## CASE STUDY: WESTERN HEMISPHERE TRAVEL INITIATIVE INTRODUCES THE PASSPORT CARD



## KEY POINTS

A highly secure card program that uses long-range radio frequency identification (RFID), laser engraved personalization, along with other layered security technologies. Equipment and services deployed by Datacard Group include:

- Datacard® MX6000<sup>™</sup> card issuance systems
- Datacard® MXD<sup>TM</sup> delivery and fulfilment systems
- MXi<sup>TM</sup> envelope insertion systems
- Syntera® manufacturing efficiency software
  Customized training for integrator and end users along with help desk support

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## CASE STUDY OVERVIEW

**CUSTOMER:** United States Government

**CHALLENGE:** Provide a cost effective and efficient alternative to the current passport book. Give border agents fast access to information housed in a secure U.S. government database containing citizenship, biographical and biometric data. Protect the identity and personal information of the program participants. Prevent fraud and counterfeiting

**SOLUTION:** A highly secure card program that uses long-range radio frequency identification (RFID), laser engraved personalization, along with other layered security technologies.

**RESULTS:** The first solutions have been deployed and have been supplying the passport card since February 2008. Datacard Group had relevant experience with the required technologies and a longstanding relationship with solution provider L-1 Identity Solutions.

The Homeland Security Act of 2002 mandated that anyone crossing into the US from Canada, Mexico, Bermuda and the Caribbean must show secure proof of citizenship. Previously, US citizens needed only to show a birth certificate or driver's license – both of which could be easily forged. Now, a passport would be required. But, it quickly became apparent that there was a large population of US citizens that made these crossings on a very frequent basis, and for whom a passport was not a convenient alternative. Out of this necessity was born the WHTI program.

L-1 Identity Solutions, having broad experience large-scale Federal deployments, was awarded the contract to provide the United States' first passport card. For this project, L-1 turned to their long-term partner Datacard Group.

Working closely with L-1, Datacard engineers determined how to best meet the Department of State's requirements. A long lasting polycarbonate card with RFID technology was specified. It also needed to be personalized using laser engraving, to increase its overall security and durability.

The Datacard MX6000 card issuance system was chosen for card personalization. Datacard engineers were able to quickly incorporate RFID encoding technology, along with laser engraving and vision verification into the MX6000 system. To complete the hardware solution, the Datacard MXD card delivery, and MXi envelope insertion systems were also utilized.

Finally, the Datacard® Syntera® manufacturing efficiency software was used to connect to the printer and collect audit control data.

Datacard Group is also providing training and support options.

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