



## **TRIBUNAL ELECTORAL, PANAMA: MODERNIZING VOTER REGISTRATION**

### **The Challenge:**

After a string of dictator-rulers since its secession from Colombia in 1903, Panama decided to modernize its electoral system with the objective of providing positive identification of voters, non-residents and minors.

The *Tribunal Electoral* (TE) not only presided over the elections but issued Panama's *cedulas* or ID cards. Citizens and residents of Panama are required to register for their national ID card at the age of 18 or face serious fines. The card is used as a valid form of identity and is carried by citizens and aliens at all times.

### **The Solution:**

In January 1999, the Panama *Tribunal Electoral* became the third electoral agency in Latin America to adopt BioEngine® technology and 500 dpi DFR® single fingerprint readers for help to reduce fraud and ensure the integrity of the election process. At various enrollment sites throughout the country, citizens would enroll two fingerprints, facial image, and signature. The fingerprint records were searched against the entire Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS) database of previously enrolled applicants to weed out duplicates. Once approved, the TE issued the ID card, which stores the applicant's biometric data. Eighty DFR readers were deployed with 1.6 million people enrolled.

To this day, these tamper-proof cards enable the TE to accurately verify each voter, thus ensuring the integrity of the election process. Additionally, the electronic imaging system helped the government accelerate the delivery of service in other situations where Panamanians used their ID cards, such as cashing checks, applying for healthcare benefits, immigration, and driver licensing.

### **About BioEngine® Technology**

BioEngine® technology is a minutiae-based algorithm that analyzes the fingerprint image for endings, splits and bifurcations in the ridge patterns. The strength of the BioEngine® algorithm comes from its ability to discern fingerprint images over an extended period of time. BioEngine® SDKs allow developers to create custom one-to-one verification and one-to-many identification applications, such as time and attendance, transaction verification, physical access, information security and ID programs. L-1 technology has issued more than 100 million BioEngine fingerprint templates around the world for various large-scale identification programs.

### **About L-1 Identity Solutions**

L-1 Identity Solutions, Inc. (NYSE: ID), together with its portfolio of companies, offers a comprehensive set of products and solutions for protecting and securing personal identities and assets. Leveraging the industry's most advanced multi-modal biometric platform for finger, face and iris recognition, our solutions provide a circle of trust around all aspects of an identity and the credentials assigned to it -- including proofing, enrollment, issuance and usage. With the trust and confidence in individual identities provided by L-1 Identity Solutions, government entities, law enforcement and border management agencies, and commercial enterprises can better guard the public against global terrorism, crime and identity theft fostered by fraudulent identity. L-1 Identity Solutions is headquartered in Stamford, CT. For more information, visit [www.l1id.com](http://www.l1id.com).