IrisGuard Helps Fast-tracked Passengers Breeze through Dubai International Airport

Airport congestion and long passenger queues, waiting for Entry/Exit clearance, are everyday frustrating experiences for international travelers. Smart e-gate with IrisGuard's robust and reliable technology plays an integral part in the process. Dubai International Airport has taken radical steps to improve passenger experience at its terminals. The new Smart e-Gate System, installed at Terminal3 in Dubai International Airport's passport control entry and exit points (phase one), is carefully designed to achieve that goal.

Dubai International Airport (DXB) is ranked the fourth busiest airport in the world in terms of international passengers, according to Airports Council International (ACI). The airport serves more than 150 airlines, flying to over 220 destinations, across six continents. The current combined throughput of the airport's three terminals is 60 million passengers which will increase to 75 million passengers per year when the A380-dedicated "Concourse3" opens at the end of this year. Last year Dubai Airport combined three passenger terminals, handling 50 million passengers, in which 30 million were entry/exit transactions.

The General Directorate for Residency and Foreigners Affairs in Dubai (GDRFA) awarded emaratech as the prime contractor for the new Smart e-Gate electronic border control gates system at Dubai Airport. The announcement was made on September 17th during a high-level meeting chaired by Major General Mohammad Ahmad Al Merri, Director General of GDRFA.

emaratech has selected IrisGuard to provide its 3rd generation iris recognition architecture and matching components for this pristine aviation industry deployment. Accuracy, which is the key success criteria for Iris biometrics, has always been a constant focus area for IrisGuard. Without compromise, IrisGuard's biometric iris recognition system deployment, at UAE border control points, reached a groundbreaking, record number of iris comparison transactions of over 61 trillion in ten years of live operations.

IrisGuard's NextGen® Iris Farm Architecture© (IFA) plays a pivotal role in efficiently managing and accurately authenticating the large passenger capacity. All arriving passengers are enrolled on-the-fly, instantaneously; the passenger's identity results are presented to the immigration officer for entry/exit approval processing. The system matches the traveler's recorded biometrics and passport information against existing lists to detect any potential discrepancies. The new Smart e-Gate will eliminate the need for prior user registration with the GDRFA, as is the case with the existing e-Gate card. The complete procedure is carried out in seconds, as opposed to the previous five to ten minutes.

During the enrollment and recognition phase, numerous iris vulnerability and countermeasures are processed, to ensure that passengers are really who they claim to be. IrisGuard's state-of-the-art and proven methods for analyzing iris images quality is critical. Occasionally, iris images may not be of sufficient quality, due to off-image axis, specular reflections, poor focus, saturation, iris covered by eyelids, eyelashes, contact lens, etc. IrisGuard defends the core system by applying the highest level of iris image quality controls, prior to matching, in order to avoid the otherwise expected poor matching results and tainting the entire Iris Farm ecosystem with weak iris template data.

Dubai International Airport will benefit immensely from the new, improved passenger identity facilitation procedures. The airport will be able to move even more passengers through the passport control bottleneck without compromising the world-class security screening Dubai has enjoyed for many years. This will lead to the optimization of resources and the reduction of passenger queues in all terminals.

"Among all the iris recognition technologies, emaratech trialed and tested, IrisGuard was selected since it was able to meet the tremendous current and future passenger traffic throughput requirements. Enrolling and identifying travelers in real time, without inconveniencing the passenger and drastically improving the passenger processing, security and speed to the highest security standards is avant-garde," stated Mr. Mohammed Jaafar Karzoun, Chief Operating Officer at emaratech.

"We are tremendously excited about Dubai's new challenging passenger initiative with GDRFA and emaratech. IrisGuard has been at the forefront of passenger facilitation and border control for the last decade in multiple countries in the region. Our products continue to be the preferred choice for major system integrators due to our superior iris recognition solutions, deployment accomplishments, our in-depth knowledge and our relentless efforts to improve iris recognition technology." remarked Mr. Imad Malhas, CEO of IrisGuard.

emaratech is a technology and management consulting company that provides high-end market strategies and advanced information technology solutions for both private/public sectors and individuals. emaratech has increased administrative efficiency by improving various systems, while maintaining compliance with industry standards. With more than eleven years of experience, emaratech is the region's leading consulting and integrated solutions providers. emaratech brings the necessary knowledge to make better referrals and guarantee that projects are on target.

Established in 2001, privately owned company, IrisGuard is the leading provider of comprehensive customer authentication, patented iris solutions for Homeland Security and Banking, focusing primarily on holistic human identity requirements. IrisGuard was the first company in the world to deploy iris recognition at Border Control points. In addition to its Iris Farm Architecture® (IFA) identity ecosystem, IrisGuard manufactures the world's most accurate Iris Recognition camera systems: EyeTrust®, EyeSign®, IG-AD100®, EyePay®. IrisGuard has offices in Washington, Geneva, Amman, Dubai, London and Singapore.

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