



## Press Release

### IN Groupe through its secure components brands, Surys and SPS, expands its footprint in North America

**Surys and SPS aim to give a new impetus to their activity in North America with the appointment of a new sales director, Lionel Le Blanc.**

**Paris, France, September 12, 2023** – Surys and SPS continue to expand their secure components passport market in North America. In doing so, the secure components brands of IN Groupe are proud to announce the arrival of their new Sales Director North America, Lionel Le Blanc. He will be responsible for running the secure components commercial strategy of Surys and SPS and build both brands' awareness and visibility in North America. He will also be in charge of relaunching the vehicle business line by working closely with Surys Ink Connecticut, the American affiliate of Surys, mostly focused on carplate and vehicle identification. Lionel will leverage his expertise in biometric identification, border systems, security printing, passports and banknotes to build on strong relationships with senior decision-makers and B2B partners in North America.



2023 at ICAO Headquarters in Montreal.

Lionel will represent both Surys and SPS brands on the IN Groupe booth N. 9 at the Symposium and Exhibition on the ICAO Traveler Identification Programme (TRIP) and Joint International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) Biometrics Forum that will take place from 12 to 14 September

Lionel LeBlanc, Sales Director North America, at IN Groupe states: *"IN Groupe is proud to deliver the largest palette of innovative physical and electrical security features to all ePassport vendors. This way, citizens receive visually attractive passports with security features that are easy to recognize and remember for border control officers, making border crossing smoother and more efficient."*

#### **The passport market in full recovery after the Covid years**

In 2023, the demand for electronic passports has fully recovered after Covid, with over 200 million passports of which 98% are electronic. As the market of datapages is currently moving on to polycarbonate (PC) with an annual growth rate of 20%, the market share of PC datapages currently represents now 60% of ePassports while the traditional one of paper datapage is declining.

These passport market data show the dynamism and trends revealing the challenges modern passport will have to cope with. On one hand, they must be secure and robust within a fast-evolving environment in order to help governments face the increasing number of travelers and rising global threats. On the other hand, they must be practical, discrete and effective to enable travelers to cross borders quickly.

### **A comprehensive passport offer for a secure, fast and seamless borders crossing**

SPS and Surys, the secure components brands of IN Groupe, provide passport manufacturers with the answer to today's needs. They join, indeed, their forces to combine their expertise in optics and electronics and create a unique passport offer. Their turnkey ePassports solutions cover a wide range of secure components from inlay/eCover with the SPS inductive coupling technology for more reliability and durability, PC and paper datapages, holograms, hinge, and all the standard features for cutting-edge PC datapages such as embossing, MLI, transparent windows, microtext, OVI and rainbow printing.

Surys brings its expertise in high security holograms for passports by providing a wide range of laminate solutions that include all three levels of security for paper and PC data page. On one hand, Surys has developed two main optical technologies for paper datapage: the Alphagram™ and the DID™. On the other hand, the new PC datapage obviously provides the intrinsic security of a polycarbonate datapage, which has proved to be significantly harder to attack or counterfeit than traditional paper datapages. Furthermore, the new PC datapage offer is not only fully compliant with ICAO 9303 recommendations, but also includes the best patented technologies from both entities, such as DID™ Shape, CHI™ (Customized Hinge Image) and CAI™ (Customized Antenna Image) that help reinforce the security of the final document, making controls easier while providing evidence of any attack attempts. Additionally, SPS/Surys follow the recent PC datapage trend by including a custom clear window, whose shape is flexible and customizable.

With that being said, SPS and Surys, the secure component brands of IN Groupe, allow passport manufacturers to print and personalize paper and/or PC datapage with their passport printing machines and personalization systems that can fit within both centralized production sites or decentralized offices. This shows how much Surys and SPS accompany the passport manufacturers in their production journey by providing them an integrated passport offer with all secure components integrated in it until the printing/personalization process.

### **A comprehensive passport solution offer not only secured but also customized**

All of the optical security features and patented technologies offered by Surys are implemented with a unique and customizable design making passports more attractive as well as highlighting attack attempts and facilitating control. The designs are eye-catching and easy to authenticate so that they facilitate and fasten border control while ensuring security. The more elaborate and detailed the design is, the harder it will be to counterfeit. All secure components offered by SPS and Surys are not only secure but also personalized to fit with any customer's need.



## About IN Groupe

As global specialist in identity and secure digital services, IN Groupe is the trusted partner in the management and protection of sensitive data. By mastering the entire value chain of the identity, IN Groupe has deployed its expertise beyond sovereign identity by extending its solutions and services to professional identities and identity of things. A stakeholder in major issues aimed at improving and securing the right to be yourself in the digital age, the Group regularly intervenes with institutions and organizations involved in the identity ecosystem in Europe. IN Groupe's solutions, at the cutting edge of technology, integrate electronic, optical, holographic and biometric technologies, at the service of States, businesses and citizens.

The Group operates 4 reference brands, each a leader in their respective markets :

- IN Groupe for physical and digital identity solutions for Governments and administrations
- Nexus for secure identity solutions for professionals and objects
- SPS for electronic components and package solutions for banking and identity
- Surys for optical and holographic components for the banknote and identity market

As a national state printing company, IN Groupe is a committed player in the most protective and secure digital identity schemes.

IN GROUPE IN FIGURES (2022 turnover): €516m 2,000 employees - 11 sites in Europe – 8 sales offices around the world + 130 countries use IN Groupe solutions - 30 partner governments.

[www.ingroupe.com](http://www.ingroupe.com)



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