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Bundesdruckerei – Secure Identities

High-security technology from Berlin

Bundesdruckerei GmbH ranks among the world's leading suppliers of secure ID solutions. Founded in 1879 under the name "Reichsdruckerei", the company has developed from a traditional state-owned security printing house to become an innovative supplier of a vast variety of products and systems in the field of ID security.

Security demands continue to grow world-wide and this calls for outstanding technical solutions. Bundesdruckerei is one of the few companies world-wide capable of developing one-stop ID systems, from data capture to the production of documents and the required trust center solutions, right through to the reading of documents at borders.

The company also supplies passports, ID cards, driving licences, vehicle registration documents and other high-security documents to Germany and other countries. Since 2005, Bundesdruckerei has been setting standards with the German ePassport system which is also receiving significant international attention. In recent years, many foreign governments have chosen products and systems from Bundesdruckerei. Since 2007, Germany's second-generation ePassport has been in circulation; two of the passport holder's fingerprints are stored in the chip of this passport.

With a wealth of expertise that has grown over decades in the traditional core areas of competence, i.e. value and security printing, Bundesdruckerei is also one of the most successful producers of banknotes, postage stamps and revenue stamps. The company also supplies electronic publications of all kinds to German and international customers.

The Group

Around eight years after privatisation, the government of the Federal Republic of Germany bought back the Bundesdruckerei Group, thus reflecting the federal government's changed security interests. The company's status under private law remains unchanged. Bundesdruckerei operates in a tried-and-tested network of co-operating subsidiaries and holdings in Germany and abroad, and currently employs a staff of around 1,700 world-wide.

With the service portfolio of its subsidiary D-TRUST GmbH, Bundesdruckerei is in a good position to meet the growing demand for public key infrastructures. These solutions enable secure and legally binding electronic communications between companies and government authorities. D-TRUST has been certified by TÜVIT and is the trust center with the highest security classification in Germany.

BIS Bundesdruckerei International Services GmbH is responsible for international sales whilst Shanghai Mite produces ID documents for China, and iNCO Spółka z o.o. contributes its know-how as a specialist in data capture for electronic publications.

Munich-based Maurer Electronics GmbH, the leading supplier of laser engraving equipment, is also part of the company group. Maurer Electronics provides solutions for personalising high-security cards with or without a chip, such as ID cards, passports and driving licences.

The 2008 financial year

In the 2008 financial year, the Bundesdruckerei Group recorded sales of 314 million euro. Compared to the previous year, the company was able to increase its sales by ten million euro or three percent, respectively. This increase in sales is mainly attributable to the ID systems and documents segments in Germany and to banknotes.

One highlight of the fiscal year was winning the pan-European call for tenders by the Federal Bureau of Motor Vehicles for the production of the next generation of German EU driving licence cards. This contract was awarded to Bundesdruckerei in November 2008. After the current contract expires at the end of 2010, in 2011, Berlin-based Bundesdruckerei will begin producing the German driving licence for a further ten years. New security features are to be then added. Even today, the German driving licence in credit-card format, designed according to the EU standard, is one of the securest driving licences in the world. By the end of 2008, around 35 million such documents had been supplied to German motorists.

Listed below are Bundesdruckerei's most important print products for German and foreign customers along with the (rounded) production figures for 2008:

- 9.0 million ID documents and ID cards
- 6.0 million passports
- 3.1 million EU driving licence cards
- 1.2 billion banknotes
- 5.6 billion revenue stamps
- 1.4 billion postage stamps
- 109,000 patent documents

Technology and Innovation

In order to underline its position as an internationally recognised full-service supplier in the field of "secure identities", Bundesdruckerei invested around 25 million euro in research and development activities in the past financial year. That's 15 percent more than in the previous year.

One priority in this area was the foundation of the "Secure Identity Berlin-Brandenburg" innovation cluster together with Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft. Since 2007, Bundesdruckerei has been collaborating with individual Fraunhofer institutes in so-called SecurityLabs, conducting research in areas such as organic electronics, flexible chips and display technologies. The aim is to develop innovative technologies and products that warrant doubt-free identification of individuals, objects and intellectual property. At the same time, security technology is to be strengthened as a regional economic force. In addition to the Fraunhofer institutes, this network also includes universities, commercial businesses, as well as the federal states of Berlin and Brandenburg.

As an investment in the future, Bundesdruckerei has also endowed the Secure Identity chair at Berlin's Freie Universität. This endowed professorship focuses on security research in the field of digital identity and secure electronic identification. In April 2009, the first series of lectures kicked off with Prof. Dr. Volker Roth who was appointed professor and designed the planned masters course.

Outlook

In the 2009 financial year, Bundesdruckerei has already been able to report another success: The German federal government has issued a declaration of intent to commission Berlin-based Bundesdruckerei to produce, personalise and deliver the new electronic ID cards as well as residence permits.