University of California, Irvine graduates in secure ID management

Customer
Since 1965, the University of California, Irvine (UC Irvine) has combined the strengths of a major research university, (receiving more than $348m in R&D expenditure in 2013), with an incomparable southern California location. UC Irvine has more than 30,000 students, 9,400 staff and 1,100 faculty members. Increasingly a first choice campus for US students, UC Irvine ranked among the top 10 US universities under the age of 50 in 2014 and marked its 50th year by a keynote speech from President Barak Obama. Respected for its high profile research activity, three of its researchers have won Nobel Prizes. It is Orange County’s second largest employer.

Matica Technologies’ partner
Based in California, CI Solutions (Card Integrators Corporation) is the definitive provider of fully integrated security, identification, and customized ID solutions, which are supported by dedicated sales, strategy and technical support teams. No newcomer to the integrated security market, CI Solutions has built a strong reputation with its impressive client list for an innovative, consultative approach and friendly customer service. With over 25 years’ experience they have built hundreds of clients in the education sector to transform photo ID management systems, from debit functionality to RFID and access control. CI Solutions enjoys a notable presence in numerous other industries too, such as corporate, health and fitness, event organization, wineries and golf, country and yacht clubs. For further information: http://cardintegrators.com/

Challenge
Faced with the growing demand to produce up to 10,000 ID cards every year with multiple design and credential requirements, the customer wanted to find a solution that could handle high volume and quick turnaround with minimal staff input but without compromising the overall quality look and feel of the ID card. In addition, UC Irvine needed to integrate electronic card data into the credentials in order to support access control, food service, transportation, library and recreation applications - both on, and off campus.

Solution
- Matica XID8300 and XID580ie Retransfer Card Printers
- CI Solutions CI Badge ID software
- VALCam industrial high-resolution ID camera
Closer look at Matica’s XID8300 Retransfer Card Printer

- Over-the-edge printing with glossy photo finish quality for clear colors and flawless tones
- Fast throughput of up to 100 cards per hour
- Combination of reliability, performance and affordability for printing durable and secure cards
- Optional encoding (mag stripe / smart code encoding) and lamination
- Single or double-sided option
- Bend remedy
- Electronic security locks to secure access to supplies and consumables
- User-friendly front-loading systems with replaceable cartridges

Results

After integrating the technical components, UC Irvine felt that CI Solutions listened thoroughly to their needs and delivered a solution that empowers them to deliver on all the demands of the business.

UC Irvine can now produce a high volume of photo ID cards that reflect the prestigious brand of the university but without the need to draw down on extra human resource. As a result of the Matica retransfer card printing technology, students’ cards no longer falter on printing excellent graphics and photography.

The university can produce ID cards with sharp colors and graphics that don’t wear off easily. In addition, staff in the campus card office are now empowered to produce new, (and replacement), cards and to easily maintain a card information database of students, faculty members and staff.

Ultimately, students have a smoother ‘UC Irvine’ experience because their ID cards now contain sufficient data for secure access into faculty buildings and student housing, to purchase food and beverages on campus, take public transportation and to use it in the library and recreation areas.

Learning that a return on investment doesn’t take a long time to show up

The university’s growing business needs might have felt complex because they didn’t know what to expect in terms of cost and implementation – after all, they are specialists in education and not secure ID management.

UC Irvine felt reassured that CI Solutions would convert substantial returns for their investment. This assumption was based on offering the right card printing solution, which would prompt a much higher turnaround in volume, (up to 100 cards every hour), leading to improved staff empowerment, enhanced student experience and brand / reputation management.

After on-site training and a swift turnaround on the integration of their recommended card technology, UC Irvine appreciated results from their investment very quickly.
The business challenge

Integrate a new and adaptable secure ID card solution into the university’s existing system, which would need to handle high-level and intensive activity during the university’s opening weeks of registration. It would also need to be flexible enough to produce differing types of ID credentials for numerous campus organizations during each academic year.

Further, the university’s previous student ID cards lacked crisp and sharp color quality and needed to be significantly increased and staff wanted to avoid frequent ribbon and film changes.

To increase the student experience on, and off, the campus, UC Irvine also wanted to add electronic card data into the credentials in order that students could use their cards for seamless access to all campus facilities without any borders all over the campus facilities and services and outside for transportation. They wanted this process to avoid labor-intensive work.

The system would need to come in-line with an acceptable budget and have a lifespan allowing for many years’ usage. The supplier must provide a high level of customer service, be quick and reliable.

Implementing Matica Technologies’ XID 8300 Retransfer Card Printer

Built to manage challenging volumes and complex card requirements, CI Solutions recommended Matica’s XID8300 Retransfer card printer, a flexible solution for high quality smart card personalization. They knew that the industry proven and reliable XID retransfer engine would deliver on productivity needs, print quality and durability by providing ease of use for the busy team of staff during the annual registration period for new students.

Capable of producing up to 100 cards per hour (on various card materials) and equipped with a number of user-friendly features to ensure a smooth operation and printer care, Matica’s XID8300 has a front-loading system with replaceable cartridges, which makes changing printer supplies easy.

Thanks to the XID8300’s optional modules such as bend remedy, flipper and magnetic stripe and contactless chip encoding or smart card encoding the XID retransfer printer integrates card functionalities for a multi-functional ID personalization.

To ensure high security of student and staff data, the XID8300 comes with Internet Protocol Security (IPSEC) for encrypted data transfer through networks. To help prevent counterfeiting and the misuse of personal information the XID8300 also offers Security Erase of black data on used supplies.

The reverse transfer printing technology delivers glossy photo finish quality for great-looking cards with crisp, clear colors and true-to-life tones, over-the-edge printing and enhanced wear protection. The flexibility of Matica’s XID8300 also meant that it could be easily integrated into an existing workflow and in this case, configured with CI Solutions’ CI Badge ID software and ID camera.

Prior to the production start, CI Solutions provided UC Irvine with on-site training to empower them to confidently use the new printer for their card personalization projects.
Matica Technologies and CI Solutions make the grade

Compared to the previous card solution at UC Irvine, CI Solutions was able to improve print durability with retransfer technology resulting in a longer print life and low operator involvement. Ribbon changes are only necessary after every 1,000 cards improving true card production time.

"I cannot speak highly enough of CI Solutions," said James Trujillo, Operations Director, University of California, Irvine.

"Mark Cole [President of CI Solutions] and the entire team at CI has always been the pinnacle of professionalism. Their customer service is second-to-none and they have come through for us on short notice time-and-again."

CI Solutions was quick to recognise how Matica’s products complemented their own high standards.

"It is always a proud and vindicating moment when I receive such great and important feedback from an organization as we have from UC Irvine about our card printing technology and our partner, CI Solutions.

"Matica’s products continue to gain even more popularity around the world as more and more companies seek ID solutions that deliver an excellent product.

"But we are doing this with the help of our global partners, like CI solutions, because they are experts in their field and recognise the value of our products and our customer service and ethos, which enhances their own respected brand."

Sandro Camilleri, CEO, Matica Technologies