

IN PRISON, CONTROLLING COMINGS AND GOINGS IS OBVIOUSLY AN ESSENTIAL PRIORITY.



Interview with Michel Heine

IDtech has been a preferred supplier of access control and visitor identification systems to Belgian prisons for many years.

Organising and automating checks and recording access are among the tools available to security managers in these institutions. Despite what we might think, prisons use some of the most sophisticated equipment and systems on the market. Knowing at all times who has access, who has entered the building, when and how is of major importance in these high-risk establishments.

HIGH LEVELS OF TRAFFIC IN DIFFERENT GROUPS

Prisons are very high-traffic areas. Visits are received regularly by a variety of groups.

In particular, we can distinguish two categories (leaving aside the detainees, who are subject to specific control measures):

- the prison staff, consisting of warders and guards, as well as the chaplain and medical staff
- auxiliary staff and people who visit the prison regularly: lawyers, suppliers, police escorts, families etc.

The prison administration has designed and developed customised access procedures for these two groups of people.

For prison staff, the technique of personalised badges is used. IDtech has been supplying badges programmed according to the instructions of the prison administration for ten years or so. All local movements are transmitted immediately to a server at the central administration in the justice ministry in Brussels, which thus knows at all times who has entered a given institution and in what capacity.



Badges are also used for "auxiliary" staff.

Each badge has a limited validity period, specially programmed, and once authorised only gives access to certain parts of the building (e.g. visiting room or interview room). The validity of the badge is limited to a fixed period. The badge is returned at the exit.

The system was initially tested at a single site before being adopted generally.

The badges also enable people's locations in the building to be identified.

This application has proved very useful during riots or technical incidents. They even show the presence of people in zones where GSM telephone communications have been deliberately scrambled for security reasons. Contact is thus maintained continuously with everyone who has entered the building. In certain cases and under certain conditions the badge also gives access to the car park.



THE RELATIONSHIP WITH A SUPPLIER SPECIALISING IN ACCESS CONTROL IS FOUNDED ON LONG-TERM STABILITY AND RELIABILITY.

"We have been working with IDtech for over ten years, and are very satisfied," declares Mr Heine,

"Their system is powerful, represents very good value for money and evolves in line with technology. We have benefited from all their advances and innovations. Their after-sales service is excellent - as soon as an incident occurs (which is rarely), they act immediately. We have a personal relationship with them, which is unusual these days.

For us, IDtech is an ideal size. They have the production capacity and the innovation of a major company but the personal contact of an SME. The perfect combination for an excellent relationship.

If we send them a message via our call



centre, we can be secure in the knowledge it will be followed up competently.

Badge management is simple and decentralised. Each prison has its own badges. They are sent to the central office in Brussels and then redistributed to the various prisons that have requested them.

If a badge is lost or stolen, it is immediately blocked and can no longer be used.

IDtech offers us an access control and visitor tracking solution that suits our specific needs. Ideal security in our institutions depends on visitors being fully identified. Our contact people at IDtech are aware of this, which makes it easier to develop powerful, lasting solutions."

MORE AND MORE RESOURCES FOR SECURITY IN PRISONS

"The justice ministry has made great efforts in recent years to improve general security in prisons, particularly with regard to access management. We have taken an important step towards modernisation and the integration of computerised systems. We have also recruited skilled staff able to make the most of these developments.

The technical support provided by a company such as IDtech contributes greatly to improving our performance and our access control tool," declares a delighted Mr Heine.



About IDtech

IDtech develops and markets high-tech solutions in the fields of access control, time recording, centralised alarm management and personalised badges.

75% of IDtech's staff is dedicated to customer service. IDtech has a considerable sales network made up of approved installers throughout Belgium. In addition, the company has a large network of international distributors, based in Thailand, Malaysia, India, Pakistan, Hungary, Austria, France, Romania, Turkey,

Jordan, Libya, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Bahrain, Kuwait, Egypt, Togo, Kenya, Malta, Morocco, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Cameroon and the United Arab Emirates. Its customer portfolio now boasts more than 6,000 companies.

The number of people making daily use of IDtech's identification equipment worldwide is estimated at 3,000,000.

IDtech

The right **Security** at the right **Time!**

Get more information on
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