

GOVERNMENT OF CHAD MOBILE BIOMETRIC SYSTEM

Bio-Metrica's 'Mobile Biometric Unit' (MBU™) is chosen to provide high quality enrollment information for civil servant registration in Chad



Orlando, FL July 22, 2010 – First tier system integrator and software developer Bio-Metrica, LLC announced that it will be providing its MBU™ to be used for enrolling civil servants in the African nation of Chad.

Bio-Metrica's MBU™ is a ruggedized biometric system that can be configured to operate in a variety of harsh environments. The MBU™ also can operate on its own internal battery for up to 10 hours, allowing operators to collect data in regions of the country where power may not be readily available. These basic capabilities were an important factor in choosing the MBU™ for the registration process. The MBU™ uses Bio-Metrica's Enrollment Workstation (EWS) software, which is a cross-platform biometric enrollment application that records high quality data, including fingerprint templates and images (WSQ format), high-resolution pictures, comprehensive user details, and print labels using a thermal printer. The MBU™ or the EWS can be used together or separately, in other biometric systems / applications.

"The MBU™ increases the efficiency, effectiveness, and reach of the inter-ministry commission. Instead of having people travel to a centralized offices, operators can go to remote areas and get the information needed to ensure an accurate work time record of all of Chad's civil servants is accomplished," said Quentin Delisle, Oberthur Technologies Project Manager.

"Our solution provides the best combination of price, performance and durability for collecting data across diverse harsh environments like those found in Chad. With the modular setup of the MBU™, we can configure it to work with a variety of our applications, including EWS, to fulfill our clients' needs," said Ronen Yacobi, CEO of Bio-Metrica, LLC.

Challenges

The government of Chad required a rugged, mobile biometric system, which could collect biometric data from civil servants located throughout the country. They could be either in cities or in far flung villages with very little in the way of transportation infrastructure or even power. All the components needed to be able to operate without connection to a central server and work on battery power only if there was not a stable electric power source available. It was also required to be portable and be easy to transport between locations.

The system needed to be able to generate high quality biometric data as well as capture an image of the person being enrolled and provide a printed receipt to provide evidence of enrollment.

Solution

In order to meet the demands of the hard environment of Chad, of which portions lay within the Sahara Desert, a system was designed in order to operate within the temperature extremes of that environment. The MBU™ (Mobile Biometric Unit) was designed with a weatherproof and waterproof case, a robust PC, a fingerprint scanner, camera, and receipt printer to collect the necessary data. All set inside a custom-designed foam insert along with a battery power supply that could maintain system operation for over 10 hours of sustained activity.

A custom software solution to collect that information was created, called EWS (Enrollment WorkStation). EWS would collect all the biometric and biographical data on each civil servant enrolled into onto the system. It also kept transaction logs and reports, which could not be edited so as to reduce any instances of unauthorized tampering of data already in the system.



Collected information from enrollment stations all over the country would then be exported from EWS and into an encrypted archive file. This was then placed onto USB flash drive for use in government databases.



Implementation

The solution was assembled in the United States and then shipped to Chad for deployment.

Documentation was also written for training and operations of the system. Training took place in Chad with French-speaking instructors.

Results

With the MBU™ and EWS, the government of Chad was able to enroll civil servants throughout the country without having to worry about having an infrastructure in place at each enrollment location. The portability and power of the solution allowed them to enroll up to 5,000 civil service employees a day and provide high quality information that the government required.



