise at your service

Gemalto is the world leader in digital security with 2011 revenues of €2 billion and 10,000 employees. In the public sector, Gemalto provides secure documents, robust identity solutions and services for governments, national printers and integrators in the service of citizens.

Gemalto has supported 15 of the 30+ e-ID programs that have been rolled out worldwide including Belgium, Czech Republic, Finland, Hong Kong, Sweden, Oman, United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Portugal, Kuwait, Lithuania. The most advanced states use our expertise in digital security and our 120 years’ experience in secure printing to implement tried and tested solutions.

Gemalto solutions to modernize civil records, enrolment, personalization, training and project management are operational in over 60 national programs. Our managed services allow us to provide an end-to-end service – from manufacture to delivery to local authorities or citizens.