

**H**ong Kong has a computerized identity card system that is fast approaching the limits of its capacity. Last October, the government's Security Bureau announced a proposal to move to multi-application smart

Possible non-immigration applications include: drivers' licences; reporting changes of address to government departments through information kiosks linked to the Electronic Service Delivery system;

The APCS also presents opportunities. A special Immigration Department task force is to review the feasibility of introducing the APCS in Hong Kong. A consultant study will examine compatibility with the current system.

*Smart identity card system proposed*

# Opportunities in Hong Kong

*cards with embedded memory chips capable of storing thumb prints, facial portraits and personal data. Estimated to cost \$600 million, the new smart ID card system could be up and running by early 2003.*

library cards; storage of digital certificates (electronic IDs issued by the certifying authority for use in e-commerce transactions); and the provision of financial

infrastructure (e.g., e-purse).

Further feasibility studies and consultations on such applications are required before they can be implemented.



## Multiple applications

The first government agency to implement the system will be the Hong Kong Immigration Department, which is responsible for issuing IDs. Basic data to be recorded on the card's memory chip include personal particulars such as name, date of birth, a photograph and thumb prints.

A swipe of the card and provision of a thumb print will enable a special reader to instantly show the names and other details of a traveller between Hong Kong and mainland China. The card is expected to have a 10-year life, during which it could be swiped a minimum of 100,000 times.

The smart card system will also enable law enforcement officers to track down illegal immigrants and those who overstay their permits: the reader will indicate whether a person's stay permit is valid. In addition, the card will be the foundation for an eventual Automated Passenger Clearance System (APCS) planned for introduction by the Immigration Department.

## Multiple opportunities

A consultant study completed in mid-2000 explored some products, technologies and services related to the smart ID card system. Specifications for the system will be based partly on the items already examined in the study, with additional input from the Immigration Department. Areas of opportunity for Canadian companies include:

- polycarbonate cards and memory chips;
- ID card readers and ID card personalization equipment;
- thumb print scanners and readers;
- photo capturing systems;
- data-cryptographic technologies and systems;
- computer stations and servers; computer imaging systems and computer software;
- technologies and techniques for data protection; and
- privacy impact assessment services at various stages of the project.

The procurement process for the new ID card system will be by open tender through the Hong Kong Government Supplies Department. To receive calls for tenders, expected to be issued in February/March 2001, register with: Supplies Officer (Supplier Registration), tel.: (011-852) 2231-5289, fax: (011-852) 2807-2764, Web site: [www.info.gov.hk/gsd/tender.htm](http://www.info.gov.hk/gsd/tender.htm)

The Immigration Department will play a key role in implementing the system. Companies are advised to contact Raymond W.M. Wong, Principal Immigration Officer, Information Systems Development, tel.: (011-852) 2829-3829, fax: (011-852) 2824-1675.

For more information, contact: Eunice Wong, Commercial Officer, Consulate General of Canada in Hong Kong, tel.: (011-852) 2847-7414, fax: (011-852) 2847-7441, e-mail: [eunice.wong@dfait-maeci.gc.ca](mailto:eunice.wong@dfait-maeci.gc.ca) Web site: [www.hongkong.gc.ca](http://www.hongkong.gc.ca) \*

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## Kyushu regional market

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Canadian technology or building materials (doors, windows, kitchens, flooring, etc.) are being used. These Western-style houses open the door to exports of Canadian furniture.

A Kyushu company is importing Canadian luxury cabin cruisers and distributing them across Japan.

For more information, contact Josiane Simon, Consul and Trade Commissioner, Canadian Consulate, Fukuoka, tel.: (011-81-092) 752-6055, fax: (011-81-092) 752-6077, e-mail: [josiane.simon@dfait-maeci.gc.ca](mailto:josiane.simon@dfait-maeci.gc.ca) \*

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