



# L I S C R, LLC

**LIBERIAN INTERNATIONAL SHIP & CORPORATE REGISTRY**

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## **Liberia's biometric verification programme under way**

THE Liberian International Ship & Corporate Registry (LISCR) unveiled the world's first biometric seafarer identity cards at a presentation today at the headquarters of the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) in London. The identity cards are part of LISCR's initiative to help improve maritime security by providing a counterfeit-proof document.

LISCR has contracted with Datastrip, a world leader in identification technology, to use its 2D Superscript two-dimensional bar code as the core technology for the project. Each LISCR seafarer's card will include a tiny Datastrip bar code containing either one or two fingerprint templates, a digitised version of the cardholder's photograph, and several pages of encoded personal information.

Identity verification will be performed on vessels and at ports of entry with Datastrip's DSVerify2D, the first portable biometric ID card reader capable of decoding fingerprints, text and photographs with one swipe. The reader includes an optical fingerprint scanner that can match the stored fingerprint template with the cardholder's live fingerprint on the spot, preventing identity fraud.

Production of the biometric identity cards will begin this month. The initial six-month production phase of LISCR's implementation will cover 2,000 seafarers around the world. It will be used to ensure the smooth operation of the data collection, design, printing and identity verification processes associated with the new ID card. LISCR expects to introduce the card throughout its entire fleet after the six-month testing period. Possible future enhancements include adaptation to the developing seafarer identity standards at the IMO and ILO as well as the inclusion on the card of information on seafarers' qualifications.

"Given our size and the rising concerns about maritime security in today's terrorist-conscious environment, we decided to take a leadership role on the security issue by demonstrating the benefits of biometrics for identity verification," says Scott Bergeron, LISCR's chief operating officer for maritime services. "It is our hope that this card will become an industry standard for identifying seafarers from all registries and eventually serve as a kind of passport that can be carried at all times, both for identification purposes

and as a certification of the seaman's competence.”

LISCR selected Datastrip's technology in part because it has been recognised by the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) for use on machine-readable travel documents such as passports and visas. This will help ensure consistency within the transportation industry as a whole.

- The Liberian Registry is one of the world's largest and most active open registers, with a fifty-year track record of combining the highest standards for vessels and crews with the highest standards of responsive service to owners. It is proud to be on the Paris MOU White List of high-standard flags and the top ranked significant registry on the USCG Port State Control rankings. Almost 2,000 vessels of 54 m gt currently fly the Liberian flag.

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