

Key Selection Criteria for ID Card Printing Solutions: An Executive's Guide to Finding the Right Provider



A Secure Organization Starts with Secure Card Issuance

Security is a constant concern for every global corporation, mid-sized business, healthcare facility, campus and government agency. Many organizations are looking to secure card issuance technology for the safest, most secure access and ID credentials, but selecting a provider can be an overwhelming task. This executive summary is intended to assist you in defining, evaluating and ultimately selecting the right secure card issuance provider to meet your specific credential needs.

Key Selection Criteria—What to Look for in a Secure Card Issuance Solution and Provider

Go beyond basic printer features, functions and up-front costs. Seek out:

Modular and scalable solutions. With modular solutions, features can be easily added to allow for technology migration or program expansion. An ideal provider will offer a broad portfolio of fully modular, field-upgradeable solutions that can support new card personalization and address security concerns as your needs change over time.

In the future, you may need features like:

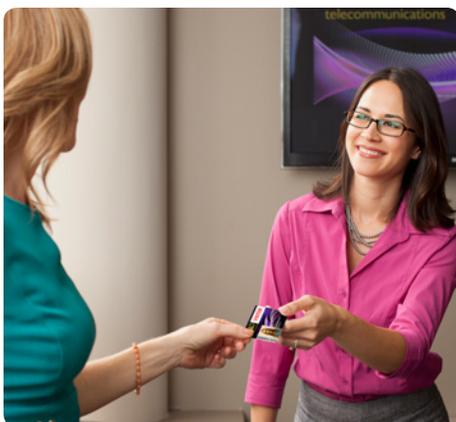
- **Easily added encoders** that can assign permissions to your door or your data at the time of card printing. These combine what previously were multiple processes into a single, in-line card personalization step. They also boost issuance speed, reduce the chance of human error in encoding the wrong permissions onto a particular card, and increase the user's convenience and efficiency. Opting for field-upgradeable units enables organizations that already own a card printer to add an encoder at any time so they can leverage smart card benefits well into the future.
- **Versatile electronic personalization and encoding.** Printer and encoder solutions should allow for the addition of a magnetic stripe to the card as well as more robust card technologies.
- **Seamlessly integratable optional upgrades** for contactless smart cards, multifunctional cards and strong authentication adoption help your credentials keep up with your organization's needs.

Using an open and adaptable platform lays a solid foundation for adding new technologies and capabilities as they are needed, allowing your organization to invest with confidence, reduce your total cost of ownership, while protecting your initial investment for years to come.

What is Secure Card Issuance?

Secure Card Issuance is the creation and distribution of secure, counterfeit-resistant identity credentials to known and vetted individuals. For example:

- Photo identification badges, cards or fobs for physical access
- Multi-functional smart cards that allow access to networks or protected data, track an individual's time and attendance or enable financial transactions
- Highly secure credentials with multiple functions and the capability to print cards either at a single central location or at multiple sites.



Flexible solution interoperability. Ideal secure card issuance solutions are not only scalable, but also interoperable with current and future systems. Look for:

- **Full service providers.** Those that only focus on stand-alone badge-printing products limit your ability to incorporate and take full advantage of newly available, complementary technologies. Whether your organization someday seeks to migrate simple ID badges to multi-functional technology cards or to increase security by tying into a Physical Access Control System (PACS), carefully consider providers that offer a full spectrum of interoperable secure identity solutions.
- **Products designed with compatibility specifically in mind.** Those without this foresight may not always operate as intended, potentially opening gaps or exposing weak points in your security infrastructure. By selecting a provider that understands the importance of interoperability, you ensure that your previous investments remain relevant, and you'll have peace of mind knowing that as you incorporate additional technologies into your infrastructure, they will work together harmoniously to enhance your enterprise security and reduce risk.

Providers with certified quality and a strong network of partners and alliances. Best-in-class providers will:

- **Operate out of ISO 9001-2008 certified facilities.** An ISO 9001-2008 registration certifies that the provider's quality system governing the design, manufacture, sales and distribution of their products has been verified by third-party audits.
- **Excel abroad.** If you are considering a global provider, you'll also want to ensure that their design, manufacturing, distribution and service processes also meet strict international standards.
- **Stand behind their solutions** and offer full, multi-year warranties on their printers and lifetime warranties on related critical accessories such as printheads.
- **Have a strong network** of expert partners and alliances. The right provider will also offer the resources, training and tools that enable their partners to solve customers' critical security challenges. This translates into knowledgeable and experienced dealers and integrators that are in a position to recommend and deliver best-fit solutions for your organization. Global enterprises with geographically dispersed locations should definitely consider only those providers that have a strong international network of trusted partners.
- **Offer a broad array of training options** ensuring that both their customer support personnel and valued channel partners are optimally poised to deliver unrivaled service and provide the expertise required to best serve your card personalization needs.

Increase Security, Ease and Peace of Mind with the Right Solutions and the Right Provider

Sorting through secure card issuance providers to find the right one for you doesn't have to be a daunting process—but it is a vital one. Following the criteria above will help you make the right choice the first time, so you can invest in an ideal ID card printing solution with confidence.



For a quick, visual summary on the **Top 10 Considerations for Selecting an ID Card Printing Solution for your business**, check out this Infographic [here](#)

Learn more about **HID's range of FARGO® Card & ID Badge Printers** [here](#)

To speak with someone from HID Global about your institution's printing needs, **contact us** [here](#)

About HID Global

For more than 20 years, enterprise corporations, government agencies, healthcare facilities, financial institutions, transit authorities, small-to-medium businesses, K-12 schools, Colleges and Universities have all relied on HID Global to deliver the world's broadest, feature-rich portfolio of card printers/encoders for custom card personalization, creating high-quality color photo IDs and encoding smart cards. With the industry's first fully modular, scalable and future-proof Direct-to-Card (DTC®) and High Definition Printing (HDP®) printer portfolio, along with its complete line of visual security products and accessories, HID Global's secure card issuance solutions meet the customization needs of organizations worldwide and lead the way in secure card issuance innovation.

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