Recent trends & development in CURRENCY, IDENTITY, TAX STAMPS
Dear Reader,

I would like to extend my warmest greetings to the readers, supporters and editorial team of *The Authentication Times (TAT)*, on its 10th anniversary year. Launched in 2007, TAT (then The Holography Times) marks this year as an important milestone for us. Over the last decade, we have written extensively about counterfeiting problems in various sectors and the solutions which can be implemented in eradicating this problem. At this special celebration of the 10th anniversary of TAT, we at TAT are highly motivated and confident that TAT will move up to another level of excellence in the coming years.

In honor of our 10th anniversary, we will be presenting a collection of articles from international experts on recent trends and developments in currency, identity documents & tax stamps. In addition, the issue will also cover an article by editorial team on "Need of Anti-Counterfeit Secured Packaging - Tamper evidence and Serialization Solutions", news about our association recent activities and industry news.

Once again thank the members of the Authentication community, our readers, contributors & advertisers for their ongoing support and guidance, and acknowledge that The Authentication Times would not be what it is without them.

Looking forward for your feedback.

Chander S. Jeena
Editor, The Authentication Times
Viewpoint

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Upcoming Event’s

Pharma Pro & Pack Expo 2017
Sep 21-23, Hitex Exhibition Centre, Hyderabad*

MASCRADE 2017 Movement Against Smuggling & Counterfeit Trade
Oct 12-13, ITC Maurya, New Delhi*

Global Trade Development Week
30 Oct – 1 Nov, Dubai, UAE

International Crop Science Conference & Exhibition
Nov 9-10, Jaipur, India*

GSMA’s 2nd annual Mobile 360 – India conference
Nov 14-15, New Delhi

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The Authentication Times is a quarterly newsletter published by ASPA with an aim to provide latest developments, research, articles, patents and industry news to a wide audience related to Authentication in India and World.

The editorial team welcomes your news, contributions and comments. Please send your product updates, press releases, conference announcements or other contributions to ASPA:

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Recent trends and developments in currency

2017 marks the 10th anniversary year of The Authentication Times. It is always interesting to take a milestone such as this and look back on what has happened over that period, and how things have changed. And changed they have, in the currency industry! It is even more interesting, however, to chart how this industry is progressing.

The key changes that are shaping, and will continue to shape, the industry are the growing ‘war on cash’ (with payment providers such as Visa and Mastercard, and new entrants such as Paypal, looking to secure a bigger slice of the payments ‘pie’ at the expense of cash), a more muscular minting industry looking to alter the note/coin boundary in its favour, more complex and durable substrates for banknotes, and a ‘rebalancing’ of the banknote printing industry (away from Europe towards emerging economies in Asia and elsewhere).

The development and adoption of alternative payment systems will gain momentum. There is much talk about societies going ‘cashless’ but, to date and with a couple of exceptions, the evidence does not show this is happening, with cash in circulation continuing to grow at, on average, 5% per year.

However, if one looks at the demographics of cash less payments, it is the younger generation that is increasingly adopting contact less cards and m-payments. As the older generation moves on, it is inevitable that cash will decline.

Will cash still have a role to play in the future? Definitely. As a medium of exchange that guarantees privacy, reliability, convenience and social inclusion, it will always have it place. But perhaps not in the quantities that it does today. China is a good case in point, having hit a high point of around 100 billion notes produced a few years ago. This has more than halved since then thanks to the development of platforms such as WeChat and Alipay as payment mechanisms. China, however, is an anomaly - the demand for cash was staggering, fuelled by a rapidly-developing economy, and its reduction brings the country more in line with usage elsewhere in the developing and developed world alike.

By contrast, the world’s next most populous country, India, is seeing growing demand and, with it, growing investment in banknote production, particularly as the government is attempting to ‘indigenise’ as much of this process as possible. It is already self-sufficient in print, but not - yet - in paper or features. This is a ‘work-in-progress’. In the meantime, the government’s demonetisation late last year laid bare the perils of removing a large proportion of banknotes at one stroke - causing widespread hardship and problems. Although this move was in part an attempt to accelerate the country’s move to alternative payments, if anything it reinforced the need for and popularity of cash.

Within the industry, the debate between notes and coins will continue, with the mint industry challenging established concepts of the note/coin boundary. It will also continue in its quest for enhanced security that will provide opportunities to chip away at this boundary.

