



Plasticard-ZFT Selects HID® FARGO® ID Badge & Card Printers to Power Full-Service ID Card Production for Lufthansa

Plasticard-ZFT is a German-based, full-service manufacturer of a wide variety of plastic cards and ID media. "We connect identities" describes the overarching mission of the company, which brings together access control, IT security through multifactor authentication and ID authentication into one application.

The company operates throughout Europe and is known for its custom, innovative solutions and the various capacities at which they can produce IDs both economically and sustainably — using energy-efficient processes and eco-friendly materials.

CHALLENGE

One of Plasticard-ZFT's large-scale customers is the world-renowned aviation company, Lufthansa Group, that has utilized the company's full-service ID cards for decades.

To optimally meet Lufthansa's high-quality standards and stringent security requirements, the company aimed to bring in the latest technologies to ramp up card security and increase the protection of personalized card data for all of Lufthansa's 105,000+ employees worldwide. Beyond increased security and card durability, key priorities of the project were to minimize the instance of misprints while simultaneously reducing energy consumption and waste during the card production process.

Additionally, a cornerstone of Plasticard-ZFT's philosophy is to work in partnership with its distinguished clients like Lufthansa — placing customer needs first and foremost. As such, a critical decision-making factor in selecting the right solution was to choose a like-minded supplier who could be relied upon to provide that same superior level of service and support.

"In our secure card personalization environment, it is important that we have the best possible machines and strong partners to support us and our customer needs," said René Blankenhagel, Managing Director of Plasticard-ZFT GmbH & Co. KG. "Clearly, security, total cost of ownership and reliability — along with reducing waste and energy consumption — were key factors when considering the right company to work with."

SOLUTION

HID was selected as the preferred vendor based on their ability to provide a solution that would meet all aforementioned requirements while delivering the level of service and support that the project demanded. Specifically, HID's security and product design team worked closely with Plasticard-ZFT and Lufthansa during the consulting and presales phase to thoroughly address all needs for implementing critical features within their new, custom-designed secure holographic overlamine.

Plasticard-ZFT receives personalization data twice a day and per their service-level agreement with Lufthansa, is responsible for same-day shipment of fully personalized IDs — equating to approximately 40,000 cards per year.

To meet this demand, the company selected eight HID FARGO DTC5500LMX ID card printers, which offer dual-side printing and lamination standard on every unit. Moreover, the DTC5500LMX includes dual card holders and supports high-capacity, full-color ribbon and laminate consumables — reducing costs while maximizing productivity. The printers also leverage an innovative wasteless lamination technology — supporting the project's sustainability initiatives by reducing consumables waste during the card production process.

Another key component of the solution involves provisioning access control data and PKI certificates on each of the cards issued to ensure that Lufthansa staff receive fully functional and highly secure credentials. For this aspect of the project, HID OMNIKEY 5022 readers were selected for their ease of integration, speed and overall performance as compared to competitive offerings.

Due to the company's high-security production environment — to which only internal, certified personnel have access — the ease with which printers could be set up and installed was critical. To facilitate this, HID provided an easy-to-follow user manual and instructional video — enabling an expedient, straightforward and smooth implementation.

RESULT

Plasticard-ZFT achieved all project goals, realizing immediate improvements in card security, durability and overall card production.

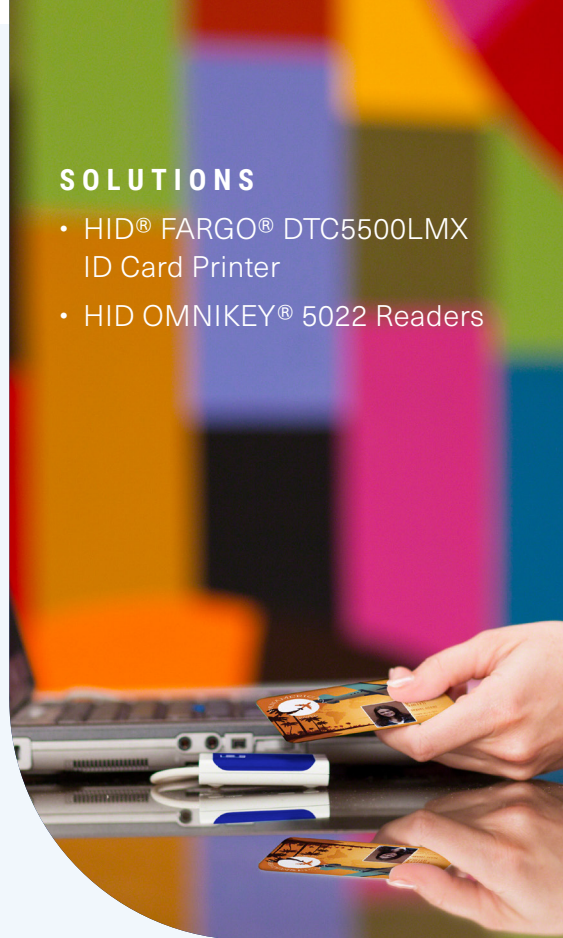
Incorporating a mix of overt, covert and forensic elements into Lufthansa's custom holographic overlamine, elevated card security to whole new level. The holographic imagery was also registered, ensuring it will appear in the same position from card to card during card printing and lamination processes — and resulting in highly secure IDs that are virtually impossible to forge yet easy to verify. In addition, the HID PolyGuard™ LMX overlamine base material into which custom security elements were integrated, proved highly durable, while also providing the largest patch coverage in the industry — safeguarding printed images and text, and extending card life.

Beyond its efficient use of energy, the DTC5500LMX significantly decreased the number of misprints while simultaneously reducing needless waste during the card production process. Due to the printer's innovative design and wasteless lamination consumables, the overall solution eliminates the need for the laminate material carrier film and the subsequent take-up core found in traditional lamination products.

"Plasticard-ZFT plans to further collaborate closely with different business areas of HID to continue improving our overall portfolio of products and integrated solutions," Blankenhagel said. "Investment in our infrastructure with the right products is critical to meet our customers' requirements today and into the future."

SOLUTIONS

- HID® FARGO® DTC5500LMX ID Card Printer
- HID OMNIKEY® 5022 Readers



"Lufthansa has the strictest quality and corporate identity guidelines and expectations. Following an evaluation and proof of concept, we knew that the DTC5500LMX would meet those requirements. It's good to have a strong partner on such a high security project."

René Blankenhagel,
Managing Director
Plasticard-ZFT GmbH & Co. KG



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2023-08-16-cc-si-plasticard-zft-cs-en PLT-06950
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