

HID Contactless Readers Help Power Italy's Electronic Identity Card System

Founded in 2002, Internavigare s.r.l. is an information technology services and solutions company that provides secure authentication services encompassing contact and contactless smart card readers, as well as tailored software solutions for system integrators and public administrations.

With offices in northern and southern Italy, Internavigare is one of Italy's leading card reader distributors, being a national importer and distributor of smart card readers, writers and on-demand solutions from HID.

To date, the company has provided card reader technologies to ministries, municipalities, libraries, universities and healthcare companies, as well as to certification authorities, banks and major corporations within Italy.

CHALLENGE

In March 2021, Italy's Ministry of the Interior began issuing its citizens a new version of the Electronic Identity Card (CIE) for access to online public administration services in Italy and other European Union (EU) countries. It also serves as a means of communication with public entities. Produced by the Istituto Poligrafico e Zecca dello Stato, the CIE contains highly advanced security and anti-counterfeiting elements, including three authentication levels of security ranging from a pair of credentials (username and password) to a reader or NFC-enabled smartphone.

SOLUTIONS

HID® OMNIKEY® 5022 contactless reader

Providing Card Reader Technologies



The CIE is considered one of the most secure documents in Europe, featuring a radio frequency identification (RFID) chip that records and stores personal and biometric data to safeguard the digital identity of the cardholder from theft or counterfeiting attempts. This document provides reliable identification both in person and remotely from any device including computers, tablets and smartphones. The CIE is also compatible with passports, enabling its use as a recognized travel document within the Schengen Area countries, and is tapped to grant access to online services provided by public administrations and private entities across the EU.

As the new CIE required users to adapt to new two-factor authentication, involving both the card and an RFID reader or mobile device, it was important that its use be simple and convenient.

For example, in certain scenarios such as airports and hotels, operators require a swift and efficient tool to verify and extract data from the document for integration into their respective software systems. The selected card and associated readers needed to provide fast and intuitive data access.

“Every innovation needs an adaptation period for users. From the users’ perspective, we learned that contactless readers offer convenience, a heightened level of security as well as the ability to associate multiple identity cards. Particularly in public administration offices, this aspect adds a significant value,” explained Massimiliano Antonazzo, Internavigare’s Project Manager.

SOLUTION

Internavigare selected the HID OMNIKEY 5022 contactless high-frequency smart card reader to be part of the CIE program’s technology portfolio.

The OMNIKEY 5022 readers eliminate the need to install drivers and can be used with standard PCs and workstations, as well as with thin and zero clients. They meet security and regulatory compliance requirements that mandate two-factor user authentication for accessing workstations and applications. For CIE usage, the card readers accommodate both digital and physical access.

In tandem, Internavigare also developed a software solution specifically designed to streamline the process of capturing data and photos stored in the CIE, enabling automatic exportation of the captured information in the common formats such as .docx, .xlsx and .pdf.



“After trying various readers, this one worked the first time and without me having to do anything special. You open the program made available by the Ministry of the Interior, connect the reader, place your electronic identity card, follow the instructions, authenticate and done! Based on my positive experience, I highly recommend it.”

Marcello, Internavigare customer

Consider Scalability and Speed

“When it comes to supporting government IDs and all the access to services and locations these IDs present, it’s important to consider scalability and speed. We are proud to have been selected to provide such a strong and efficient authentication solution that also meets security and regulatory compliance requirements,” explained Thierry Roz, HID’s Managing Director of the RFID Business Unit, Extended Access Technologies.

RESULT

Currently, the CIE solution has several thousand users — a figure that will grow as the issuance of CIEs progresses.

“HID OMNIKEY readers are not only compatible with all new EU identity electronic cards, but they also demonstrate a remarkable level of quality, characterized by meticulous attention to aesthetics and exceptional performance in terms of ID card-reading speed. On the software development side, the interaction with OMNIKEY 5022 readers proved to be seamless and effortless, without requiring any significant exertion or adaptations,” said Antonazzo.

”Thanks to valuable technical support and commercial assistance from HID’s sales team, implementation and deployment were seamless,” Antonazzo added. In fact, Internavigare is currently exploring additional projects to further leverage the experience of HID professionals and enhanced security capabilities afforded by HID's OMNIKEY readers.



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Thierry Roz
Managing Director of the RFID Business Unit, Extended Access Technologies, HID

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