In terms of production, the march of alternative substrates (polymer and composites) will continue – not only because a number of leading currencies have recently adopted these, but because there is now a second supplier of polymer, which is set to galvanise the market, as well as multiple suppliers of composites.
One of the benefits of polymer and composite substrates is the clear windows they provide offer a new platform for security features. The paper industry has worked hard to provide a paper-based window alternative and we can expect a resurgence of holographic-based optically variable devices on banknotes that exploit the windows in both substrates, reversing the momentum gained in recent years by alternative optically variable features.

On the circulation side, inroads will be made into cash efficiencies and optimisation. It is somewhat bizarre in this day and age that the passage of cash is still so costly and inefficient, and so dependent on multiple (and in some cases manual) processes for counting and reconciliation, given that technological solutions now exist to automate much of this. Whilst 'Big Data' and harnessing this for currency is the buzzword at the moment, in the shorter term at least, organisations that both produce and handle cash should accelerate the adoption of technology and work better with one another to drive out prevailing inefficiencies, better match production and issue with demand, and raise quality - whether in production or notes in circulation.

Finally, a defining feature of the currency landscape in the years to come will be the continuing shift in focus of the euro-centric industry, to other parts of the world. The volume requirements are coming from those parts of the world with rapidly growing populations and economies - China was ahead of the game in this respect, but an isolated example. India, Thailand, Indonesia, Philippines, part of Africa are all examples of countries investing in banknote production to meet demand and remove their reliance on external, mainly European, suppliers. Needless to say, banknote origination, production and finishing equipment is expensive, so investment is new capacity and capability by such countries is a perfect opportunity to leapfrog legacy systems and equip themselves with the best on offer in the market.
Trends in the last two decades
Basic & additional security features from 1996-2016

We have investigated the evolution of basic and additional security features in ordinary passports, during the last two decades from 1996 to 2016, based on the information held in the Keesing Reference database. A number of interesting findings can be concluded, some of which we would like to share with you.

Michael van Gestel
Michael van Gestel works as a Supervisor Content Management / Document Expert at Keesing Technologies.

Michael has accumulated extensive knowledge of ID documents. He is an expert in the field of ID document authentication. For many years, he has worked in government positions at the Dutch Immigration Office and the Forgery Department at Schiphol Airport. Michael has built a strong expertise in the investigation of document fraud at borders, especially fraud cases concerning travelers crossing borders.

The past years, Michael has worked as an International Document Trainer at the Expertise Centre Identity Fraud and Documents (ECID), sharing his knowledge by providing ID Document Authentication training for, among others, embassies, consulates, airlines, security agencies, immigration offices and police departments all over the globe.

In 2014, Michael launched the ID Academy together with his document expert colleagues. The ID Academy is a knowledge and education centre providing in-depth and valuable information on ID documents, document verification, design and development, testing, security features, printing techniques and fraud prevention.

In 1980 the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) set the standard in a document outlining the fundamentals of the present passport blueprint with machine readable data. This document which has evolved over the years, is known as ICAO Doc 9303 and contains a list of security standards for machine readable travel documents that issuing States may incorporate. The list distinguishes between the so-called basic and additional security features, and issuing States are recommended to incorporate all the basic, essential, features and select a few of the additional non-essential ones.

The main focus of this report is concentrated within the following areas, namely: Data page substrate, See through register, Personalisation techniques, Photo techniques, Multiple portrait images, Optical variable features, Chip implementation and First line features in general.

**Data page substrate**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Passports issued between 1996-2005</th>
<th>Passports issued between 2006-2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Non paper 91%</td>
<td>Non paper 27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paper 8%</td>
<td>Paper 73%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**See-through register**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Passports issued between 1996-2005</th>
<th>Passports issued between 2006-2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contains a see-through register 9%</td>
<td>Contains a see-through register 29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Does not contain a see-through register 91%</td>
<td>Does not contain a see-through register 80%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Trends in the last two decades concluded, some of which we would like to share with you. From 1996 to 2016, based on the information held in the Keesing Reference database. A number of interesting findings can be made.

