



Decision Memorandum

TO: León Rodríguez
Director

FROM: Tracy L. Renaud
Associate Director, Management Directorate

SUBJECT: **Recommendation Next Generation Secure Identification Document Project -
Permanent Resident Card and Employment Authorization Document Card
Designs**

Purpose

This memorandum requests your approval of the redesigned Form I-551, Permanent Resident Card (PRC), and Form I-766, Employment Authorization Document (EAD). The redesigns feature new artwork and embedded security features as part of the Next Generation Secure Identification Document (NGSID) Project.

Background

The NGSID Project began in early 2013 with extensive market research. The Office of Intake and Document Production (OIDP), Document Management Division (DMD) hosted meetings with key industry leaders and stakeholders to learn industry best practices. The research formed the basis for the development of the NGSID acquisition requirements package which included a full and open competition under a Firm Fixed Price, Indefinite Delivery/Indefinite Quantity Contract Terms and Conditions.

Contract Award

The Next Generation Card Consumables Contract was awarded to HID Global (referred to as HID) on September 25, 2015. HID is contracted to deliver an integrated solution for secure identification that includes:

- Card design services;
- A solid body 100% polycarbonate card stock;
- An embedded Radio-Frequency Identification (RFID) chip;

- Holographic images embedded within the card construction substrate layers; and
- Storage for secure identification card stock and related technical support services.

The following are the three phases of the NGSID Project:

Phase 1 – Acquisition and Contract Award: Completed Sept 2015

Phase 2 – NGSID Concept/Design, Approval, and Testing: Concept/Design: Completed Jan 2016

Phase 3 – NGSID Manufacturing and Delivery: Estimated Completion FY 2017 Q2- Q3

The new PRC/EAD card stock will be highly secure, tamper-resistant, and difficult to counterfeit. Additionally, the redesigned cards will meet all applicable standards from the following organizations:

- International Organization for Standardization;
- International Civil Aviation Organization;
- Customs and Border Protection (CBP);
- Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative (WHTI);
- Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) standards;
- Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Homeland Security Investigations – Forensic Laboratory (HSI-FL) Secure Document Recommendations; and
- Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Screening Coordination Office’s Guidance on Credentialing Framework Initiative.

Document Lifecycle and Versatility

The average lifecycle of a secure document is between 3-5 years. After a secure document has been in circulation for approximately 3 years, counterfeiting attempts begin to demonstrate a greater degree of sophistication in creating counterfeits of the secure documents. The current PRC and EAD cards use security design technologies from 2008; therefore, the security features have already passed the expected 3-5 year industry lifecycle. The current PRC was put into circulation in 2010 and the EAD in 2011.

The NGSID redesigned PRC and EAD card stock and accompanying items will provide the same material functionality and can be processed using the current card personalization systems in both the Corbin Production Facility (CPF) in Corbin, KY, and Lee’s Summit Production Facility (LPF) in Lee’s Summit, MO.

In addition to providing a state-of-the-art integrated design solution that will provide highly secure, tamper resistant, and cost effective cards, the NGSID provides a flexible and adaptable card design concept with a customized masthead, card name, unique barcode identifier and human readable serial number and color. The design concept provides U.S. Citizenship and

Immigration Services (USCIS) the flexibility to introduce new card types while minimizing the lead times required in implementing new card designs into production, if needed.

NGSID Design Concept

The NGSID Project Team worked with key USCIS subject matter experts and Integrated Project Team (IPT) members from:

- Service Center Operations;
- Fraud Detection and National Security;
- Office of Information Technology; and
- Office of Transformation Coordination.

Additionally, the NGSID Project Team worked with external stakeholders from DHS, Screening Coordination Office, CBP, ICE HSI-FL, and others who provided input and recommendations. The following is a highlight of some of the NGSID PRC and EAD design concept and security features:

- NGSID PRC design uses a predominantly green pallet with unique primary images of the Flag and Statue of Liberty, and EAD design uses a predominantly red pallet with unique primary images of the Flag and Eagle;
- NGSID PRC and EAD card designs contain the same cardholder's data elements as the current PRC and EAD cards;
- Both NGSID PRC and EAD cards will meet CBP WHTI RFID standards to support the CBP WHTI Program;
- All NGSID PRC and EAD cards will have an RFID feature with a 10-year lifecycle after being personalized. CBP heavily relies on the vicinity RFID technology, as the pointer stored on the RFID tag provides streamlined electronic verification capability to query cardholder's biographic and biometric information against their TECS database USCIS feeds PRC and EAD cardholder information to TECS through IT systems data sharing;
- NGSID PRC and EAD card stock will be a 10-layer 100% polycarbonate solid body card structure with peel resistance. The 100% Polycarbonate card stock will provide exceptional long lasting durability with temperature and impact resistant characteristics for the production of long-lifespan identity documents which can last over 10 years;
- New PRC and EAD card stock is compatible with the existing production systems; and
- Flexible and adaptable card design concept to support any future immigration benefit requirements.

