

**TECHNICAL ADVISORY GROUP ON  
MACHINE READABLE TRAVEL DOCUMENTS**

**Fifteenth Meeting**

(Montreal, 17 to 21 May 2004)

**Agenda Item 3: Report of the New Technologies Working Group**

**Agenda Item 3.2: Future work programme of the NTWG**

**PROPOSAL FOR DEVELOPMENT WORK BY THE NTWG ON  
HYBRID CARD/BOOK OPTIONS FOR BIOMETRIC  
ENABLED PASSPORTS**

(Presented by the New Technologies Working Group (NTWG))

**1. INTRODUCTION**

1.1 This proposal is based on the development of an ID-1 size biometric enabled passport card that would be associated with but separable from a passport book. It follows on from work that has been carried out by the Singaporean government under their Smart Visa for Identification (Smart VIP) initiative.

1.2 Doc 9303, Part 1 allows for a passport in the form of a card provided that the card conforms to the specifications set out in Part 3 of Doc 9303. These specifications have been widely adopted by those countries issuing ID cards as travel documents.

1.3 It is envisaged that a card containing a biometric could be carried with the passport in a pouch that might form part of the passport book or be otherwise attached to the book. The hybrid concept would allow the use of the passport on its own for travel to those countries where a biometric identifier was not required; the card on its own (as a stand alone travel card); or the card and book together (where a biometric identifier was required in addition to a standard passport book). (It is also possible that the option would exist for this card to be used for Government other non-travel related applications)

1.4 Whilst it is accepted that much of the focus on the use of biometrics for travel has been centred on how they should be included in the traditional passport book, there are practical reasons for considering an alternative option. For example, much discussion has centred round the most effective means of protecting the embedded contactless IC in the book. The development of a hybrid card/book option would avoid the risk of damage to the chip embedded in a book. Additionally as chip technology develops, there will be a wish to upgrade or replace them. A separate card could provide a means of replacing chips at a lower cost without the need to replace the book. Test standards for smart cards already exist, smart card reliability is well established and smart card personalisation systems are ready and well established.

## 2. BACKGROUND

2.1 At the NTWG meeting in Glasgow in September 2003, the Singaporean delegation asked that consideration be given to whether a biometric enabled card associated with a book would meet the US requirement to have a biometric enabled passport. At that time the delegate from the US Department of Homeland Security indicated that if ICAO were to endorse such a hybrid document, they would accept it as meeting the requirements for entry under the visa waiver provisions.

2.2 The UK undertook to produce an analysis for comment which was presented at the February NTWG meeting in The Hague.

2.3 Although the UK examined 3 concepts for a hybrid card, two have been discarded: an ID-1 blank card containing a biometric chip, as it would not be useable on its own except possibly at automated border gates; and a card that could have a different number and validity to that of the passport with which it was associated.

2.4 The following key issues will need to be examined further:

- a) attaching the card to the book by a secure means;
- b) compatibility with ICAO specifications for biometric deployment;
- c) coexistence integration with chip-in-MRP;
- d) handling issues for control and airline etc. authorities;
- e) validity issues of card/book;
- f) loss of card;
- g) integration with government non travel related applications;
- h) risk of fraud; and
- i) acceptance of cards by other States.

2.5 This hybrid concept would not be a replacement for the proposed chips in book solution. However it could provide an option for some countries where developing a passport book with an embedded chip would be impractical due to the cost. It might also be used for non-travel related purposes such as for citizen identification. The card would be credit card sized and could be kept in wallets and purses, so making it a very convenient form of identity document. When travelling with both card and book, if one of the documents is lost the other becomes a valuable means of proving identity.

3. **ACTION BY THE TAG/MRTD**

3.1 The TAG/MRTD is invited to approve on-going development work within NTWG in relation to the hybrid card concept and the development of a full Technical Report on it for subsequent consideration and adoption by the TAG/MRTD.

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