We have investigated the evolution of basic and additional security features in ordinary passports, during the last two decades. Personalisation techniques were quite diverse between 96-05 with the biggest three chunks of pie being claimed by Inkjet printing with an impressive 34%, followed by Laser printing with 23%, and finally Laser engraving with 13% (figure 4). Between 06-16 this pie has shrunk slightly in diversity and the top three showed the following division; Inkjet printing 46%, Laser engraving 28% and Laser printing 16% (figure 5). Of course the correlation between growth in non-paper datapages can be tied with the growth percentage of Laser engraving. However it is rather surprising to discover that despite the rapid growth of non-paper (see figure 1).
technological advancement of the last two decades, the most popular personalization technique is still inkjet. And that in the last decade this technique has increased even further to an impressive 46%. In this period the shift goes even further as we can observe that Dotmatrix had lost ground altogether and Thermal transfer underwent a substantial decrease from 9 to 3% (figure 6).

Photo techniques

The period 96-05 saw a pie chart division of five, with the top 3 being, Inkjet with 34%, Laser 23% and Laser engraving 13% (figure 7). From 06-16 Inkjet has grown to 47%, Laser engraving 28% and Laser printing reduced to 16%, together with Conventional that went from a 17 to 2% decrease (figure 8 and 9). From the perspective of a verification controller the conventional method is of course the most fail proof way of cross-checking a photo with a subject is features, primarily due to the fact that an original photo is most pristine and clear and an inkjet reproduction of an original photo is simply qualitatively less sharp and minute details such as for example a mole could be lost and not clearly visible. However from the viewpoint of the document manufacturer, an integrated photo is naturally more tamper safe than one which is glued or stapled onto a datapage. A continuous tug of war dilemma between opposite viewpoints.
increased sharply from 20% to 57%, an impressive 30% (figure 10). Secondary portrait image is an ICAO Doc 9303 additional feature, hence the rise in adoption is an interesting observation. A deeper investigation into the exact percentages taken up by the different types of multiple portrait images could be interesting and noteworthy.

**Optically variable features**

Focusing on optical variable features during 96-16, between VLI, Ink and DOVID, the biggest growth has clearly been made by DOVID, an astounding rise of nearly 30% (figure 11).

**Chip implementation**

In figure 12 we can see an overall sharp rise of chip implantation in passports, however it is rather curious to observe that nevertheless from 2006-2016 still quite a substantial amount of passports are issued without a chip. Zooming in further, we can report that the concentration of passports issued without chip lies primarily in the following 3 continents: Asia 28.5%, Africa 27.6% and North America 22%.

**First line features**

Finally, we have also looked at the number of first line features found in the last two decades. The amount of random features found on any given data page was on average 4 in 1996. This amount peaked to 27 in 2011 and this year alone, halfway through the year, 24 features have been registered (figure 13). The question remains is of course with how many registered features will 2016 close? What can be concluded is that any given controller will now need to have the expertise in excess of 24 features in order to adequately verify a document sufficiently. Have the plethora of various features available in the market near its peak of saturation, whereby we can ask ourselves whether the diversity and sheer numbers are starting to tip the scale negatively and become counterproductive?
Excise duty on cigarettes and alcohol is an important source of government revenue and a means of controlling consumption. The illicit trade of these and other products, through tax evasion, smuggling and counterfeiting, costs treasuries billions of dollars a year in lost revenue. And the cost is not just a financial one. The damage caused by counterfeiting to a company’s brand reputation, loss of sales and market capitalisation is almost incalculable.

So, the use of tax stamps not only ensures that tax payment records can be kept but also provides assurance that the products they are affixed to are genuine. Research suggests that tax stamps currently make up a significant share of the security print market with billions issued annually for cigarettes and alcohol alone, making them part of the largest sub-sector of the security print market and ahead of banknotes in terms of the volume of printed documents.

The technology has evolved into an accepted and effective authentication device, regularly specified in government tenders and commercial bidding opportunities. Today, there is no better opportunity for authorities to act decisively to boost excise revenue from growing tobacco and alcohol sales than by continuing to use tax stamps as an integral part of their frontline protection and security strategies.

More than 140 billion tobacco and alcohol stamps, in the form of securely affixed labels, are issued every year by over 150 provincial and national revenue agencies around the world, indicating that governments and agencies see the value of using them as central features in effective revenue gathering strategies.

