

Press Release

Bussy Saint Georges, December 5th, 2018

Photometrix™ technology on SID Philippines card awarded as Best Regional ID at High Security Printing Asia 2018

On December 4th, 2018, the newly-introduced Seafarer Identification Card (SID) featuring Photometrix™ technology has been awarded as Best Regional ID at the High Security Printing Asia event. Both, Attorney M.a Rowena Hubilla, Director, Philippines SID & SIRB team and Alex Benjamin, Vice President Asia-Pacific at SURYS, have welcomed the award in person during the official ceremony.

Introduction of modern security features into the Seafarer's ID aims to simplify seafarers' admission in countries visited by ship and to allow access on land without a visa. The card also permits them to benefit from basic services such as healthcare, nutrition or simply calling families back home.

The International Labor Organization (ILO), in charge of the project, is a cutting edge partner always willing to innovate and move forward. Hence, to complement the advanced laminate protecting the SID, SURYS introduces a digital breakthrough technology: Photometrix™.



On the Seafarer ID, Photometrix™ protects the ID picture by guaranteeing its authenticity through a simple scan with any standard smartphone of the encrypted 2D barcode that surrounds the picture. It enables a quick offline control of the photo by anyone, anywhere.

Authentication of a document must be simple, fast and ergonomic, regardless of the control environment. To go further, it is possible to implement biometric features into the 2D barcode. In this case, Photometrix™ enables linking the physical person to her/his ID card, allowing for a reliable and quick control whether the ID card and the cardholder match.

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Respecting the Privacy by design concept standards, Photometrix™ allows seafarers to access various services while keeping the ownership of their identity.

By essence, the Photometrix™ code is designed for an offline authentication, thus it doesn't require to access a central database. But even within the code itself, the privacy of the card holder is guaranteed as physical characteristics of the picture stored in the code do not allow reproducing the photo.

Attorney Ma. Rowena Hubilla explains "The Philippines, through the Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA), proudly presents its newly developed Seafarers Identification Document (SID), which is a system project undertaken with its private sector partner: FMC-NEC. The issuance of the Philippine SID by MARINA is pursuant to the ILO Convention 185, aiming to enhance the security features of the Filipino seafarers' ID. The goal is to provide global operability and reliability by ensuring the privileges of facilitated border crossing, transit transfer and repatriation to the Filipino seafarers. The state-of-the-art security features of the Philippines SID highlight - first in the market - the Tier I quality facial recognition system. These are further enhanced by the added Photometrix™ security feature, which allows easy validation of the Philippine SID card at any time whether online or offline. The MARINA is looking forward to the eventual implementation of the Philippine SID during the 1st quarter of 2019. On this note, we offer our appreciation for the recognition bestowed to the Philippine SID by the esteemed HSP Conference. Indeed, we are greatly honored. Thank you."

Alex Benjamin, Vice President Asia-Pacific at SURYS, adds "We are delighted to be able to help the Filipino seafarers to access land services all around the world. These basic human rights have been claimed by ILO since many years. The Philippines Maritime Industry Authority and FMC-NEC partner have done an outstanding job providing a top-of-the-line enrolment and card issuance system. The beauty of the Photometrix™ implementation is that anyone equipped with a basic smartphone will be able to validate the authenticity of the SID card and its owner. This will save a lot of costs in the infrastructure deployment, with no extra tools needed to check the card. On top of all, Photometrix™ works offline and therefore is not dependent on mobile network quality and availability. This is particularly appreciated in remote areas."

All issued SID cards will be ILO compliant, standard based on the implementation ICAO Document 9303.

About SURYS

Global reference in the field of security, SURYS offers a meticulously crafted range of optical and digital solutions to authenticate and track & trace products and documents. SURYS deploys its solutions in over 123 countries and is proud to serve international corporations governments and central banks.

With multiple references in the field of Brands & Products, Identity, Banknotes, and Vehicles, SURYS solutions are recognized by world experts and comply with the highest security standards.

