

BORDER MANAGEMENT TODAY

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IBMATA ON THE EASTERN FRONT

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WALKING THROUGH BORDERS IN CURAÇAO —
YOUR FACE IS YOUR PASSPORT

EU SMART BORDERS

THE VERY LATEST ON EES, FROM THOSE WHO KNOW

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By Henry Leung,
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Specialty Films, Covestro, APAC

Enabling cutting edge all-in-one passport concepts leveraging Specialty Films

IDENTITY DOCUMENTS AT THE BORDERS LEVERAGE PHYSICAL AND DIGITAL VERIFICATIONS

In today's evolving ID ecosystem, the convergence of physical and digital identities is increasingly evident in creating secure citizen identification documents. Modern ID solutions must balance robustness, quality, and tamper resistance while remaining easily verifiable.

The industry continues to trend toward multi-purpose e-IDs that provide access to various physical and digital government services. Government and security professionals highly value innovative document concepts with layered protection - security that can be embedded from the very beginning of production through specialized film substrate materials.

INNOVATIVE PASSPORT COVER CONCEPT

The ID industry today demands cutting-edge all-in-one passport and ID card concepts that leverage specialty films. These solutions address the



growing demand for identification documents that maintain integrity across both physical and digital domains while meeting the highest security standards.

Government agencies and the industry continue to seek solutions that help to protect against threats of ID document attacks. The aim is to optimize ID document security, quality and to accommodate the core ID document programs' validity period (i.e., typically 10 years).

One such innovative solution is the Covestro passport booklet cover concept leveraging thermoplastic polyurethane (TPU) films. The passport booklet cover is highly durable, scratch and tear resistant while being able to integrate various security features and in different surface textures, designs and colors.

This latest passport booklet cover concept can be made in a single lamination step without the need for adhesives which can simplify the

production process and achieve a monolithic block to further secure the passport cover.

In an electronic passport cover (e-Cover) use case, the TPU passport cover concept can also help to further cushion and protect the embedded electronic chip and antenna within. This will help make the passports more durable for frequent travelers and in general.

In combination with a robust polycarbonate data page and TPU hinge, it can help create a highly tamper resistant passport which is also easily verifiable at border checkpoints.

For ID documents, optimal security is enabled via a layered structure where security features are implemented in every stage of the document creation process. This starts with the selection of the raw film materials, document design, manufacturing process and the personalization process (i.e., laser engraving).

SECURING CITIZEN ID DOCUMENTS VIA INTEGRATED SECURITY FEATURES – EASY TO SEE, REMEMBER AND VERIFY

Passports and ID cards need to be verified quickly while being very difficult to replicate. This can be enabled by innovative approaches to the ID document design. Clear windows and transparent areas feature quite prominently in today's core identification programs such as passports, national ID cards and driver licenses leveraging polycarbonate substrate material.

The clear window and transparent areas in ID documents can be efficiently produced via thin white high opaque polycarbonate films in which sophisticated clear window designs can be incorporated.

During the data page lamination process, the top and bottom clear polycarbonate films can naturally fill the punched window without a



separate process.

Clear windows in ID documents can provide further protection and level of sophistication to secure ID documents. Today, many countries' core citizen ID documents contain clear windows and transparent areas. With Covestro superlaser transparent PC film, it can enable very high contrast laser personalization in the clear window and transparent area of the document while enabling a level 3 forensic feature including the main portrait image on the data page.

Color switching polycarbonate films can add another layer of security in transparent windows and areas within the passport and ID card



polycarbonate data page. The clear window will switch color based on the background of white/light and black/dark. The PC film itself has multiple security features in a single film which supports the motto - the best security is layered security which happens

in every stage of the ID document creation process.

