



## Biometric passport for Switzerland

As of September 2006, the Swiss can apply for biometric passports.

This type of passport not only involves "engraving" personal data into the document, but also storing it on microchip. The technical solution for capturing and verifying the biometric data as well as for checking biometric ID documents was developed by Siemens and tailored to the specific needs and requirements of the Swiss administrative system and of Swiss embassies abroad. Special checkpoint systems allow citizens to independently check the data stored in their ID documents.

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## The challenge

On behalf of the Federal Council of Switzerland an interdepartmental project group carries out a pilot project for preliminary introduction of a biometric passport.

This pilot project is scheduled for a maximum of five years. Every year, 100,000 passports may be issued to Swiss citizens on request. A biometric passport not only involves "engraving" personal data into the document, but also storing it on microchip, just like the facial image.

28 June 2009 is the deadline by which the EU member states and the associated Schengen countries will have to include fingerprints in their passports as well.

## The solution

"Pass 06", the passport which, since 4 September 2006, Swiss citizens can apply for alongside the still available "Pass 03", bears the international symbol for machine-readable data on the front cover. The cover itself includes a wafer-thin RFID chip with an antenna. On the chip all data are stored that are printed in the passport, including the passport photo. This data is protected by the BAC (Basic Access Control) mechanism from unnoticed access and can be read only by special document readers from a short distance. For this purpose the passport has to be opened to expose the machine-readable zone. A live facial image of the passport holder is then compared with the one stored on the chip. The position of the eyes, among other things, is a key indicator for the special-purpose software.

The system is based on ID document readers and fingerprint scanners from Cross Match Technologies, a photo capture station and camera from Digital Card Systems (DCS Europe), and the Homeland Security Suite from Siemens, which was developed by the Biometrics Center of Siemens IT Solutions and Services. The facial image recognition software incorporated in the Siemens Homeland Security Suite comes from Cognitec Systems GmbH. The solution developed by Siemens for 52 data capture and 15 checkpoint stations is being used in eight regional capture centers and eight Swiss foreign missions.

## Benefits for Switzerland

With this new solution Switzerland already today meets the international requirements with regard to the inclusion of a facial image of the passport holder. Thus Switzerland meets US-standards and the „Pass 06“ is also compatible with EU specifications. Passport controls are becoming even more efficient, identification reliability increases. Travelling under a false passport will become more difficult.

## Benefits for Swiss citizens

Special-purpose checkpoints in the capture centers and at international airports in Switzerland allow the holders of a new biometric passport to inspect their data and check whether or not their passports work correctly. With the new passports, Swiss citizens will be able to travel to the USA without the need for a visa also in the future.

## Our contribution

- Development and delivery of a solution for capturing and verifying biometric data and checking electronic travel documents on the basis of the Siemens Homeland Security Suite.
- The solution meets the special requirements and needs of the Swiss administrative system and embassies.
- Acceptance testing, maintenance and support, third-level support, training

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