

# BORDER MANAGEMENT TODAY

Issue 003 | October 2019

**SEAMLESS TRAVEL:**

## **IBMATA CALL TO ACTION**

IBMATA publishes  
proposal for future  
seamless travel

## **ISOB 2019 HIGHLIGHTS:**

the role of effective border management

## **TOWARDS DIGITAL TRAVEL:**

next generation border technology

## **MANAGING THE BACKSTOP:**

The Irish border dilemma

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# Message from the Chairman

When we established IBMATA two years ago, we hoped to develop some broad discussion between border agencies around the world and the latest technology providers on Future Borders. In any such debate, it is important to bring in expert views not just from government and technology suppliers; but also from the travel and transportation industry, and academia.

Little did we know at the time that we would be thrust into the forefront of 2 major border transformation initiatives, which has stretched our members fully in identifying workable and practical proposals for what are seemingly intractable problems.

The first is the question of “seamless travel”. Despite significant effort and investment across the world in technology, queues in arrivals halls and at visa offices around the world continue to grow. Since we first raised this issue with leading Border Agency members and our partners at WTTC, we have been working tirelessly behind the scenes to develop a proposal which (we hope) has the support of leading border agencies around the world. This has been “sense tested” both at workshops and events as far afield as Delhi, Istanbul, Ottawa and Washington DC; and in numerous telephone calls and meetings with border officials around the world. In this issue, we are delighted to publish alongside BMT 3 our proposal on “Seamless and Secure Travel – The Future of International Passenger Travel and Border Control”. You can download a copy [HERE](#). I am delighted to announce that this paper has the agreement and endorsement of my good friend Judge Rob Bonner, former Commissioner of US Customs

and Border Protection. Between us, Rob and I will be encouraging Border leaders around the world – starting with the Border 5 and the EU – to collaborate to develop a set of global standards for the next generation of safe, secure and seamless travel.

The second – and closer to home for our UK based members – is the status of the Irish Border and how it might be managed after the UK leaves the EU. This has proved to be an intractable problem for British and EU politicians alike, over something called the Irish “backstop” and a potential “border in the Irish Sea”. In response to a call for expert help the chair of our Advisory Board (Lars Karlsson), one of our leading technology members (Frank Dunsmuir, Fujitsu) and I have been working on the expert panel to the Parliamentary Commission for Alternative Arrangements for the Irish Border. We are an independent think tank; but our report on potential Customs and Borders solutions to avoid both a hard border on the island of Ireland or in the Irish Sea has received widespread interest both in the UK Parliament, in Ireland and in Europe. You can find out more about the work of the Commission – including the report and draft protocols – [HERE](https://www.prosperity-uk.com/)

The issue of border control continues to dominate the news globally. We are delighted to reproduce some of the materials arising from our third International Summit on Borders in Washington DC, which continues to attract border leaders from across the globe. From the challenges of managing e commerce, to the irregular people movements at the US Southern Border and across the Mediterranean Sea, to the next generation traveller initiatives we heard from border leaders past and present

– and business leaders – on the need for dialogue and collaboration.

We also include in this issue articles from our members covering new and emerging developments in end to end border management including digital identity, e-commerce and smart borders. We take a closer look at the latest developments in document security, identity management and seamless borders; and hear good news from Apple as to how the IOS system will shortly be able to accommodate applications on I phone for the highly successful EU settlement programme in the UK. We hear from one of our leading academic members on the challenges of managing compliance in the educational sector in a changing policy environment; and we take a closer look at the thorny question of Brexit, Borders and Backstops.

We also include a report on our highly successful IBMATA (Europe) Summit which was held in Istanbul in April. Due to political sensitivities, the mere mention of the word “border” can cause difficulties in some countries. After some discussions with the Indian government we have agreed to postpone our next IBMATA (Asia) Summit in New Delhi in November. We will instead be holding our next Asia Summit in Singapore on 25 – 27 February; and our next Europe Summit will be in Brussels on 12 – 14 May. We look forward to seeing you there – and in the meantime I hope you enjoy reading BMT3.

