



Electronic Passport

Portugal - Security with no compromise

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Electronic Passport at work

Portugal - Security with no compromise

> The context

In 2005, in a move to prevent document forgery and enhance security, the Portuguese government announced that a national electronic passport with biometric data was to be introduced by the summer 2006.

The Portuguese authorities needed to move forward with the electronic passport in order to comply with ICAO international standards and EU regulatory framework.

> The challenges

As a member of the 27 countries participating in the Visa Waiver program, Portugal had to meet the requirements of the program in order to eliminate the need for a visa for Portuguese passport holders entering the USA. In addition, the government requested that the electronic passport be linked to other public programs for the promotion of new technologies and "electronic government" functions; for example, its planned national "Common Citizen Card."



INCM

For the INCM (Imprensa Nacional-Casa da Moeda SA), the Portuguese national printing agency, meeting the deadline of summer 2006 was in itself a great challenge. However, it was also an opportunity to develop unique expertise and create a new, strategic area for the company's future development.

> The solution

From December 2005 to April 2006, INCM began limited production of the ePassports as part of a pilot program.

In April 2006, INCM selected Gemalto to provide electronic covers and inlays as part of the country's e-passport roll out. INCM adopted the Gemalto ICAO software and solution for ePassports to manufacture and personalize the passport booklets to be provided to Portuguese citizens. This includes Gemalto's highly secure operating system software with cryptographic capabilities running on a large capacity contactless microprocessor, in turn embedded in tamper-resistant packaging placed in the booklet's back coversheet. The secure document microprocessor can contain biometric information about the passport holder, such as fingerprint and facial details, although only facial details (picture) are currently in use.

Gemalto also provides INCM with an integrated solution to personalize e-passports, designed and developed in co-operation with Multicert, a Portuguese firm that specializes in digital certificates and electronic signatures and that will act as a CA (Certification Authority) for this project.

A new passport design, including a polycarbonate data page and high security features - such as UV printing* and microperforation** - has also been added. These enhanced security features make it almost impossible to alter, forge or duplicate.



> The results

As of August 28, 2006, the INCM was able to supply the Public Administration and its citizens with the most advanced and secure travel documents ever made.

By the autumn of 2006, all newly-issued Portuguese passports will include a secure microprocessor.

INCM expects to produce 150,000 e-passports in 2006 and currently produces 400,000 passports each year.

This new generation of electronic passport, compliant with ICAO and European Union standards, will contribute to better protection for Portuguese citizens when travelling and guarantee visa free entry to the USA.

* Ultraviolet (UV) ink is a commonly accepted security feature for identity documents. This invisible printing can be viewed under a long-wave UV light source and can be produced in a range of colors.

** The image is formed by perforating the core of the data page with a matrix of holes using special laser engraving techniques. The chosen image is often a repetition of the holder's photo. The image becomes visible to the naked eye when held up to a light.

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