Modern tax stamps are also finding increasing usage as effective frontline security devices in track and trace strategies to combat different forms of illicit trade. In this role, they can be integrated with enforcement programmes and supply chains to tackle smuggling channels and once implemented on tobacco and alcohol, potentially extended to a range of other products exposed to similar risks.

They can also feature in initiatives aimed at tackling ‘returning exports’ or ‘round tripping’, where products are manufactured and exported to avoid domestic tax before then being smuggled back into the country of origin to avoid excise taxes.

Indeed, the role of tax stamps has been further recognised by the United Nations in a report that acknowledged their evolution to meet new product protection and security needs as well as the paramount role they play in securing excise revenues for national authorities and protection agencies. The report signalled that ‘governments are cooperating with suppliers of anti-counterfeiting technologies, who are providing them with increasingly sophisticated tax stamp systems’ – a recognition of the trend towards utilising tax stamps as instruments for product track and trace rather than as simply tools for tax collection only.

Early 2018 will also see the introduction of a new international tax stamp standard in a move broadly welcomed by many in the sector and supported by ITSA. The standard comes against a global backdrop in which some countries or regional states have stamp programmes for collecting tax, while other parts of the world have no programmes. This is driving the requirement towards ISO 22382 for the specification of tax stamps – a unifying initiative that will bring all countries using stamps, and encourage those not using them, to have programmes that are in line with the best and most effective on the market.
Demonstrable benefits

The growing role tax stamps are playing in interoperable traceability and authentication applications is reinforced by several successful tax stamp programmes, which demonstrate how the technology can provide an ideal all round solution.

In east Africa, the Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA) has introduced a new generation of tax stamps featuring a secure, serialised QR code and a corresponding string of letters and numbers (alphanumeric) that are visible to the human eye. This move, along with a smartphone app that scans the code for verification purposes, is enhancing compliance and easing the authentication and traceability of goods throughout the supply chain. It builds upon the existing features of the current tax stamps, along with a production monitoring and traceability system.

Kenya’s new generation tax stamps with secure serialised QR code

According to the KRA, excise revenue grew by more than 28% in the 2015/16 year to almost KES 49bn ($485m) following adoption of the secure QR code tax stamps. The same period also saw domestic excise revenue grow by 43%, contributing an additional KES 8bn ($79m) to the country’s exchequer and signalling the highest growth ever recorded in the country’s history of excise collection – strong evidence of the enhanced stamp programme’s success.

The KRA is an example of how innovative tax stamp programmes can secure revenues in parts of the world that are at risk from smugglers, brand pirates and the general trade of illicit goods. Since its introduction, the Authority says that product manufacturers who have embraced the programme, have seen strong sales growth compared to non-stamped products. Moreover, since implementation between 2013 and the present day, excise revenue has increased by 82%, enabling more than KES 200bn ($2bn) to be recovered from KRA projects.

Across the Atlantic, an initiative started in 2015 by the US state of Michigan’s Department of Treasury showcases the benefits of combining digital and material-based security with track and trace functionality and automated reporting systems for tobacco tax stamp programmes.

Pakistan, Kenya, Morocco, Brazil and Armenia, among other countries that already impose excise tax on sugary drinks, have implemented, or are in the process of implementing, systems like this – systems that originated in tobacco and alcohol tax stamp programmes but that are now being extended across other product sectors.

So far as the future is concerned, the outcome of ongoing proceedings to implement the EU Tobacco Products Directive (TPD), and its subsequent influence on the WHO FCTC Protocol to Eliminate Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products, will likely have an impact on tobacco tax stamps. But if the technology continues to provide effective solutions for tax collection, product authentication and secure track and trace, then there’s no reason why tax stamps should not continue to succeed.

