

Faces to Names: School Safety Through Entry ID

By Sameea Kamal

School safety hazards can sometimes walk in right through the front door — something ADT is trying to prevent.

The Boca Raton-based company teamed up with Security Identification Systems Corp. Identification Solutions, a West Palm Beach, Fla.-based cruise line security service provider in 2007 to introduce the Fast-Pass to the education market.

The company is known for its A-Pass security product line that has credentialed and processed over 190 million passengers and crewmembers on over 125 cruise ships since 1995, according to company officials.

Fast-Pass is the high-speed commercial version of the marine product that takes a picture of the individual at entry, passes information from

do not have home computers."

Green said other "copy-cat solutions" have many drop-down prompts or screens for the operators to go through, which can result in long lines where visitors grow frustrated.

The goal of the software is to move people in and out, collecting accurate information as seamlessly and as quickly as possible, he said.

The system can print a badge in 15 seconds the first time through and five seconds for returning visitors, Green said.

Serving more than 1,000 schools and more than 500 hospitals, the system can be adapted to different campus styles and processes, he said.

The system primarily populates information from a driver's license or state identification card, but can also work on state, government, mili-

sage bar so all schools in the district could receive an emergency message, in addition to emails or phone calls," he said. "Sometimes people don't pick up phones or listen to voicemail, so we now have that (option) on our screen."

Green said the biggest security issue in schools other than identifying national sex offenders is parental custodial pick up rights.

In a divorce situation, a parent might come to pick up a student without the right to do so. The Fast-Pass system is designed to prevent that from happening with a built-in mechanism that shows which parent or family members have custody and pick-up rights.

"This feature eliminates the risk that reception or security personnel fails to look through a Rolodex file or index card box which has the child pick up information," he said. "That's where most abductions occur, because protocol was not followed."

Green also cited the Jessica Lunsford Act as one of the major policy standards used in school facility safety.

The act originated in Florida as House Bill 1877 in 2005 after the abduction, rape and murder of nine-year-old Jessica Lunsford by a nearby resident. The act requires schools to be diligent in maintaining standards to keep children safe and have procedures and protocols in place to identify sex offenders, such as twice-yearly re-registration and electronic monitoring for certain offenders.

Approved in May and effective in September of 2005, the act has been adopted in 42 states since then.

Under the Florida law, screening is required for contractors and school construction-related workers who might come into contact with students.

To meet the needs of screening on construction sites, ADT offers a mobile version that can be set up to enroll and badge contractors' new hires on a job site, along with a handheld unit that can be used to validate individual entry to the site.

The mobile unit can run a national sex offender, criminal background and terrorist watch list search on any contractor or site worker during the credentialing process, Green said.

The unit can also create a hard PVC identification card to credential all workers that includes a current photo, name, trade and expiration date.

The Fast-Pass system is currently used in three of the 30 largest school districts in the nation, with more school districts showing interest in the system, Green said.

The system can be used in any facility where individuals are required to sign in on entry and present identification.

"New verticals come to us based on

individual needs — places that one would not initially think of," he said. "The healthcare market is one of SISCO's other strong markets." ■

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driver's license magnetic stripes or 2D bar codes and displays it on the computer screen for school personnel to view.

The system processes the information against the national sex offender database in seconds, according to company officials, as well as an internal watch list that includes banned visitors such as terminated staff, expelled students or non-custodial parents.

Once approved, the system prints a pass with the individual's photo as they enter the facility.

While the system is capable of using an optical type scanner that competitors use, it can be a slower process and is more likely to misinterpret information scanned from the identification and lead to incorrect matches with the sex offender database or denied entry list, according to Howard Green, sales executive for the company and the national vendor representative to ADT Security Services.

Green said the number one factor in the product's design was ease of use for those operating the system.

"It was developed for ease of use, allowing operators with limited computer backgrounds to easily understand and adapt with minimal training," he said. "Some schools utilize representatives from the senior community who work voluntarily in their spare time and

tary and Canadian driver's license cards.

If a facility chooses to purchase the supplemental IPIC camera, they can photograph other forms of identification like passports, green cards, business cards, water or electric bills that show a physical address, as well as from barcode scanners and biometrics devices.

"The bottom line is that it is up to the facility to set its own security protocol on what their standards are," he said. "Fast-Pass can provide all the necessary tools to collect the information."

Green said many schools work with ADT directly to configure ways to restrict access to open campuses through a risk assessment process done by a certified education representative.

Last year, the company worked with Langston University in Langston, Okla., to secure its open campus — much of which is surrounded by farmland, Green stated. By limiting entry to the guard stations, the university was able to identify all visitors.

ADT works with any sized school system, ranging from large districts to individual private schools throughout the country, he said.


Based on feedback, the company also developed a mass notification bar on the home screen to address school districts' security communication needs.

"They had asked us to create a mes-




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