*Tony Smith*

**Tony Smith CBE,**

CHAIRPERSON *at* INTERNATIONAL BORDER  
MANAGEMENT AND TECHNOLOGIES  
ASSOCIATION

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## FEATURE



Covestro – Henry Leung,  
Global Segment Manager,  
Identification, Specialty Films

# Security Concepts for Passports and Identification Documents

## INDUSTRY MARKET TRENDS

Globally, there is a continued trend towards the convergence of physical and digital identity to create secure identification documents which have multiple use cases on top of the main form of identification. Today, nearly 70 countries are participants of the ICAO Public Key Directory (PKD) program with the aim to facilitate interoperability of electronic passports across international borders. Core government identification documents such as passports and national ID cards typically have a validity period of minimum 10 years and hence need robust substrate materials to protect the document's physical data as with the contents embedded into the electronic chip.

## WHY POLYCARBONATE SUBSTRATE FOR SECURE IDENTIFICATION DOCUMENTS?

More and more passport programs are incorporating electronic chip within the passport booklet polycarbonate data page. This is to safeguard the travelers' digital credentials including biometrics



data to interface with government systems for identity verification and adjudication via both manned and automated systems (border control e-gates, airport self-service kiosks and more). As such, a strong substrate material is required to protect the physical personalized elements on the passport data page as with the incorporated chip together with the digital contents. Covestro Makrofol® ID and Platilon® ID specialty films are

used in synergy to construct robust passport data page and passport booklet hinge to withstand the rigors of the citizen's international travels.

## COVESTRO MAKROFOL® ID

Passport data pages and identification cards created using Covestro Makrofol® ID superlaser films can be laser-engraved with the holder's data and photo in higher contrast resolution than what is



possible in standard industry laser-reactive overlay films. The superlaser 3 layer film structure offered as a single layer enables better protection against forgery and counterfeiting since the laser personalization penetrates all 3 layers to create a forensic (level 3) data set. Furthermore, the personalization process is faster and less costly compared to conventional production methods.

### LATEST CLEAR WINDOW CONCEPT FOR SECURE IDENTIFICATION DOCUMENTS

Covestro takes the clear window concept to a whole different level which will optimize the secure identification document construction process. At the same time, it makes things difficult for the bad guys to duplicate and counterfeit. This new concept in clear window technology is enabled using high opaque thin white polycarbonate film during the document construction process whereas the clear overlays can naturally fill the punched window space in the thin opaque white film.

This can also help create sophisticated window designs which are easy to verify while difficult to duplicate.

### INNOVATIVE PASSPORT BOOKLET HINGE

In the passport arena, Covestro also offers a differentiated passport hinge solution via its Platilon® ID thermoplastic polyurethane (TPU) film with enhanced mechanical strength and longevity for opening and closing of passports with polycarbonate data page. This is critical for the durability and security of the passports. Covestro Platilon® ID hinge solution exhibits very good bonding strength and flexibility with the passport polycarbonate data page. Passport booklets made from this material can be opened and closed an infinite number of times without affecting the flexibility or tearing at the hinge. The TPU film can also be stitched into a passport and offer enhanced tear propagation resistance.

Driven by the desire to make the world a brighter and more secure place, Covestro invented solutions

for passport applications and identification documents considering multiple security needs beyond the next decade. With decades of expertise and curiosity for innovative material solutions, we offer our customers to always be one step ahead of the counterfeiters. Covestro specialty films are used in identification programs in over 30 countries. For more information, please visit our website at [www.covestro.com](http://www.covestro.com) and contact us at [films@covestro.com](mailto:films@covestro.com)

### ABOUT COVESTRO

With 2018 sales of EUR 14.6 billion, Covestro is among the world's largest polymer companies. Business activities are focused on the manufacture of high-tech polymer materials and the development of innovative solutions for products used in many areas of daily life. Covestro has 30 production sites worldwide and employs approximately 16,800 people (calculated as full-time equivalents) at the end of 2018. With its Makrofol® ID and Platilon® ID product lines, Covestro is the leading global supplier of polycarbonate (PC) and thermoplastic polyurethane (TPU) based specialty films which are used for manufacturing highly tamper-proof ID documents, such as identity cards, passports, driver licenses and border crossing cards. Covestro continues to develop new innovative material solutions to provide tomorrow's security needs already today.

