



Bundeskriminalamt



Bundesamt
für Sicherheit in der
Informationstechnik

Press release

Berlin, 1 June 2006

Successful test of electronic passport

Experts from 38 nations met in Berlin from 30 May to 1 June to test the interoperability of electronic passports and reading devices. The event was organized by the Chairman of the DIN mirror committee to the ISO/IEC Committee for Cards and Personal Identification, Michael Hegenbarth, and was held under the auspices of the European Commission and the French and German home affairs ministries. On two days of testing, 400 electronic passports from different countries were tested on 50 reading devices of various manufacturers. The last day of the international conference and associated exhibitions was dedicated to the exchange of experience with using biometrics in identity documents among the participating experts.

In his opening address, State Secretary Hanning from the Federal Ministry of the Interior pointed out that “although we have been able to protect documents better against forgery by integrating cryptographic security features, and although we have thus come much closer to fulfilling our task, there is a second aspect which makes international cooperation indispensable. I am referring to the prevention of document misuse by the automated matching of a document holder with the presented document. The world-wide introduction

Verantwortlich: Stefan Kaller

Redaktion: Gabriele Hermani, Christian-Günther Sachs, Matthias Wolf, Annette Ziesig

Pressereferat im Bundesministerium des Innern, Alt-Moabit 101 D, 10559 Berlin

E-Mail: presse@bmi.bund.de www.bmi.bund.de Telefon: 01 888/681-1022/1023, Fax: + 49 1888/681-1083/1084

of uniform standards for passports and reading devices would be an important step forward in this new biometrics-based border control regime.”

With more than 450 participants comprising technical experts actively involved in the tests, industry representatives, politicians and public administration officials, this conference had the largest audience compared to previous international testing events of this kind. Many technical inquiries referred to Germany’s experience with introducing the new ePass. Since November 2005, electronic passports with a digital photograph as the first biometric feature stored on the chip have been issued in Germany. The additional integration of fingerprints into the chip is scheduled for 2007.

The technical specification of the European biometric passport takes account of the recommendations drawn up by the New Technologies Working Group (NTWG) of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO). The NTWG cooperates closely with the competent ISO/IEC subcommittee. The German position is developed by the DIN mirror committee to the ISO/IEC Committee for Cards and Personal Identification. Work focuses on the physical character of identification cards, methods for ID card verification, and data interchange formats of chip cards with or without contacts (proximity and vicinity cards). The DIN mirror committee “Biometrics” represents German interests regarding all aspects of biometrics technologies. The ISO standards for identification cards (ISO/IEC 7816 und 14443) and for biometric data interchange formats (ISO/IEC 19794) ensure worldwide compatibility of electronic passports.

Germany is represented in the process of formulating international standards by the Federal Office for Information Security (BSI) and the Federal Criminal Police Office (BKA), which have provided their expertise and monitored the process, placing particular priority on document and IT security. The two authorities were responsible for preparing, carrying out and analysing the interoperability tests. They will present the results to the relevant bodies at European and international level in due time.

For further information on the Berlin event and the test results, please refer to the conference website at <http://www.interoptest-berlin.de>.