

Panel on Security of the Legislative Council
Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR)
Identity Card Project: Progress Report

INTRODUCTION

This paper provides Members with an update on the latest development of the HKSAR identity (ID) card project.

THE SMART IDENTITY CARD SYSTEM (SMARTICS)

2. After completion of the system development work in early March 2003, Members were invited to a demonstration on the prototype of the new system¹ on 8 March 2003. We also took the opportunity to show Members the conceptual auto-gates for the Automated Passenger Clearance System.

3. To prepare for the live-run of SMARTICS, a series of tests² have been conducted in accordance with the planned schedule. The results of these tests show that the system is capable of performing the required functions, although some technical problems have yet to be fully resolved. Subject to the contractor's rectification of the outstanding problems in two weeks' time, it remains our aim to start issuing the smart ID cards on 26 May 2003. A more accurate assessment of the position can be made on 12 May 2003 after the necessary tests have been re-conducted and Members will be informed promptly whether the target commencement

¹ The demonstration showed the following processes: registration of the applicants, photograph taking, enrolment of thumbprints, production and issue of identity cards and the use of self-service kiosk.

² Tests which have been conducted include, among other things, unit testing to detect errors on individual modules, system testing to detect discrepancies arising from the integration of the various modules, performance testing to determine the length of time used by the system to process transaction data, peak load testing to determine whether the system could handle the anticipated volume of activities at the peak of its processing demand.

date is achievable. In the event that we need more time for debugging, we may have to defer the roll-out of the smart ID cards by a few weeks so as to ensure that the new computer system can function in a seamless manner.

4. As agreed at the Bills Committee on the Registration of Persons (Amendment) Bill, the Administration will provide a demonstration on SMARTICS in the real working environment before it goes live. We plan to conduct the demonstration in mid-May and will notify Members of the exact time, once the commencement date is fixed.

PROCUREMENT OF ADDITIONAL BLANK SMART CARDS

5. A sum of \$86.7 million was earmarked on 9 March 2001 for the procurement of 1.2 million smart cards for acceptance test and project start up. Assuming a daily consumption about 8,000 ID cards (6,000 for the ID card replacement exercise and 2,000 for normal applications submitted to the Registration of Persons Office), the current stock will last until December 2003. Another 1.2 million blank smart ID cards will be purchased under a specific "Option to Purchase" provision in the current contract which guarantees a further supply of blank cards at the same unit cost. A new tendering exercise is being arranged for the purchase of the remaining 4.7 million blank smart cards to cater for the demand arising from the replacement exercise.

PRIVACY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

6. We have recently engaged a consultant to conduct the third Privacy Impact Assessment. Apart from examining whether adequate data privacy safeguards have been incorporated into the operating procedure, the assessment also includes a pre-implementation review of the system controls and functionalities.

Security Bureau
5 May 2003