

*“Reissuing Border Crossing Cards”*

Testimony Before the Government Reform & Oversight Subcommittee on Government  
Management, Organization and Procurement

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June 25, 2008

Good afternoon. Chairman Towns, Ranking Member Bilbray and other distinguished members of this subcommittee, I am Rick Patrick, Senior Vice President of Federal Programs for the Secure Credentialing Division of L-1 Identity Solutions, and on behalf of the Company, I appreciate the opportunity to appear before the Subcommittee to participate in this important discussion on reissuing border crossing cards.

Before I get into the topic at hand, I would like to provide a brief overview on L-1 Identity Solutions. L-1 Identity Solutions is a portfolio of companies offering a comprehensive set of products and solutions for protecting and securing personal identities and assets. This includes the design and manufacture of secure credentials, which is the focus of my division. Our other divisions focus on biometrics, such as facial, fingerprint and iris recognition technologies; fingerprinting services; and consulting services for the intelligence community. L-1 Identity Solutions is publicly traded on the New York Stock Exchange, with over 1800 employees worldwide.

The secure credentialing division of L-1 Identity Solutions provides a large portfolio of solutions comprised of hardware, software and services that are used to create and secure identity documents, such as passports, driver licenses, and other non-driver identification cards, that the world can rely on. We have designed over 2,000 card types and integrated well over 50 security features in these secure driver licenses and identity cards. On an annual basis, our technologies help produce more than 35 million identification documents, including the U.S. Passport for the last 9 years, the U.S. Department of Defense Common Access Card for the past 3 years, driver licenses for 15 States, and most recently, as you know we have been awarded a contract from the

Department of State to produce the new Passport Card. In fact, we have already delivered the first 125,000 production cards to the Department of State to begin issuing to the public. In addition, this contract also calls for the production and design of the next generation Border Crossing Card using the same printing and production platform as the Passport Card.

And so, for the remainder of my testimony, allow me to address (1) the application of these cards; (2) the security features they contain to prevent tampering and counterfeiting, (3) how the card design protects personal privacy and, (4) the care we take in the production and manufacture of these travel documents.

As you know, the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative led the Departments of State and Homeland Security to introduce the Passport Card as a less expensive alternative to the passport book specifically to meet the needs of border community residents who frequently cross the land borders between the US and Canada and Mexico. On the other hand, the Border Crossing Card, serves as a visa for Mexican citizens seeking to enter the United States for a short period of time for purposes like tourism or dealing with family matters.

As a result, both these cards are aimed at not only enhancing inspection process security, but also at facilitating commerce and expediting passenger processing. As set forth by the requirements of the Department of State and the Department of Homeland Security, both the Passport Card and the next generation Border Crossing Card contain RFID vicinity read technology to meet the operational requirements of CPB at the land ports of entry. They also incorporate a number of security features that prevent tampering and make it easy for an

inspector to quickly ascertain its validity. Among these features are laser engraved photo and text, rainbow printing (which is a gradual variation of printed colors that are difficult to photocopy or reproduce), color shifting ink (which changes apparent color depending upon the angle of reflected light), tactile features which are pressed or laser engraved, microprinting of characters which require magnification to readily see and are very difficult to copy, and an embedded Optical Variable Device, or OVD. In addition, there are many covert features that we cannot describe in an open forum. Taken together, these features make it very difficult to counterfeit or otherwise fraudulently modify the card. The result is that the Passport Card and Border Crossing Cards will be among the most secure in the world.

With respect to privacy, the NIST-certified Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) technology embedded in the card does not carry any personal or biometric information. The chip contains only a randomly generated number – different from the number shown on the face of the card – which is a pointer to a record in the Government database. Using this pointer number, the traveler's information is retrieved from the Government database via a secure connection so that the CBP officer has an opportunity to review information before the traveler arrives at the window.

The use of the pointer number protects personal privacy because no information is stored on the card and the database record can only be accessed when the card is presented. Moreover, the database record is sent directly to the CBP terminal via a secure Department of Homeland Security network. If the card is lost or stolen, a CBP officer would be able to determine quickly that an imposter was using it either by comparing the photograph pulled from the government

database or, as in the case of the Border Crossing Card, by performing a biometric match between the travelers' fingerprint and the one stored on the government's database at secondary inspection.

While both the Passport Card and the next generation Border Crossing Card will utilize RFID technology and the above described security features, other steps have been taken to ensure that a stolen Passport Card cannot be used as a Border Crossing Card. For example, both the artwork and OVD elements will differ between the two cards. This will provide an easily identifiable way to differentiate the two different type cards while standardizing the technology platform used at the border, again, keeping in line with the requirement to provide the highest level of security and privacy while facilitating traffic flow.

In terms of manufacturing both the Passport Card and the Border Crossing Card, they are credentials that are, or will be, as in the case of the Border Crossing Card, made exclusively in the United States. The team L-1 assembled for this project is composed of well-established American companies. The work to produce the cards is being done here in the U.S. in a secured facility in Mount Pleasant, Tennessee. The card personalization equipment is manufactured by a U.S. corporation at their facilities outside of Minneapolis. The individuals involved in the production process are vetted through criminal background checks. The security materials we use to create the documents – the inks and highly specialized consumables – are not readily available in the marketplace, but only to Government agencies and vetted security printers. We use a combination of secure printing processes and other special tools for creating the unique artwork designs I described earlier to further secure the card against alterations and tampering.

When applied to the Passport Card and the Border Crossing Card, these processes ensure the integrity of the credential and help to support the mission of the State Department and Homeland Security Department in managing and vetting the identities of travelers to the U.S.

As I conclude my testimony today, I would like to reiterate that we at L-1 Identity Solutions take great pride in the work that we do and in our partnership with the U.S. Government. We appreciate the need to balance security, privacy and the flow of commerce, and believe that the solutions we provide help to achieve those goals. We look forward to continuing to be a part of this critical discussion and once again appreciate the opportunity to appear before you today. I would be happy to answer any questions that you may have at this time.

Thank you.