

## EQUIPMENT AND SERVICES

**ICTS Expands Innovative Reservation System**

An airline booking system that is giving passengers a peek at what the future of the airline reservation process could look like has recently been upgraded and expanded.

The IP@SS system designed by Dutch-based security firm **ICTS** was introduced in January 2002 at London Gatwick Airport for business passengers on U.S. bound **Delta Air Lines** flights. The system was built to allow passengers quick and secure aircraft boarding by searching databases and using biometrics to confirm identity.

A second project was started at **Newark Liberty International Airport** (EWR) last year for business travelers and tourists on Continental flights to **Ben Gurion International Airport** (TLV) in Tel Aviv, Israel (see *ASR*, June 19, 2002, p.2). IP@SS was upgraded in October to include a new travel document reader, a contactless smart card and aesthetic improvements to the check-in and gate units.

Moreover, Continental and ICTS expanded the use of the reservation system in December to include a daily Continental roundtrip flight to **Amsterdam Schiphol Airport** (AMS).

ICTS and its technology partner, **On Track Innovations Ltd.** (OTI), have significantly upgraded IP@SS into a second-generation model that improves quality control and transaction speed.

OTI provides the contactless microprocessor-based smart cards, readers and other related technology for the IP@SS system that works on open architecture so that readers, scanners and computers can be replaced quickly.

ICTS replaced **Imaging Automation's** BorderGuard as the automated passport scanner with a product providing greater accuracy, said OTI CEO Oded Bashan. Some passports could not be read by BorderGuard and had to be manually entered into the computer system, slowing down the boarding process, he added.

The contactless smart card uses a proprietary microprocessor protected by encryption and incorporates the largest smart card memory capacity on the market, Bashan said. The card stores information about a passenger's passport, biometrics, flight and gate number.

"I think that the future should be that certain groups of frequent flyers – those that are known very well by the airlines, the high-mile passenger – that this will be their frequent flyer card," said Joseph Yahav of ICTS' U.S. division.

The biometric reader has been upgraded to provide more reliable and faster verification. Bashan said the new reader is working above 97 percent accuracy for three-second enrollment at the check-in counter and one-second verification at the gate.

The planned third-generation model could be ready for use within two to three months to take into account changes in U.S. law. Primarily, the two-finger 3-D scanner used as the biometric identifier for travelers will be changed since foreign visa documents must include a different biometric sample.

ICTS has designed the IP@SS system for mobile and fixed configurations. Both units provide combined check-in and security processing services. >> *Joseph Yahav, ICTS USA, 212/218-1850, website: www.icts-usa.com* >> →



Passengers using the IP@SS reservation system provide two-finger 3-D geometry samples as their biometric identifier at Newark Airport during check-in.

Source: ICTS



At the gate, passengers pass their contact-less smart card by the reader on top of the unit and place two fingers into the biometric reader in the middle of the unit.

Source: ICTS