

Nigeria trials mobile smartphone IDs

HID Global, a worldwide leader in secure identity solutions, is working with Media Concepts International of Lagos, Nigeria, to deploy mobile IDs on Nigerian citizens' smartphones using the new HID Global gold platform.



Image by 123RF

The Nigerian Police is moving from paper documentations of vehicular records to e-documentations in order to create and maintain a central database for all vehicles using uniquely encoded and machine-readable smart cards, along with the new and innovative mobile IDs.

Media Concepts International partnered with HID Global to develop the groundbreaking programme in Nigeria, and together, the two companies are addressing complex government-to-citizen identification programmes throughout Africa.

Mobile IDs will be issued through the Nigeria Police through the Police Biometric Central Motor Registry (BCMR) vehicle registration card programme, which provides real-time access to vehicle/vehicle owner information via credentials and mobile readers powered by Seos technology from HID Global. The Nigerian Police BCMR is a biometrically-enabled, real-time information system designed to enhance the reliability and effectiveness of policing.

Mobile IDs work alongside secure physical ID cards to provide citizens and police with more convenience, trust, security and real-time access to information.

Tech pioneers

“The Nigerian Police are pioneers in first-class global policing, leading the way in Africa in the adoption of mobile IDs and creating a differentiated reputation for the police as well as the country as a whole,” said Babatope M. Agbeye, CEO of Media Concepts International. “Over the years, the Nigerian Police have continually invested in e-policing technology, especially with the Police BCMR in line with the global security trend. We are proud to help Africa set a new standard for IDs on smartphones that countries around the world celebrate and emulate.”

Citizens can apply for a mobile ID at the time of vehicle registration. Once registration is complete, issuance of the mobile ID to a citizen's smartphone is almost instant, which bridges the gap between registration and receipt of the physical card.

The Nigerian Police will issue smartphones as mobile readers to verify a vehicle owner's ID and at the same time gain real-time access to reliable accident, crime or insurance information on the vehicle. The readers will sit in a specially designed cradle to accommodate the citizen's biometrics stored on the card or mobile ID.

Mobile ID integration

Media Concepts International Limited and HID Global designed the programme so that this new offering would be integrated directly into Nigeria's current enrollment process, allowing a seamless migration to mobile IDs.

The new BCMR mobile IDs use the HID gold platform, which delivers the secure infrastructure to allow citizen IDs to be safely provisioned to and authenticated on a smartphone. Rapid issuance enables the citizen to take instant possession of their vehicle registration and is particularly convenient if the citizen has more than one vehicle, as multiple IDs can be carried together on one smartphone.

The gold platform enables instant over-the-air credential provisioning and streamlined access to cloud-based government information services. All transactions related to issuing, managing and presenting mobile IDs using smartphones are secure and trustworthy with gold, ensuring that transactions are conducted in a closed-circuit environment protected by end-to-end encryption.

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