



Case Study:

Nigerian Harmonized ECOWAS Electronic Smart Passport

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Project Overview

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Nigeria is the first African country to adopt e-documents enhanced with biometrics in compliance with the international standards and ICAO guidelines. As of today, e-passports are accepted and deployed globally by a number of countries as an effective tool to protect individuals and their personal information against fraud and counterfeit.



About 6.5 millions of new passports for Nigerians contain a digital face photo as well as thumb and forefinger fingerprint templates. Fingerprint identification is based on BioLink's scalable and fault-tolerant solutions and algorithms, which are among leaders in independent tests.

In implementing this project, BioLink co-operated with its strategic partners Iris Smart Technologies Ltd (ISTL), Nigeria, and IRIS Corporation Berhad, Malaysia. As a system integrator, ISTL is responsible for integrating technologies provided by various vendors, rendering the required services, including system maintenance on-site. IRIS is the supplier of the passport disposal system software, electronic inlays for e-passports and is responsible for printing the new passports.

To issue a biometrically enhanced e-passport, the person's fingerprints are scanned, enrolled into the system and chip contained in a passport. Identification is performed both at the issuance stage in order to prevent re-issuance of the document to the same person and when crossing the country's borders to facilitate and enhance immigration control procedures.

BioLink AMIS Performance

The biometric component is based on BioLink Automated Multi-biometric Information System (AMIS), being a gigantic and powerful matcher of biometric templates and based on patented award-winning fingerprint matching algorithms.

Fingerprint scanning provide support for WSQ (Wavelet Scalar Quantization) format widely accepted and welcomed by law enforcement authorities worldwide. The server part composed of 180 clustered blade servers allows for performing hundreds of thousands of matches per second, with such a speed being a must for the like large-scale identification projects covering millions of people.

The system is supposed to cover the issuance of passports to 6 millions Nigerian citizens (1st stage). Assuming the entire AMIS potential is used to issue passports to all Nigerians, the whole process of passport issuance is about to take 281 days only.



About BioLink Solutions

BioLink Solutions is a trusted global provider, supplier and expert in biometric identification solutions, systems and professional services.

Employing the best international practices and scientific developments, BioLink is committed to building, deploying and maintaining a full range of award-winning biometric identification and identity management solutions worldwide.

Our solutions are designed for a wide range of IT applications, ranging from home information infrastructures of small- and mid-sized enterprises and commercial businesses to large-scale nationwide identification projects.

Our portfolio contains more than 5000 successful implementations in USA, UK, Ireland, Scotland, Nigeria, Malaysia, Lithuania, India, Russia, Kazakhstan and other countries.

For more information please visit www.biolinksolutions.com