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WORKING PAPER

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TECHNICAL ADVISORY GROUP ON MACHINE READABLE TRAVEL DOCUMENTS

Sixteenth Meeting

(Montreal, 26 to 28 September 2005)

Agenda Item 2: Implementation of e-passports
Agenda Item 2.2: Report of the New Technologies Working Group

REPORT OF THE NEW TECHNOLOGIES WORKING GROUP (NTWG)

(Presented by the New Technologies Working Group)

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 This paper is intended to summarize:

1.1.1 The recommendations of the 15th meeting of the TAG/MRTD that resulted in follow-up by the New Technologies Working Group (NTWG).

1.1.2 The ongoing work of the (NTWG) since TAG/15.

1.1.3 The future work and recommendations of the NTWG.

2. FOLLOW-UP TO TAG/MRTD-15'S RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 At the 15th meeting in May 2004, the TAG approved the future directions and activities of the NTWG as follows (section 3.8.6 of the TAG 15 report refers):

2.1.1 Continue its ongoing work on reviews of technologies and their applications, the role of MRTDs in facilitating international travel and its close working relationship with other organizations such as IATA (3.8.6 a).

2.1.2 Continue the ongoing work of developing a technical report in all areas authorized by the TAG/MRTD and subsequently developing these into specifications for eventual incorporation into Doc 9303.

2.1.3 Develop a comprehensive approach to the policy and process issues that arise from the use of advanced technologies in MRTDs.

2.1.4 Explore the use of steganography in MRTDs.

3. ONGOING WORK OF THE NTWG SINCE TAG/15

3.1 Since TAG/15 in May 2004, the NTWG has met on three occasions in Tokyo, Auckland and Lyon. Members of the NTWG have also participated in the Plenary meeting of ISO SC17 in Sydney in October 2004 and attended the ISO WG3 meetings in Kyoto and Ottawa.

3.2 With the advances in the development of e-Passports and the use of advanced technologies in MRTDs, the NTWG undertook a review of its overall strategy and vision. The result of this review are presented in WP/13.

3.3 The NTWG has continued its close working relationship with several organization including the IATA Simplified Passenger Travel (SPT) meetings and the activities to the G-8 Roma-Lyons group on security.

3.4 Since the adoption of the ICAO Blueprint for Biometrically Enhanced Passports, the NTWG has undertaken a series of tests to improve the interoperability of e-Passports and readers. There have been several rounds of testing to date and on every occasion, reading speed and reliability have been enhanced. The NTWG will continue to encourage close cooperation between contactless chip and reader manufacturers and the next round of testing will take place in Singapore in November 2005.

3.5 To keep abreast of developments in technology related to MRTD, the NTWG issued in the fall of 2004 a Request for Information (RFI) to the vendor community. WP/20 outlines the results of that RFI.

3.6 Progress continues to be made in the recording and sharing of information with respect to passports that are reported lost or stolen. WP/17 provides an update on the initiative to share that information.

3.7 As discussed at TAG-15, several member states have expressed an interest in exploring the option of developing a hybrid passport book/passport card. WP/15 outlines the work accomplished to date.

3.8 The development of specifications for electronic visas continues as one of the key activities of the NTWG. WP/16 provides an update on the work to date.

3.9 As requested at TAG-14 in May 2003, WP/11 outlines a suggested approach to the development of requirements for automated border controls.

3.10 The NTWG has undertaken a comprehensive review of the technical specifications required for member States to issue e-Passports. Although the specification is now to be published in a

revised Doc 9303, the current technical reports include information that is not strictly related to specifications, such as why particular choices were made. With this in mind, the NTWG will produce a form of technical report entitled, Interoperability Implementation. The outline of this report is attached to WP/12.

3.11 The development of specifications is a lengthy exercise requiring many years of effort. Recognizing this, and having completed the first e-Passport specification, the NTWG will now focus on specifications for the next generation of e-Passports.

3.11.1 WP/10 which outlines the work plan for the next version of the PKI Security Scheme.

3.11.2 WP/21 which outlines the work plan for the next version of the Logical Data Structure.

3.12 WP/14 describes the work plan for the development of test methodologies for e-Passports. The NTWG has been monitoring the issue of patents and provides an update as presented in WP/22.

4. FUTURE ACTIVITIES OF THE NTWG

4.1 The NTWG will next meet early in 2006 and then as required. Generally, the NTWG will continue its reviews of technologies, their application and the role of MRTDs in facilitating international travel. Specifically, the NTWG intends to undertake the following:

4.1.1 Continue the ongoing work outlined in paragraph 3 above.

4.1.2 Continue the ongoing work of developing technical reports in all areas authorized by the TAG and subsequently developing these into specifications for eventual incorporation to Doc 9303.

4.1.3 Develop a comprehensive approach to the policy and process issues that arise from the use of advanced technologies in MRTDs.

5. ACTION BY THE TAG/MRTD

5.1 The NTWG invites the TAG-MRTD to:

- a) note the work of the NTWG to date and the approach it has taken and;
- b) approve in principle the future direction and activities of the NTWG as outlined in paragraph 4, above.

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