



# Qatar

The national eID card project

FINANCIAL SERVICES & RETAIL  
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## The national eID card project

### >The context

The State of Qatar has a population of 628.000 and covers 11,437 sq km. Today, for many observers, Qatar is becoming a model for economic and social transformation in the region.

In 2005, the ministry of Interior of Qatar (Mol) took the decision to replace the current plastic ID cards with smart cards that should be capable of holding different applications (ID, eGov portal, Biometrics, driving license, healthcare, etc.).

At that time, the Mol had already put in place a highly secure access to eGovernment services for government officials and dignitaries, using a PKI infrastructure and a certificate authority.

### >The challenges

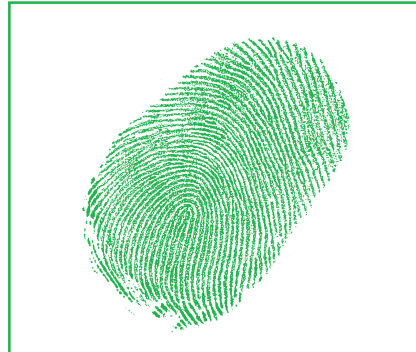
The goal of issuing an eID was first to provide Qatari and foreign residents with a new highly secure ID document and address concerns of national security, border control and identity theft. Secondly, the Mol wanted to upgrade the existing eGovernment services leveraging digital signature from the pilot phase to full roll out by porting the relevant application on the eID network.

Qatar's eGovernment integrated web-based portal is already an effective tool providing numerous services to Qatari including local, State and Government and private sector databases and is smart-card ready. (<http://www.moi.gov.qa>).

### > The solution

The new secure biometric identity document, issued centrally by the Qatari Mol, is incorporating a microprocessor and match-on-card technology to store and match fingerprint on smart cards.

The new eID card is supporting PKI and offers



Secure identification and strong authentication for Qatari citizens

“Qatar's e-government portal can be considered a regional best practice and the project illustrates the success associated with a clear long term vision that integrates not only front-end services but also coordinates back-end strategy.”

Source UNO e-Government readiness report 2005

identification and strong authentication. It integrates a cryptographic applet to secure exchanges and guarantee interoperability. Gemalto, selected in May 2006 by the Mol, is a key partner within the consortium implementing the project. Gemalto provides multi-application smart cards and readers combining and supporting built-in biometrics, PKI features, and contact and contactless interfaces. Gemalto's Common Criteria certified operating system was selected for its recognized high security level.

As far as the card artwork and card body is concerned, Gemalto will be providing a long durability card body and high level of visual security features involving printing and device insertion techniques.

The potential roll out is planned to reach 700,000 cards over the next three years.

### > The results

Qatari citizens will use these high-end cards, combining a built-in biometrics feature, contact and contactless technologies as their national ID document.

This smart card, the size of a credit card, will serve as the official ID document for Qatari citizens above 16, as well as foreign residents. In addition to the personal data available in usual IDs (photograph, name, birth date, address etc), the microprocessor will also store the person's fingerprint (2 thumbs). The biometric data remains on the chip and never leaves the card even when the identity verification is being performed, respecting privacy of the cardholder. Thanks to the security features embedded in his/her ID card; the cardholder will be able to access eGovernment services and perform transactions in a simple and secure manner. Using a Gemalto smart card reader connected to their home computer, citizens could use their smart ID card to declare a household employee, change of address, or obtain civil records.

Moreover, the contactless technology built in the card together with the match-on-card capability allows this ID card to be used as a travel document, increasing speed, convenience and security of identity verification at border crossing.