

# PZ Vlas makes security a priority by using VASCO's DIGIPASS® 820 E-id reader

**In this digital age, Belgium was one of the first countries to implement and distribute E-id-cards to its citizens. Data like the name of the citizen, the card number and a photo are printed on these new E-id cards, while other data like address information are stored on the chip of the card. The information on this chip can only be viewed through an E-id card reader.**



*DIGIPASS® 820 E-id reader*

Currently, when a citizen is the subject of a police control and is asked to provide his address, the police officer has to take the person's word for it or make contact with dispatching to check the address, which takes time. This is due to the fact that the police officer on the road has no means to verify the person's address information. Only police offices are equipped with a (connected) E-id reader. So police units on the road are in need of a portable E-id reader, to help them to do their job.

As a governmental organization, a police corps can order E-id readers following a long governmental procedure, with a delivery time up till 5 months. However, PZ Vlas, the police area of Kortrijk, Kuurne and Lendeledede, wanted to tackle

the problem of its units on the road immediately. They decided to look for an alternative solution and found it in VASCO's DIGIPASS® 820 E-id reader.

"We learned about VASCO and its E-id readers at the E-id Contactday organized by the government," says Kurt Volckaert, PZ Vlas's Director of Logistics. "The positive experiences of other police corps convinced us of DIGIPASS® 820's advantages. Besides that, we opted for VASCO because they could offer us a great price/quality ratio and a swift delivery." The DIGIPASS® 820 E-id reader is a state-of-the-art trusted unconnected Personal Card Reader product platform, with a large LCD display that can display logos and various fonts. The rubber key pad absorbs shocks and protects the device against dust and liquids. The size of DIGIPASS® 820 (10.5cmx6cmx1cm) allows it to be carried around in a pocket of a motor suit or a police uniform.

To read the data, stored on the chip of the E-id card, the user has to insert the E-id card into the reader and with a simple touch of a button, the E-id reader displays the asked information. This information can be address information as well as citizen information like nationality, birth date or any special status of the person (e.g. wheelchair user).

Currently, the motor units of PZ Vlas are testing the E-id reader during traffic controls. The E-id

reader needs to be robust and durable, as the police officers of the motor unit put it in and out their motor suit every time they want to check someone's ID. "We are already testing DIGIPASS® 820 for three months now, in all kinds of weather conditions, and we are very satisfied with the results. We only get positive reactions on DIGIPASS® 820 from the motor units," comments Kurt Volckaert.



*Kurt Volckaert, Director of Logistics*

The PZ Vlas police corps also uses DIGIPASS® 820 together with the new alcohol test kit of the Belgian police. Such kits contain an alcohol testing device and a little computer, which registers the results of the test. The police officers have to enter the citizen's name and address into the computer to link the results to the right person. "The E-id reader makes the job of the police officer a lot easier," says Kurt Volckaert. "It is often difficult to check the address of intoxicated persons: they are often too inebriated to remember their address or they are quite hostile and do not want to reveal where they live.

When we put an E-id reader in our test kits, it takes the officer only a few seconds to retrieve the person's address information."  
After a positive testing period, PZ Vlas wants to equip all its police units on the road, as well as all alcohol test kits, with this portable E-id reader.



Alcohol Test Kit

"We welcome PZ Vlas as a customer and applaud their initiative," says Jan Valcke, VASCO's President and COO. "PZ Vlas shows that public security is an absolute priority for them and that they take all steps possible to perform their public task. With DIGIPASS® 820 E-id reader, police officers can verify the complete identity of citizens, all the time. The PZ Vlas corps lives up to its motto of "we say as we do and we do as we say" and can truly serve as an example to other Belgian police areas."

#### OBJECTIVE

Police officers on the road have to be able to read the addresses of citizens stored on their E-id card.

#### CHALLENGE

The E-id reader has to be portable and easy to use by the police officers on the road. It has to be suited for all the police units by car, by motor, by bike and on foot.

#### SOLUTION

VASCO's DIGIPASS® 820 E-id reader is easy to put away in a police uniform thanks to its convenient flat design. It can also be used in all weather conditions, as the E-id reader is shock proof and is protected against dust and liquids by its rubber key pad. The high ease of use permits the police officers to check a citizen's address information in seconds.

## About PZ Vlas

As a consequence of a Belgian law in 2000, the local police of the province of West-Flanders was divided into 19 police areas, with police area Kortrijk-Kuurne-Lendeledede as the largest one. A police area consists of one or more communes. This police area was baptized "PZ Vlas" (or Police Area Flax in English), because the region is known for its cultivation of the flax crops. PZ Vlas counts 271 corps members, who watch over the safety of more than 90.000 citizens.

## About VASCO

VASCO designs, develops, markets and supports patented DIGIPASS® user authentication products for the financial world, remote access, e-business and e-commerce. With tens of millions of DIGIPASS® products sold, VASCO has established itself as a world-leader for strong User Authentication for e-Banking and for Network Access for blue-chip corporations and governments worldwide.

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