



Commonwealth Games 2002

Product case study



The problem

When Manchester hosted the 2002 British Commonwealth Games, security was paramount as it was the first major sporting event held in the UK following the 9/11 attack on the World Trade Centre. With thousands of contestants and stewards, including many volunteers, it was essential that each person carried an easily validated, counterfeit-proof identity pass.

The approach

In conjunction with the Commonwealth Games committee, API assessed the requirements of the identity pass, which needed to be large enough to aid quick validation and use advanced security features that would make reproduction extremely difficult. It also had to be hard wearing enough to last the length of the games themselves and, of course, to survive the Manchester weather!

The solution

API produced an A5 heat-sealed security pouch that was both durable and enabled gate staff to instantly verify the identity of the person concerned. The main security element was a transparent hologram label encapsulated over the identity photograph, making removal or substitution extremely difficult. The transparent label was coated with a high refractive index material (HRI) which allowed the verifier to see the photograph through the coating, but also to see the security hologram when the document was tilted slightly. This cutting-edge technology gave reassurance that few global suppliers would have the advanced capability to attempt to replicate the hologram.

“Constantly improving our products – giving you better service”