

Opalux Introduce Polycarbonate ID-Lock

Opalux, based in Toronto, Canada, has developed **Polycarbonate ID-Lock (PC ID-Lock)**, a multi-colour colour-shift security feature that protects personalised polycarbonate documents from surface attack.

A patch of PC ID-Lock is embedded within the polycarbonate structure during polycarbonate lamination. Lying on top of the laser-engravable polycarbonate layer, PC ID-Lock's colour-shifting patterns provides tamper-evidence for the laser-engravable polycarbonate layer.

PC ID-Lock is compatible with standard polycarbonate lamination conditions and is transparent to standard polycarbonate engraving lasers, enabling portraits and other personalised information to be engraved through the material unhindered. The resulting personalised information is thereby protected by PC ID-Lock's multi-colour colour-shifting designs.

At most angles, PC ID-Lock is highly transparent, enabling the underlying personalised information to be easily read. At select angles, PC ID-Lock's colour-shifting reflections catch the eye, and provide a brighter, colour-shifting alternative to standard high-refractive index holograms.

Unlike a hologram, no mastering process is required to generate different designs in PC ID-Lock, providing designers with an enhanced level of control at lower cost. This control is further enhanced by PC ID-Lock's wide variety of colour ranges. For example, one version of PC ID-Lock has a colour palette spanning the colour spectrum from infrared to yellow (including all intermediate colours) for designs. Upon tilting, each colour in this palette shifts, giving a shifted colour spectrum of red to blue, including all intermediate colours. Numerous other colour palettes are also available.

PC ID-Lock is based on *OpalPrint*, Opalux's personalised security material. OpalPrint permits personalised, multi-colour colour-shifting security features to be added to high-security identity documents as surface-applied laminates or patches. According to the company, PC ID-Lock is an important step towards an embedded polycarbonate OpalPrint feature that can be personalised following polycarbonate lamination.

Opalux is validating PC ID-Lock and OpalPrint with leading security printers, component suppliers and government authorities.

X INFOTECH *(Continued)*

Q: What differentiates your product from your competitors' products?

A: X INFOTECH offers solutions which have been developed and tested in collaboration with the leading industry professionals. We continuously invest in the development and extension of our product portfolio. The average R&D investments in the industry are 15% of the company's resources, while we allocate more than 50% of resources towards our R&D activities.

In the long run, the key factors in our success are our integrated approach, real-time response and fast implementation without compromising on quality.

Q: What does the company do to be able to compete better? Which regions are of most interest for you?

A: Today, our international and regional recognition is achieved through pro-active participation in industry conferences and exhibitions, which is complementary to building and maintaining trusted relationships with our clients and partners.

It is challenging for our business to develop brand recognition overseas as fast as we would like to. Therefore, our main focus is our technical capabilities and products – and a trusted network of partners with whom we join forces with the goal to win business in a mutually beneficial manner.

According to our strategic vision, the target regions for our turnkey e-ID solutions are Latin America, French-speaking African countries and Southeast Asia, where we are planning to expand our physical presence soon.

Q: Can you tell us about some of the major projects the company was involved in 2015?

A: We welcomed several notable projects in 2015. We delivered a comprehensive solution for personalisation, production management and advanced PKI for two laissez-passer projects – EU laissez-passer travel documents and ECOWAS diplomatic passports. Another major milestone was X INFOTECH's expansion into the Latin-American region with the ICAO PKI solution for Uruguay's new e-passport and e-ID card.

However, at the end of the day, innovations drive the industry. In 2015, we supported the introduction of the new, highly secure Irish passport card which will allow Irish citizens to travel in 30 European countries.

The passport card production is now managed by the X INFOTECH solution, referred to as the *MultiPerso Production Management System*. This is a secure and robust solution that controls the workflow of the card issuance process. Additionally, we provided a smooth on-time integration with desktop personalisation laser-engraving and mailer machines.



Irish passport card launched in October 2015.

Q: Are there any new developments you are currently working on or are planning to develop in the near future?

A: We will keep our clients and partners posted on the new border management and identity verification solutions which are currently in the development phase. Moreover, we do have several other developments, but it is a little too early to announce them.

Q: Can you give us an insight into X INFOTECH's plans for the next five years?

A: Our mission is to deliver a truly exceptional customer experience within the area of e-ID documents, enabling the local players to fully control their growth and protect their own businesses.

In order to keep up with the rapid growth, we are planning to expand our capabilities and be closer to our clients and partners, opening several branches in four continents. We are aiming to become the number one choice for local document and ICT solution suppliers for the e-government ecosystem.

Our strong technical expertise in the banking and government sectors will encourage new projects and government incentives, converging government e-ID with payments, but that is another story altogether.