



News Release

**For Immediate Release
9 December 2008**

International Organization for Migration (IOM) Taps NBSP for Migration Control Project in Caribbean

Two-Phase Pilot Project Designed to Enhance the Collection and Exchange of Migration Data in Caribbean Community (CARICOM)

Bowie, MD (9 December) – The National Biometric Security Project (NBSP) today announced that it has been contracted by the IOM to support a pilot project jointly led by IOM and the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB) to improve migration control management in the fifteen member Caribbean Community (CARICOM). According to Richard E. Norton, Executive Vice President of NBSP who will lead the effort, migration control has been hampered in the region by a lack of consistency in the collection and sharing of data about who is entering and leaving the CARICOM countries. “Our role,” said Norton, “will be conducted in two phases. Phase one will include an assessment of the current situation in the five CARICOM member states that are part of the pilot. These include Barbados, Trinidad and Tobago, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Guyana. The assessment will include documentation of the current data workflow, and determination of IT and communications infrastructure needs. The second phase of the project,” continued Norton, “will draw upon the results of Phase I to establish a framework for data sharing, deliver an assessment of the utility of current data and an evaluation on the feasibility of collecting additional data, and recommendations for reporting on the standardized information sets to be shared at the national and regional levels.” Norton concluded by saying the net result of the project will be a complete methodology for collecting and exchanging migration data among the pilot countries.

Funding for the project comes from several parties, including IOM, IADB and the U.S. Department of State. CARICOM is comprised of fifteen member states. Twelve of these have entered into a single market called the CARICOM Single Market Economy (CSME).

According to IOM officials, NBSP was selected for the project because of its broad capabilities in the areas of data requirements evaluation and Norton’s background and experience in border operations.

About NBSP

NBSP provides biometric acquisition support, testing, training, standards development and data services to public and private sector clients. NBSP is ISO 9001 Certified, able to assure a technology-neutral, vendor-independent posture and focus on user requirements. Its wholly owned subsidiary, Biometric Services International, LLC (BSI), located in Morgantown, West Virginia, is the only laboratory exclusively focused on biometrics to achieve the coveted ISO/IEC 17025:2005 accreditation for testing. BSI’s application and acquisition services include requirements definition, articulation of program goals and objectives, vulnerability assessments, application impact studies, life-cycle cost analyses and in privacy impact assessments.

About IOM

Established in 1951, IOM is the leading inter-governmental organization in the field of migration and works closely with governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental partners. With 125 member states, a further 16 states holding observer status and offices in over 100 countries, IOM is dedicated to promoting humane and orderly migration for the benefit of all. It does so by providing services and advice to governments and migrants.

IOM works to help ensure the orderly and humane management of migration, to promote international cooperation on migration issues, to assist in the search for practical solutions to migration problems and to provide humanitarian assistance to migrants in need, including refugees and internally displaced people.

###

For information about NBSP please contact:
Russ Ryan -- rryan@nationalbiometric.org