About ITSA

ITSA was founded by several leading industry companies and stakeholders to ensure the better understanding of the benefits of tax stamp programmes and to promote the highest professional standards within the sector. To this end, one of its key objectives is to support and promote the introduction of the ISO 22382 standard for tax stamps. Members are Advanced Track and Trace, Allexis, Ashton Potter Security Printers, Chanwanich Security Printing, HoloFlex, HoloSist, Jura JSP, KBA-NotaSys, Leonhard Kurz, Madras Security Printers, Manipal Technologies, OpSec Security, Rolland Enterprises, SICPA, SURYS, Thomas Greg & Sons, and Uflex. More at http://www.tax-stamps.org
Drug counterfeiting is a significant public health threat and is rapidly increasing with dozens of new cases being reported throughout the world every day. In the past few months, various news has been reported in media referring the ongoing activities of counterfeiters making fake and sub-standard medicines in different parts of India. States like Rajasthan, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Delhi, Uttarakhand, Chhattisgarh, Bihar, West Bengal and Karnataka are likely to be hit majority by these counterfeiting activities. In Rajasthan alone, the business of fake medicines resulted in a loss of INR 400 crore to the State Government. More than the revenue, the point of concern is the impact of these fake medicines on the health of the consumers. In the modus operandi, most of these medicines are sold in rural areas with the nexus of chemist, doctors and distributors at a commission of up to 70%, which is a great incentive for them. When we talk about counterfeiting, the issue is not profitability or protection of an innovation. We are talking about public health. A medicine is not like any other product. Most of fake medicines seized are anti-biotics, food supplements, pain killers, vitamins tablets, syrups and injections as well as lifesaving drugs. It is alarming that some medicines that are seized are made using clay adding to the seriousness of situation.

Considering this, various anti-counterfeiting efforts have been developed by pharmaceutical companies and legislations are being implemented by governments around the world. For example, in China, all healthcare packaging currently includes a 20-digit Electronic Drug Monitoring Code (EDMC), so the packs can be tracked and tested for authenticity throughout the supply chain. However, the China Food & Drug Administration (CFDA) issued a notice in July last year stating that amendments to the drug system requirements were in progress, following criticism of the existing system. The key issue that the industry faced was the fact that the EDMC coding format did not correspond with other traceability systems around the world, with many countries – including South Korea, India and Turkey – using the Global Trade Item Number (GTIN) format. In India, serialisation is mandatory for exported medicines and to be implemented in domestic market in nearby future. While in the past, industry has expressed concerns regarding the investment involved in implementation of an anti-counterfeiting system, solutions are available today to cater to all budgets, and this should no longer be considered an obstacle to adoption of a solution. As an authentication association, we are committed and continuously working to provide cost effective new generation anti-counterfeiting solutions to brand owners.
Authentication Solutions:

Serialisation is the system of tracking, tracing and verifying products via unique identification codes. These unique identifiers reveal a complete history of the drug; from the supplier to consumer, for the duration of the drug in the marketplace to any additional time necessary for returning and disposing of the pack after it has expired. The codes are commonly presented as a linear barcode, 2D barcode or a combination of numbers, conveying key data elements such as the drug’s product code, national reimbursement and identification number, batch number and expiry date. These data elements should also be printed on the packaging in a legible format in case the barcode is unreadable. In addition to confirming the integrity of the medicine and helping to ensure that patients are taking the correct reliable medicine, these data elements also facilitate withdrawal and return procedures should a recall be necessary.

When implementing a serialisation system, pharmaceuticals have various issues to keep in mind. Firstly, a uniform system must be put in place that meets the requirements at each level of the supply chain. This may require existing suppliers and companies within the supply chain to integrate new IT systems, databases and business structures, which could prove both financially and administratively challenging. In addition, the creation of the required serial codes themselves will call for significant expenditure. The more complex the structure of the serial codes, the more challenging standardisation will be across all companies in the supply chain.

The key to the implementation of a successful serialisation system is the ability to run a functioning repository system that allows for precise data management and the control of data integrity. The process of track and trace will mean that every point within the manufacturing chain will have to carry out a stop-check, resulting in the collection of a significant quantity of data. Each individual unit will have a unique identifying code and, once printed and supplied to the public, must be decommissioned in the system so any other pack that has the same code cannot be verified. If under unforeseen circumstances a box is accidentally damaged and made unusable, the code must be recorded as inactive. The organisation of this vast network of data will prove challenging, so companies and governments must work together to create a successful way of managing it effectively.
Tamper Verification

Indeed, while serialisation verifies the authenticity of the pack of medicine, counterfeitters can easily collect used genuine materials and refill them with fake drugs, reclosing the original packaging and passing the product off as genuine. This has been seen in China, where counterfeitters obtain genuine boxes from patients leaving pharmacies. This reinforces the need for a multi-layered security approach, to provide protection for both the packaging and the contents inside.

