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## News Bulletins

### Portugal Launches National ID Smart Card

Portugal recently launched a national ID smart card program that will include biometrics and online authentication. A pilot phase for the "Citizen Card" began in the Azores region late last week.

Cardholders can use a personal identification number, or PIN, to authenticate themselves for online services government officials say they plan to offer. Each cardholder's fingerprints will be stored on the card, which police officers will be allowed to check. Also, the card generates a legally binding digital signature.

This smart card will be the official ID document for Portuguese citizens and will include several ID numbers, including those for civil identification and social security. In the future, the Citizen Card will replace citizens' voting cards, according to France-based vendor Gemalto, which is supplying the cards for the project. Gemalto also will personalize the cards and provide some software for the project. Gemalto was selected by Imprensa Nacional-Casa da Moeda (INCM), the Portuguese Mint and National Printing Office. In a statement, José I. Toscano, head of INCM, said the implementation of the chip-based ID card program will facilitate better public services for the nation of 10.5 million people. (2007-02-22)



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