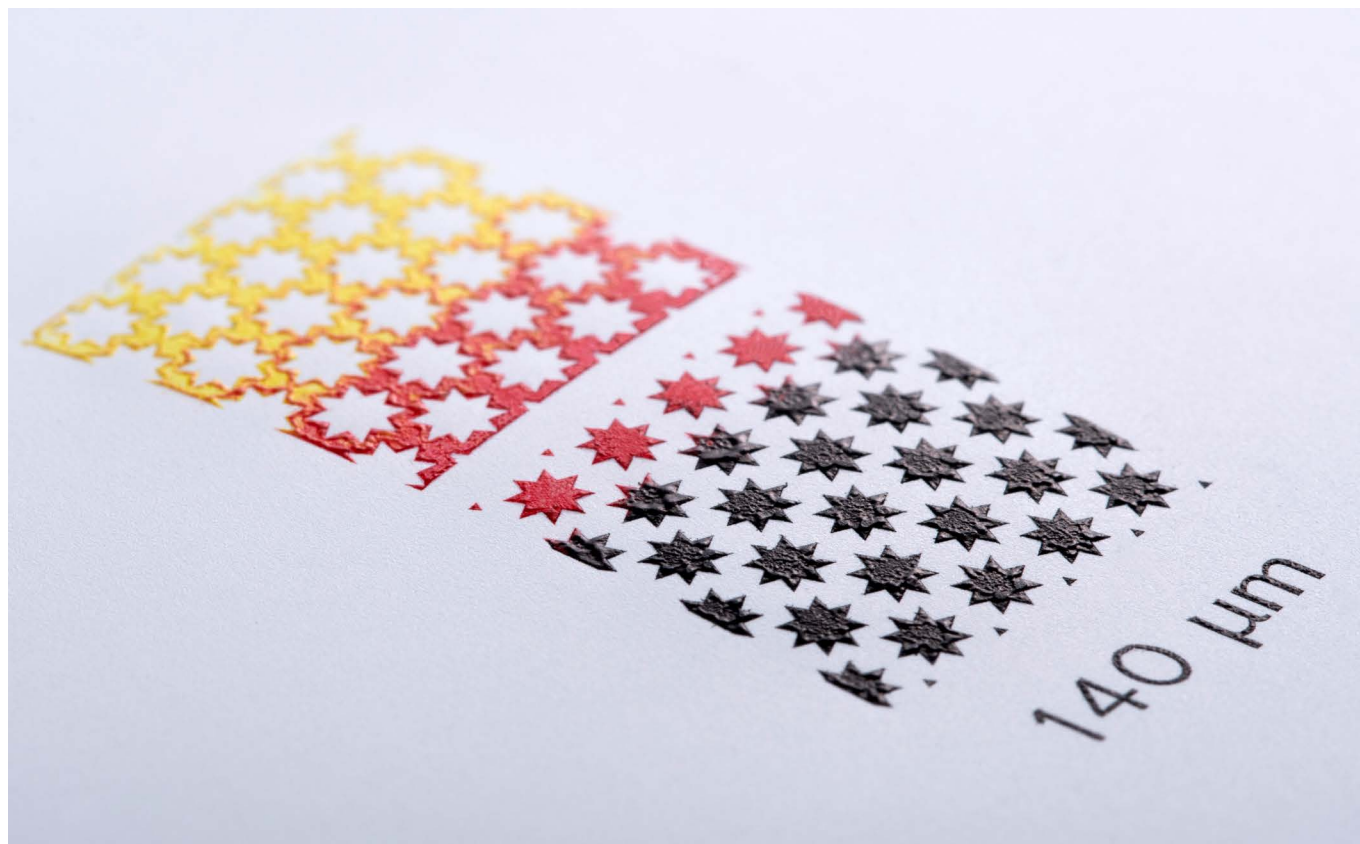
POLYMER SUBSTRATE MATERIAL FOR SECURITY PRINTING

The industry today also has a



polymer substrate material concept for industry ID security printing technologies such as intaglio, offset printing and more. In the passport use case, the passport end-page can use the concept for the security printing design. The polymer substrate material is of high white opacity color, scratch/tear resistant and with high security ink receptivity. The polymer substrate can be stretched for intaglio printing embossing effect which also increases the security element.

With four decades of experience in supporting the secure ID document segment via its polycarbonate and specialty films, Covestro offers



government State Printers, passport and ID card manufacturers a means to help prevent threats to identification documents such as counterfeiting and alteration.

For more information on how Covestro specialty films can help enable secure identification documents, please visit our ID landing page at Covestro.com/IDdocuments and email: films@covestro.com

ABOUT COVESTRO:

Leveraging four decades of unparalleled expertise in security materials science, Covestro stands as the trusted innovation partner for the world's most demanding identification document and security printing applications. Our sophisticated Makrofol® polycarbonate (PC), Platilon® thermoplastic polyurethane (TPU) films, and Certevo® polymeric substrate represent the pinnacle of security technology, engineered

to exceed the most rigorous international standards.

These premium materials enable seamless integration of advanced security features—from holograms to biometrics—into identity credentials, government documents, and currency. Through innovation and deep market understanding, we continuously advance the boundaries of what's possible in document protection and authentication.

With a fiscal performance of EUR 14.2 billion in 2024, Covestro's commitment to excellence extends beyond security to embrace more sustainability goals, targeting complete climate neutrality across our value chain. Our global network of 46 production centers and more than 17,000 employees remain dedicated to creating materials that not only safeguard critical documents but also protect our shared environmental future.

Henry Leung is the Regional Segment Manager for Covestro, leading the company's identification segment initiatives in APAC with responsibilities including market penetration, strategic development, ecosystem support and best positioning the company's world-renowned specialty films to enable highly secure identification document solutions.

Prior to joining Covestro, Henry was the senior marketing manager for Entrust, where he was responsible for driving its government vertical marketing initiatives in APAC for the company's physical and digital identification solutions.

He was also a senior business development manager at NEC Corporation, where he helped the company best position its government identity, border control, public safety and biometrics technologies worldwide.



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