Tamper verification shows whether the packaging has been opened or altered since it left the manufacturer, ensuring that the content of the packaging is authentic. It provides the end user with confidence, allowing them to personally judge that the product they are opening is genuine and originates from the legitimate manufacturer. Anti-counterfeiting technologies like security hologram play a vital role in protecting packaging from tampering as well as important authentication tool at various levels for consumers, enforcement and drug manufacturers. Security holograms can be used and integrated with cartons, tapes or specialist labels.

Glaxo was the first company to use a tamper-evident hologram to seal packs of Zantac in 1989, and holograms have been used by the industry ever since. Many major drug companies use holograms on at least some of their medicines in selected markets, using them in the form of labels, seals, hot-stamped patches, or blister foils, designed to be easily recognised yet difficult to copy accurately. Security holograms often provide overt first-line authentication while covert features such as scrambled images, micro text, UV-sensitive or other specialist inks provide second-line authentication for trained examiners equipped with appropriate decoding equipment.

The optimal approach to protect against counterfeiting will include both serialisation and authentication solutions which can help stop re-tampering of product and provide tamper verification solutions, thus making it as difficult as possible for the counterfeitters and illicit trade to succeed.

Authentication Plus Traceability

Today, drugs and packaging are both counterfeited, putting many lives at risk. Diversion of legitimate product outside authorised distribution channels is another problem. The optimal approach to protect against counterfeiting will include both serialisation and authentication solutions which can help stop re-tampering of product and provide tamper verification solutions, thus making it as difficult as possible for the counterfeitters and illicit trade to succeed. Track-and-trace systems link on-pack security devices with database management and field-tracking services. In this way, the ability to know where a pharmaceuticals consignment has been, where it is now, and where it is heading, has become a fundamental part of many drugs companies’ production and logistical operations.

Reference:

1. Fake medicines supplied to many States of India, Amar Ujala, June 3, 2017
2. Fake medicines are selling at 70% commission in rural areas, Bhaskar News, June 4, 2017
3. Illegal factory seized making fake Oxytocin Injection, Amar Ujala, May 1, 2017
   http://www.amarujala.com/uttar-pradesh/pilibhit/Pilibhit-71406-122
4. Fake medicines produced from clay, Bhaskar News, June 4, 2017
ASPA elects new Governing Body

The Authentication Solution Providers’ Association (ASPA) announced the newly elected Board of Members at its 17th Annual General Meeting, which was held on July 29, 2017 at Hotel Holiday Inn, Goa.

Joining the board for two-year terms are:

- Umendra K Gupta, CMD of Holostik India Ltd.
- Arun Agarwal, CEO of Kantas Track Pack India Ltd.
- Luv D. Shriram, Director, Shriram Veritech Solutions Pvt Ltd.
- Nakul Pasricha, President & CEO, Pharma Secure PAS India Pvt Ltd.
- Deepak Gupta, Director, Shree Lamipack Pvt Ltd.

The newly elected Board held its first meeting later in the day, where the group elected Umendra K Gupta as President, Arun Agarwal as Vice-President & Luv D Shriram as General Secretary & Treasurer. The board members also invited Shobhit Arora, MD, Giriraj Foils Pvt. Ltd. and Gaurav Sathaye, Director, United Speciality Inks Pvt. Ltd. as two additional co-opted members fulfilling the diversification of representatives at the Board.

While addressing the gathering, Mr. Gupta, said, “The Association has ongoing campaigns like Make Sure India & Brand Protection Awareness across India. This is a part of its effort to promote the importance of authentication solutions against counterfeiting and we are committed to take it to the next level in upcoming years. Today, nearly every industry such as Pharmaceuticals, FMCG, Automotive and others face the menace of dealing with counterfeiting. Our Government seems to be proactive on taking a holistic approach to consumer protection and public welfare. ASPA as an industry body is aligned to support them in protecting brands and safeguarding consumer interest and our member companies are fully geared up to help industries meet this challenge.”

Meanwhile, Arun Agarwal, the Chief Executive Officer of Kantas Track Pack India Ltd. expressed his pleasure on being elected as the ASPA vice-president. He said, “I’m thrilled and honoured to be elected as Vice-President of this distinguished association. With the present ASPA team, I look forward to working with the Board and members to deliver on our core objectives of support, education and advocacy in the development of standards and the promotion of authentication solutions.

