



Media Release

German Government Awards Major Contract to Cognitec

Facial Recognition System Supports Visa Issuing Process

Dresden/Cologne, April 13, 2005 - Cognitec Systems, the leading provider of facial recognition technology, today announced that it has been awarded a major contract by the German Government to deliver facial recognition software and related services, following an open tender. Cognitec's facial recognition solution is being integrated into the automated validation of visa applications of the Federal Republic of Germany. Visa issuance in Germany is the responsibility of the Federal Office of Administration, based in Cologne.

Starting next year, Cognitec's software will enable the agency to compare the scanned photographs of visa applications against the database of existing visa photographs. Photographs have become mandatory on European visa middle of 2003. Since then, the agency already collected more than 2 million records and expects to have 20 million records in a few years. The Federal Office of Administration is one of the first agencies in Europe to introduce a database background check based on facial images.

Dr. Jürgen Hensen, President of the Federal Office of Administration, said: "The existing visa processing is optimized by the introduction of facial biometrics. We are expecting significant added value by matching the photographs on visa application forms to entries in our existing database. At the same time, we are also achieving improvements related to data protection."

Alfredo Herrera, Managing Director of Cognitec Systems, said: "We are delighted that Cognitec was selected by the Federal Office of Administration to implement this groundbreaking project using our latest facial recognition software. Our system will perform at the highest level of speed and accuracy, and we are convinced that it will become an indispensable tool in the daily work of the Federal Office of Administration."

About the Federal Office of Administration

The Federal Office of Administration, based in Cologne (Köln) is an autonomous higher Federal authority within the area of responsibility of the Ministry of the Interior. As the Federation's central services office, it cooperates with numerous other Federal, Land and communal authorities. It is partnered in various forms with associations, recipients of benefits and grants and other non-state institutions. Last but not least, it offers its services to millions of citizens in Germany and abroad.

More information about the Federal Office of Administration and its multiple tasks is available from the agency's Public Relation Department:



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About Cognitec

Cognitec Systems, with headquarters in Dresden, Germany, and offices in Herndon, VA, Miami, FL, and Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, develops and markets the well-established and world-leading FaceVACS[®] face recognition software. Cognitec's software experts have been developing face recognition technology since 1995. In various independent evaluation tests including the Face Recognition Vendor Test 2002, FaceVACS[®] has proven to be the leading technology available on the market. With its products FaceVACS-Entry for access and border control, FaceVACS-DBScan for database search, FaceVACS-Acquisition for ID photo capturing, FaceVACS-Alert for video surveillance, and FaceVACS-SDK as a software developers kit for integrators, Cognitec has deployed numerous systems for customers from government and industry.

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