Partnering with Government Forensic Experts

Over many years, Thales has developed strong partnerships with forensic experts working for governments worldwide. As part of this process, we organise regular visits to our R&D lab, to share on-going developments with customers.

These visits provide a great opportunity to discuss the most effective methods of protecting identity documents, by making them more intuitive to authenticate, and fraud easier to detect. We invite you to engage with our design team on the best approach to implementing security features in documents, and how, in conjunction with other elements, they can enhance overall performance. During these visits, the Thales team also demonstrates our advanced identity document manufacturing processes.

A range of training and education materials on document verification and fraud detection is available, along with marketing samples.

To guarantee confidentiality, all discussions with visitors are handled under Non-Disclosure Agreements.
We believe in a safer world where everyone has access to a secure trusted identity

Thales delivers identity and biometric solutions to governments, public authorities and private entities, across the fields of civil identity and public security. We support our customers with a portfolio of highly secure documents that are at the heart of trusted identity schemes, including passports, ID cards and driver’s licenses.

Our domain of expertise encompasses passports and cards, and we have a strong track record in security feature innovation. In 1989, with the Finnish Driver’s License, we introduced polycarbonate material to the secure document market. In 1997, again for Finland, we were responsible for the first polycarbonate passport data page. The first electronic polycarbonate data page followed in 2005, this time for Sweden.

We have designed and manufactured passports for countries including the UK, Sweden, Finland and Singapore, and identity cards for Sweden, Finland, Jordan, Switzerland and South Africa. For Cameroon, Thales produced the world’s first polycarbonate ID card with a laser engraved full colour portrait.

To reduce implementation risks, we master the full value chain of document manufacturing, solution development and integration. Moreover, we have our own design studio and manufacture our own printing and lamination plates. Thales also develops border control and document solutions, enabling us to consider fraud from both perspectives: as a document manufacturer and as a document verifier.

Our goal is to design a product that has indisputably trusted authenticity, and is easy to verify by experts and non-experts. Thales security documents are exceptionally difficult to copy, forge or counterfeit. This is because we combine several different technologies (optical, tactile), operating each one at the highest achievable level of quality, and using rare means and materials with limited availability.

Our focus is on protecting both the document and the citizen data. Security elements are implemented during design origination and manufacturing, as well as the personalisation process. We believe that security features work best when they are combined and integrated inside the document. Therefore we aim to duplicate the same elements (usually passport holder picture and document number) within security features at different security levels and using different techniques to reproduce all of them.

Finally, we actively review actual fraud cases. This helps us understand how attacks on identity documents are evolving, and how we can improve our features to make fraud more easily detectable.

Contact us

Want to know more? Please contact Mr. Tommi Seppala, Product Line Manager, Head of the Forensic Experts Program (Tommi.Seppala@thalesgroup.com)