Nepal to print its banknotes itself

The Government of Nepal is preparing to start security printing in its country itself. A meeting held at the Ministry of Information and Communications concluded that it would be more beneficial to carry out security printing related works such as printing of banknotes, passports, driving licenses and tamper-evident labels in Nepal itself rather than getting them done by the foreign companies.

“The government should make arrangement to print such sensitive documents in Nepal itself rather than in the foreign land,” said Secretary Kishor Jung Karki. The Department of Printing will submit the proposed bill after necessary amendments at the Ministry of Information and Communications.

Source: http://www.myrepublica.com
ASPA initiated awareness series on brand protection

Authentication Solution Providers’ Association (ASPA) conducted its first Brand Protection Awareness Forum at Sayaji Hotel, Indore, on July 12, 2017. This workshop was a part of ASPA brand protection awareness series of events to be conducted in tier 2 and tier 3 cities in India to spread awareness among stakeholders on fake products, overview of authentication solutions and need of integrated approach required to fight fakes.

The event was graced by the presence of eminent personalities like Mr. Anshul Mittal, Chairman, Madhya Pradesh State Council; CII and Mr. Virender Sharma, MSME Director, Madhya Pradesh.

Speaking at the occasion, Chief Guest, Mr. Anshul Mittal, Chairman Madhya Pradesh State Council, CII said, “Counterfeiting is a serious issue and we must come together to take up this challenge. Not only does it impact industries, businesses, government revenue, but also, impacts health and life to a great extent. As industry representative, Indian industry, especially MSME sector has tremendous potential for growth and opportunity in exports and is expected to increase up to 50% by 2017. It’s critical for MSMEs to step up their innovation drive to gain a larger share of the global markets and become more responsive to the emerging global market trends. For this, they need to understand the integrity of brand protection & Intellectual Property Rights (IPR).”

The workshop featured a half day conference and an extensive display area of authentication solutions for delegates. There was presentation given by ASPA Secretariat on Overview of Counterfeiting in India, Mr. Dewakar Mahendra from Holostik on, ’Fighting Counterfeiting – Overview of Physical and Digital Authentication Solutions and Integration of IPR for Brand Protection’ by Lalit Ambastha. The event was well attended by more than 50 delegates and supported by Holostik & Shree Lampack.

Brady partners with Kezzler and Honeywell on refrigerant brand protection program

The industrial and safety printing solutions provider Brady has partnered with Kezzler and Honeywell to focus on bringing anti-counterfeiting solution for Genetron 134a refrigerant, which can be used in automotive, commercial and industrial air conditioning and refrigeration applications.

Nearly 3,500 containers of counterfeit Genetron 134a product were seized by local law enforcement in Saudi Arabia in 2013. In response, Brady and Kezzler developed a comprehensive brand protection labelling and tracking solution. Initially, this program was developed specifically for the Genetron 134a products in the Middle East, but has since expanded globally.

“Counterfeit products, particularly when it comes to refrigerants, are a dangerous and costly problem for manufacturers, distributors and consumers around the world,” says Dennis Polinski, global product manager of Brand Protection for Brady. “In order to combat hazardous replication, it’s essential to establish and sustain a strong brand protection approach. We take pride in offering customised, total solutions that protect the integrity of these products and brands.”

The companies jointly developed a specialty label that is applied to the top of the product cylinder and is easily seen or scanned. This label has various levels of authentication, including a proprietary machine-readable covert taggant containing a unique signature in the form of an Over Print Varnish (OPV). The label is also tamper evident to eliminate illegal removal and reuse, and contains a unique QR barcode and tracking serial number provided by Kezzler. The kezzlercode enables the brand owner and its distribution network to digitally verify, track and monitor their product throughout the supply chain. Consumers can also enter the cylinder tracking code online to validate and access data.

“The partnership is a good example of authentication solutions providers coming together to provide solutions that ultimately benefit the consumer,” said Thomas Körmendi, CEO of Kezzler.

