



Proven expertise in the personalisation of biometric ePassports in the most secure & effective way



DeLaRue



Case Study: The State of Qatar

De La Rue Identity Systems have been supplying The State of Qatar with secure identity documents for more than 15 years and recently worked closely together with the customer to define a risk free upgrade plan, ensuring a smooth transition from standard machine readable passports (MRPs) to ePassport. Part of the country's broader high tech eGovernment project, De La Rue have successfully provided a fully automated, highly secure and completely integrated ePassport personalisation system.

The State of Qatar is the first country within the Middle East region to issue ePassports and they are also the first site globally to install De La Rue's innovative SIPs 500e automated passport personalisation and issuance system. Fully ICAO compliant, the SIPs 500e works as a highly secure single integrated process which encodes the chip with personal and biometric data (facial scan and finger prints), security laser prints and personalises the physical document with text and visuals and then laminates MLIS (De La Rue's thin film data page protection solution) before completing the issuance with a quality control check and final audit processes.

The system, which was designed and manufactured in Great Britain, is fully and securely interfaced with the Government's existing central databases. The 8 week implementation phase including software installations, machine configuration, integration and client acceptance testing was completed at the end of April 2008 and the new system is now fully operational issuing ePassports to the Qatari people.

The ePassport is made using security watermarked paper manufactured at De La Rue's Bathford mill and the book itself is printed and finished at one of their specialist Passport production sites. The design of the book includes a number of visible and invisible security features as well as laser perforated numbering.

The new ePassport protects against forgery, counterfeiting and illegal reading of the data encrypted to the chip. This in turn enhances the confidence in the document and assists the holder with Visa applications. The issuance system itself runs far more efficiently than the previous set up – it takes just 60 seconds for the book to complete the personalisation process; and only 15 minutes for book issuance from data capture in the front office to handing a completed book to the applicant.

James Thornburn, Managing Director Identity Systems says "We are very proud to be working in partnership with The State of Qatar to launch the region's first passport. The new document will enable the Government to offer an enhanced level of service and security to its citizens and visitors, marking a new phase in passport issuing in the Middle East.

For more information on SIPS 500e and MLIS please refer to the available product brochures