DATACARD GROUP HELPS SLOVAKIA ENHANCE SECURITY OF GOVERNMENT IDS

CUSTOMER: Slovakia, which became an independent republic in 1993, is an Eastern European country that has a population of more than 5 million.

CHALLENGE: The Slovakian Ministry of Interior wanted to use an integrated platform to issue five various types of government-issued cards. Their objective was to increase the security and efficiency of multiple card programs.

SOLUTION: Datacard Group's solution includes high-volume personalization systems with smart card personalization capabilities, as well as other advanced security features.

RESULTS: The new Datacard® solution, which was deployed in late 2011, allows for fast, secure issuance of e-national IDs (eNIDs), driver's licenses, border crossing cards, vehicle registration cards and resident permits.

DATACARD SOLUTION

- Datacard® MX6000™ card issuance system delivers up to 1,500 highly secure cards per hour. It offers 26 modular capabilities, including smart card personalization, laser engraving, visual verification, magnetic stripe encoding and more.

- Datacard® Syntera® customization suite software brings security and efficiency to the production and issuance process of government-issued cards by simplifying card issuance and management of biometrics and biographical data.

NEW SYSTEMS CHOSEN TO IMPROVE SECURITY AND EFFICIENCY

The Slovakian Ministry of Interior wanted to improve its government-issued card programs, specifically the issuance of electronic national IDs (eNIDs), driver's licenses, border crossing cards, vehicle registration cards and resident permits. Initially, because the Slovakian government had been using Datacard® issuance equipment since 2006, government officials wanted to simply deploy a secondary Datacard system as a backup to their existing solution. However, after reviewing the capabilities of a newly proposed Datacard high-volume issuance technology, government officials decided to ultimately upgrade its existing systems for the primary issuance and personalization of its government ID cards.

ADVANCED SECURITY FOR CARDHOLDER DATA

Working with Hewlett Packard in Slovakia – who is the primary contract holder on this project, as well as Robinco Slovakia – Datacard Group's distributor in the region, Datacard Group proposed a configuration that meets the Slovakian government specifications for enhanced security features, as well as the criteria for speed and improved security and quality.

Issuing approximately 520,000 cards annually and upgrading to the new system—which includes the Datacard® MX6000™ card issuance systems and Datacard® Syntera® customization suite software—provides several benefits to the government. This includes accountability in the issuance process, more secure and higher-quality laser engraving, efficient smart card personalization and vision verification, which has greatly expedited the recording of expired or confiscated identity documents. They also improve efficiency with automatic registration of returned cards.

The new smart card capabilities of the system provide the ability to fully comply with new extended access control (EAC) standards that are being adopted throughout Europe. EAC-compliant documents incorporate biometrics, public key technology and certificates that allow field officers to quickly and easily verify identities and each individual's privileges.

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In addition, the MX6000 system was deployed to the Slovakian government with optical character recognition (OCR) capabilities. This cost-effective system is used to automate the process of recording expired or invalid documents that are returned for destruction.

ADVANCED SECURITY FOR CARDHOLDER DATA

The design of these Datacard systems and operating software also bring greater security to each of the government ID programs. Datacard Group's technology allows government officials to control which operators have access to sensitive identity information and databases. This means biometrics and biographical data are protected throughout the issuance process, as well as on the card itself. As a result, individual operators only have access to the data they need to complete their jobs – and all activity is tracked with detail audit logs. With the controller software restricting the access to the operators and service engineers, it helps reduce the risk for internal fraud.

For added confidence and fewer errors, vision verification technology complements the system's numerous checks and balances already in place, automatically checking both card stock and personalization elements.

SIMILAR SUCCESS IN SLOVAKIA E-PASSPORT PROGRAM

In addition to the card programs, the Slovakian government also uses the Datacard® PB6500™ passport issuance systems for personalization and issuance of its e-passports, which also comply with EAC standards. The commonality between all the platforms simplifies key activities, such as training, service and support.

BENEFITS OF NEW NATIONAL ID PROGRAMS

- Greater national security for Slovakian citizens and guest travelers

- Better cost prediction and control over program costs

- Enhanced security and accountability in the card issuance process

- Increased quality of national IDs, driver's licenses, border crossing cards, vehicle registration cards and resident permits

- Heightened protection of private data

- Increased authentication certainty of cards

- Easier expansion for future government-issued applications

CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS

11111 Bren Road West

Minnetonka, Minnesota 55343-9015

Phone: +1 952 933 1223

www.datacard.com

info@datacard.com

DatacardGroup