Source: http://www.bradybrandprotection.com
The biggest and proudest moment for India was the successful launch of the 640 Tonne Geosynchronous Satellite launch Vehicle GLSV Mark III. Called 'Fat Boy' or 'Monster Rocket,' it was launched from Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh at 5.28 pm on June 5, 2017, marking India’s most significant milestone in space technology. With this successful mission, Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) increased its capacity to launch satellites from 2.3 to 4 tonnes and joined the elite Global club of heavy-lift satellite launchers.

ASPA members and PRS Permacel are also proud to partner with ISRO in their successful mission. Their innovative Thermal Insulation formed an integral part of this huge monstrous launch vehicle's thermal boot. The entire thermal thrust of the rocket's first stage during lift-off was taken care by the specially designed product by PRS. In addition, PRS was also involved in supply of multiple products used in the vehicle integration, assembly and for protection of men and material during the launch.

Printcare Sri Lanka to invest INR 750 million (US $ 5 mln) in label printing technology

Well known for being the global leader in tea bag tags and envelopes, Printcare now a diversified Group (also involved in printing and packaging for apparel, FMCG, and Food and Beverage industries, as well as security printing for lotteries and telecom industries) has invested over INR 750 million (US $ 5 mln) in technology expansion.

"We have a history of innovation and a track record of introducing new technologies. These investments follow our rich history of knowing where the curve is going and staying ahead of it," said Krishna Ravindran, General Manager, Printcare PLC.

With only limited technology of this nature in Asia, Printcare’s new Gallus RCS equipment is set to redefine local label printing capabilities enabling maximum flexibility in the selection of printing methods and an exceptionally high level of automation. “Our new hybrid machinery, the first of its kind in the country, will have the ability to use multiple printing processes and finishes in one pass exhibiting the differentiation on the shelf our customers seek through a visual advantage” explained Ravindran.

Source: http://www.dailymirror.lk

SON unveils production authentication scheme in Nigeria

STANDARDS Organisation of Nigeria (SON) has engaged the services of MSP Secure Technologies Nigeria Ltd., the Nigerian affiliate of an international security printing outfit, Madras Security Printing Private Limited of India, to introduce a product authentication scheme in Nigeria.

The scheme is aimed at assisting consumers to determine the genuineness of products before purchase. Speaking at the signing of the agreement with the company in Abuja, Director General, SON, Mr. Osita Aboloma, said the scheme is to ensure that consumers get value for their money while also protecting genuine manufacturers and importers from faking, cloning and product counterfeiting.

He said, “The management of SON had since May, 2016 approved the project as part of strategies to combat the negative effects of product cloning, faking, counterfeiting and substandard products in general in the Nigeria market.” Aboloma welcomed the agreement with the security printing outfit from India, stressing that SON is relying on the firm’s more than two decades experience in successfully deploying similar schemes in many African countries.

In his remarks, Managing Director of Madras Security Printing Private Limited, India, Mr. Pratap Rajah Sunder Singh, expressed his delight at being able to make the parent company’s international experience available to Nigeria. According to him, the successful deployment of similar schemes in the entire East Africa and three countries in West Africa has put the company in very good stead to support Nigeria’s fight against the influx and distribution of substandard products in the country.

Source: http://son.gov.ng
Monotech ties with Grafisk Maskinfabrik—Denmark

India’s leading equipment and solution provider, Monotech Systems Limited has tied up with Grafisk Maskinfabrik (GM) Denmark for their full colour digital label production press. As per the association GM will be providing very high quality converting line for labels which will be integrated with ColorNovo UV Inkjet by Monotech Systems Limited.

Monotech Systems Limited manufactures high speed inkjet printing systems under their brand JETSCI and has a large footprint of Industrial Inkjet Systems with over 100+ installations globally. Recently, Monotech Systems Limited has introduced ColorNovo hybrid UV inkjet system for digital label production designed and developed in India.

GM machine includes fully servo driven converting line with corona, registered flexo, cold foil lamination, die cut, slitting, and dual rewinding, all processes will be in line to the ColorNovo UV (CMYK+W) inkjet.

T.P. Jain – Managing Director MSL says, “This was critical to find and get a highly stable, reliable converting line which can be easily adaptable to our inkjet digital platform. We are really excited to see the great performance of the GM machine and appreciate their vast experience in integrating Digital equipment. We are sure that with our partnership with GM, we shall deliver the best Digital Label production system to the Industry in terms of investment, reliability, quality and fastest ROI.”

Source: www.monotech.in
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