

Sealys SCOSTA at work in India

||||| Gemalto contributes to India's smart card-based vehicle registration ID program



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Background

In 2001, when India decided to implement its smart card based vehicle registration program, a clear objective was to make vehicle owners more accountable for their own actions, to slash fraud, strengthen security and reduce administrative processes. To create a national standard for the vehicle registration program, a technical committee was set up to define Operating System specifications: SCOSTA - Smart Card Operating System for Transport Applications. Its specifications were released in 2002.

Open and secure standard

The objective was that all Indian states must adhere to SCOSTA specifications when implementing their smart card-based vehicle registration system. Thus, by applying an open standard, the Indian government could ensure that all systems deployed nationwide are:

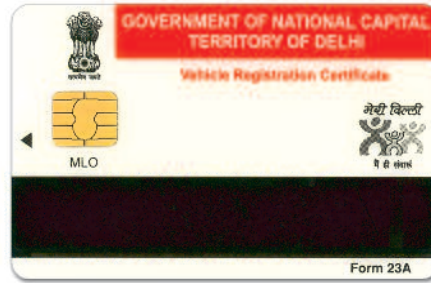
- Designed to fit local needs
- Interoperable across India
- Highly secure.

Gemalto selected

In 2003, Gemplus and Axalto (now merged into Gemalto) were the first supplier to be certified as SCOSTA compliant and to deliver SCOSTA compliant smart cards.

What's on the card?

Besides basic vehicle and owner information printed on the card body, there is a microprocessor chip embedded on the card. The Gemalto's Sealys SCOSTA securely stores statutory data about the vehicle, its registration and the owner.



How does it work?

The system offers immediate access to information about drivers and their vehicles to Police/Road Transport authorities in the field. A Police/Road Transport officer equipped with a portable reader terminal is able to insert the vehicle registration card in the reader and instantly retrieve data about the vehicle and its owner, as well as records regarding certificate of pollution control etc. All data stored on the card is concurrently available in a central database hosted by the State Transport Department, thus verifying the legal status of a registered vehicle.

Mutual benefits

As a direct effect of a more centralized vehicle registration system, the Indian government can reap the benefits of more efficient administrative processes:

- **Increased knowledge** of vehicles in circulation
- **Cost savings** from significant reduction in processing times and paperwork

- **Efficient recovery** of traffic violation fines, registration fees and taxes
- **Reduced vehicle registration processing times** by more than 60%

Simultaneously, as vehicle owners become more accountable for their actions, the citizens of India can enjoy the benefits of a more secure system, resulting in:

- **Faster issuing** of Vehicle Registrations
- **Enhanced protection** against vehicle and identity theft
- **Protection** from purchasing illegally obtained vehicles
- **Fewer accidents** and thus lower insurance premiums
- **Faster processing** at state borders

Summary

Today Gemalto has delivered smart card technology to the first phase of India's vehicle registration program, which was officially launched in the state of New Delhi at the end of 2004, with other states to follow. More than 4 million smart cards have been delivered so far.

The program is expected to be the world's largest of its kind, with a market potential of over 100 million cards issued nationwide over the following years.