Optical Memory Stripe Removal

A noticeable difference in the new card design concept is the removal of the outdated optical memory stripe (OMS) technology from the back of the PRC.

Originally the OMS technology was used with the intent to store additional biometric information that could be used as another identity verification method. However, the OMS has never been used as originally intended; instead, it has functioned as a quick identity verification tool by comparing person's photo image printed on the front of the card against the holographic photo image printed on the OMS. Additionally, CBP does not electronically read or verify the data elements etched on the OMS.

Removing the OMS from the NGSID PRC provides substantial cost savings for the new PRC card stock, one uniform PRC/EAD card design concept, use of one card consumables provider, and enables USCIS to take advantage of volume discount pricing.

Signature Image Removal

At the June 26, 2013 USCIS Senior Policy Council, the decision was made to remove the signature from PRCs issued to Immigrant Visa applicants. This decision stemmed from the processing of these applications via the Electronic Immigration System and the need to forgo the physical capture of signatures on the electronically filed Immigrant Visas and does not oblige CBP to capture the signature via the I-89 form at the Ports of Entry.

In consultation with the ICE HSI-FL and CBP, it was determined that the signature on the card provides no verification or forensic value to the document; therefore, the signature image will be removed from all future NGSID PRCs and EADs issued.

Next Generation Security Design Features

The new card designs include several features to safeguard the photograph included as a primary biometric identifier on both PRC and EAD cards, as attempts to alter or substitute the photograph are common approaches to counterfeit or fraudulently acquired cards. Security features include:

- Clear tactile printing of the cardholder's date of birth and gender on the left side of the photo image; and
- A new state-of-the-art highly secure Kinegram holographic image manufactured with clear and metalized foil placed on the right side of the photo image.

The new card designs feature multi-layered artwork and security printing design elements printed during card stock manufacturing and personalization processes which include a combination of first, second, and third level security features:

- First-Level: Overt security features can be seen and felt under normal light conditions – performed by primary inspectors;
 - Personal data elements printed on the front of the card are linked to the same data elements printed on the back of the cards, for example; photo image, applicant’s name, date of birth, gender, Machine Readable Zone, etc.;
 - Protected card holders biographic data and biometric photo image by interlocking them to the physical characteristics, for example; variable size text (Swoosh below the photo image on the front and Swoosh on the left side of the photo image on the back), etc.;
- Second-Level: Covert security features verifiable using simple hand-held magnification tools and Ultraviolet light – performed by secondary inspectors;
 - The new card designs will include microtext printing, surface embedded microtext, surface embedded latent image, raised embossing, tactile printing, variable size text (Swoosh below the photo image on the front and Swoosh on the left side of the photo image on the back), etc.;
 - Incorporates optical variable shifting inks, ultraviolet inks, three transparent windows with artwork designs, custom line work, patterns, morphing shapes, multiple rainbow split fountains front and back;
- Third-Level: Forensic security features that require specialized equipment and forensic analysis to detect fraud – performed by forensic examiners;
 - State-of-the-art embedded (under the card stock substrate layers) Kinegram holographic images designed with clear and metalized foils placed on the front and back of the cards; and
 - Card designs will include invisible fluorescent inks.

Summary and Next Steps

The NGSID card design concept was reviewed and approved by OIDP/DMD and ICE HSI-FL, and reviewed with the NGSID IPT on December 10, 2015.

The NGSID PRC and EAD artwork, security, and Kinegram designs were reviewed and approved by DMD and ICE HSI-FL and shared with the NGSID IPT on February 2, 2016.

The positive feedback from internal and external stakeholders on the NGSID iterative revisions and leading edge final artwork and security printing designs has prompted the IPT voting

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members to approve the NGSID PRC and EAD designs and to move forward with testing and manufacturing.

The next step is to prepare for the upcoming NGSID PRC and EAD testing at independent test labs and DMD production facilities, currently scheduled for March/April 2016.

For your review, the NGSID PRC and EAD artwork designs and the current PRC and EAD card designs are attached.

Recommendation: OIDP recommends approval of the NGSID PRC and EAD for implementation into production.

Approve/date _____

MAR 24 2016

Disapprove/date _____

Modify _____

Needs discussion/date _____

Attachment: Side by Side Comparison Images of the Current PRC and EAD Card Designs and NGSID PRC and EAD Card Designs (Front and Back)

cc: Eric R. Peters, Director, CBP, Fraudulent Document Analysis Unit

Alejandro M. Amaro, Director, ICE, Homeland Security Investigations Forensic Laboratory

Pamela Friedmann, Director, DHS, Physical Screening and Redress Policy