

Optaglio See's Growth in Holograms for Personal Documents

Optaglio – the Czech-headquartered surface relief optical security devices and hologram producer – recently announced it has seen more than 30% growth compared to last year, with the delivery of security elements for 20 million polycarbonate (PC) ID cards, passports and driving licenses in the first half of 2017.



OVMesh integrated into a polycarbonate card (top) and OVMesh (bottom).

According to Optaglio, the increasing trend towards PC documents with machine-readable biometric data is now gaining momentum around the world, as more governments issue either PC cards or paper documents with a PC page. Many market analysts forecast that up to 2022, only a few nations will insist on entirely paper-based documents.

Dr Tomáš Karenský, Senior Research Manager for Optaglio said: 'of course, polycarbonate is not the only interesting technology. The market moves fast; composite card producers can surprise us and a renaissance of PVC cannot be ruled out.'

'However, at the moment, polycarbonate is the king. We do not expect a change in the forthcoming years. We have not adapted a technology originally focused on paper. Several years ago, we started an entirely new development project narrowly focused on polycarbonate. Now we can benefit from this decision, but we are not sleeping. Another major innovation is under development. Very likely the product will be available by the end of this year.'

Optaglio's product line for PC is product line *OVMesh™*. This enables:

- the integration of security holograms within PC cards to create a single PC card body, without any adhesive, thereby sealing the holographic layer within the card;
- the production of holograms that consist of thousands of tiny pieces to be laminated within the card during lamination. The melted PC flows between the holographic pieces. Any removal attempt results in irreversible destruction of the hologram;
- the combination of holograms with micro-holograms – microscopic metallic dots sometimes called 'holographic dust' that are full holograms with letters engraved on each dot.

Most of Optaglio's production for PC cards is now delivered to security printing companies and card producers in Asia and Europe. This year the company also began to offer application machines so that the customers can perform the entire production process in-house.

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