

Organisation). HJP Consulting was appointed to act as co-editor of this test standard. During the last interoperability test event in Berlin in May this year, organised by the German standards organisation (DIN) e-Passports were subject to cross-over testing and, for the first time, to compliance testing based on the ICAO test standard. While results were promising, the outcome of the testing led to a further discussion of the test standard. Meeting in Graz directly after the interoperability event, the ISO working group critically reviewed feedback from the event. This and subsequent meetings have led to a revision of the specification resulting in the release of version 0.95. This revision contains both updates to existing test cases as well as the definition of new test suites - deemed essential by the working group. Further enhancements are in discussion.

HJP Consulting releases GlobalTester test scripts supporting today's release of the ICAO test standard for e-Passports (page 2) Founded in 2003, HJP Consulting is an internationally active firm of consultants specialising in the planning, invitation to tender and testing of smart card and e-Passport solutions. HJP Consulting is based in Paderborn, Germany and has been appointed to support the creation and validation of the ICAO test standard for e-Passports. They have also accompanied two major European e-passport manufacturers since 2003, helping them to successfully issue over 11 million passports annually.

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PRODUCT NEWS

A new solution for protecting casino chips and gaming tokens against counterfeiting

AlpVision, a Swiss-based leading company developing security solutions, announced a totally new approach to protect casino chips and tokens against counterfeiting. Millions of chips and tokens are used in the gaming industry, which is often governed directly by governments or by authorised private companies. Since casino chips and gaming tokens have direct cash value they are priority targets for counterfeiters. Based on very sophisticated digital image processing methods, AlpVision has

developed a new solution that authenticates chips and tokens. This is done without adding any marking or alteration of the chips or tokens. This new patent pending solution involves the capture and storage of an image of one original chip or token per production mould. This unique digitally captured image provides enough data to secure the entire series of chips or tokens produced from the mould.

To validate a suspected token or chip, the cashier employee uses a standard scanner or digital camera to take a picture of the piece under investigation. The system then takes the image and runs it through a very sophisticated authentication process. It is easily done and requires no special training for the cashier or whoever is checking the chips or tokens. AlpVision also provides a completely automated control process that screens any chip or token series in operation.

AlpVision's security software solution can identify the different chips or tokens and retrieve corresponding information, such as the mould and production dates. No additional security features are needed. Since no chip or token renewal is necessary, an organization can also immediately screen and secure its entire chip or token stock and block the counterfeiting.

With AlpVision's new solution it is now possible to screen every chip and token and prevent converting fakes into cash. No

marking is necessary. A simple decision to implement AlpVision's solution provides you with the means to screen and block out counterfeits.

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Countering the counterfeiter just got easier

Leatherhead, UK - In the vast majority of product piracy and document/ID counterfeiting cases, the fraudsters principal aim is to produce a credible 'look alike' that will pass initial examination at the time of purchase, or if a document is involved such as a travel document, at the place of inspection. In a post 9/11 world where the financial gains from counterfeiting products may fund terrorism, or where individuals or groups use realistically falsified documents to obtain welfare benefits or enter countries illegally, etc, the need for governments and businesses to combat these activities is becoming more and more of a priority. "Counterfeiting is increasingly well organised and the equipment used is sometimes comparable too or better than many legitimate reprographic plants. Threatening the revenues, profitability and credibility of bona-fide manufacturers and putting at risk the stability and efficiency of financial institutions and others - the counterfeiter knows no international borders and operates in every market," states John

