



## Zebra Card Printers Play Vital Role in Angola Voting Census

Zebra P640i printers have formed an integral part of a nationwide project to register eight million voters using biometric data in the southern African state of Angola. These security class card printers were supplied by auto-identification specialist Identisis, a leading Zebra Card Printer reseller to SINFIC, the systems integrator on behalf of the Angolan government.

The printers were used in mobile registration centres set up in each of the country's 18 provinces where voters' identity was verified and biographical and biometric fingerprint data, with a digital photograph were printed and encoded on the card. In all 700 P640i secure id printers were supplied over an eight month period starting in March 2006 and provided each voter with secure, tamper resistant identification in readiness for the country's upcoming legislative and presidential elections in 2008 and 2009 respectively.

### Background

Since the end of a 27-year civil war in 2002, Angola has been in the process of rebuilding, a crucial element of which has been the necessity to strengthen the democratic government of the country through a voting census.

With the Angolan government committed to updating its electoral records every year, a new system was called for which took advantage of recent information and data collection technology to capture voters' details securely and reduce incidences of electoral fraud and multiple voting.

### A Geographical Challenge

With an area of almost 1.25 million square kilometres, Angola is five times the size of the UK with a demographic density of just eight people per square kilometre. That made the remote delivery of the project its biggest challenge.

### Solution

Given Angola's turbulent history in recent years, consolidation of the democratic process is vital to the country's future stability and growth. Fundamental to that process are the creation of a national voters' database and the provision of each citizen with a validated means of proving who they are when they come to vote.



### Solution Technology

#### Zebra P640i Security Card Printer



The solution designed by SINFIQ comprised mobile registration centers for each of the 18 provinces and a National Data Center for the aggregation and quality control of data. 'This project was essentially about Angola strengthening its democratic structures, which meant a census had to be carried out to gear things up for people to be able to vote,' said John Timman, Zebra Card Printer Solutions' Sales Director EMEA.

Card printing equipment had to be able to withstand the rigours of the Angolan climate while reliably producing the voters' ID cards in remote locations on demand. It was important too, that the right consumables to deal with these conditions were available.

The choice of the Zebra P640i was endorsed by Identisis following Zebra's early involvement in project discussions, which included testing every element of the unit's performance to demonstrate its capabilities in what would prove to be trying local conditions, and training local operators in the use of the machines.

"Zebra have provided high levels of support for Identisis and SINFIQ from the very start of this project. They have worked with us on both the specification and implementation elements of the project and this teamwork helped to ensure effective execution of the solution." Said Mario Bonixe, Managing Director of Identisis.

'The fact we were prepared to stay involved at all phases of the project certainly went in our favour,' added John Timman, 'and meant the decision to chose Zebra wasn't just down to machine capability although, of course, this was still important for two key reasons.

'First the P640i produces secure cards that hold lots of information including photo ID, fingerprint, and encoded details that can be read from a barcode on the reverse. Secondly, because the card is laminated, the card and the data are protected and won't be corrupted by heat, dust, or humidity. 'This was a big issue for the project.'

Training local operators posed its own challenges too, as Christophe Malgorn, Zebra Card Printer Solutions' Channel Manager for the Middle East & Africa recalls:

'We undertook a 'train the trainer' programme so that local people could carry out the card printing in the various mobile registration centres,' he said. 'This was a test itself because of the need to manage the four languages and 40 plus dialects spoken across the country.'

## Quote

**"Zebra have provided high levels of support for Identisis and SINFIQ from the very start of this project. They have worked with us on both the specification and implementation elements of the project and this teamwork helped to ensure effective execution of the solution."**

**Mario Bonixe**

**Managing Director,  
Identisis**





Around 40 people were trained initially and divided into seven 'brigades' that travelled out into the Angolan provinces, often to remote villages, to record voters' details and produce the cards.

The mobile registration teams would identify citizen voters, collect biographical and biometric data, take a photograph, and then print the card on the spot. This information was then stored on the National Data Centre to centralise the data and help to combat any attempted fraud of multiple registrations.

The Angolan infrastructure is limited – road access is fragmented and there is a significant threat from unexploded mines left over from the long civil war. Not surprisingly, it took four months to complete this part of the project.

## Benefits

Issuing ID cards was an integral part of a massive programme which, at one time, involved over 20,000 people in its implementation and support. The Zebra Card Printer's teams' added value at every stage of the process to help minimise the risks involved and ensure that the project was successfully completed.

Eurico Santos, of Systems integrator SINFIC was quick to acknowledge Zebra's contribution to the project's success.

'Zebra delivered a very professional service to both Identisis and us, not just in the quality and durability of the printers, but also through their commitment to training people to operate them efficiently in difficult environmental conditions.'

Angolan citizens are now able to vote in good time for the 2008 elections, the first in 16 years.

The teamwork and collaboration between all involved ensured the project's success in achieving the Angolan government's goals of getting voting ID cards out to the population at large has provided a platform on which to build the provision of more new services for every citizen.

