



News Release

**For Immediate Release
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Eight New Biometric Standards Enhance Passports, Financial Services, Conformance Testing, and, Dept. of Defense Applications

Progress in Conformance Standards Development, Gaps in Data Quality Standards and Language Harmonization Noted in National Biometric Security Project (NBSP) Latest Summary of Published and Emerging Biometric Standards

Washington, DC (7 June 2007) - Numerous national and civilian security applications will see improvement in functionality because of newly published biometric standards. Biometrically enabled passports will be made more robust as a result of new standards that define a general specification for physical characteristics, layout and security of passports. A new FBI Electronic Fingerprint Transmission Specification standard helps ensure the reliability and quality of fingerprints submitted to the FBI. A new /biometrics standard for financial services defines the security framework for using biometrics for authentication of individuals in financial services transactions. Additionally, a new testing methodology standard provides specific details on methods and techniques for conducting scenario or technology tests.

These and many more newly published biometric standards are included in NBSP's latest review of biometric standards activity, "*Summary of Published and Emerging Biometric Standards – 2nd Quarter, 2007.*" Eight net new standards have been published since NBSP released its last summary in August of 2006 bringing the total number of published standards to fifty-two (52). Additionally, well over 50 developing standards (including multi-part standards) are included in the summary of Emerging Standards. Chairman and CEO John Siedlarz describes NBSP standards support thusly: "Overall, much progress has been made on both national and international biometric standards, especially in the area of conformance testing standards. However, some gaps still need to be addressed. For example, biometric data quality standards have been discussed for several years but their development is constrained by a lack of agreement on the methods for defining quality. In another area, many U.S. and International standards were completed in a rapid development cycle, resulting a number of contradictions and sometimes confusing language. Confusing standards can be worse than no standards so it is important to initiate a process to eliminate the contradictions and to harmonize the language "

Elaborating on the information contained in the latest summary of published and emerging standards is NBSP's companion "Report on the State of Biometric Standards" which provides an overview of what progress has been made since August 2006 and NBSP's view of the standards areas that remain to be addressed. Both the spreadsheets and the Summary Report are available on the company's website.

About NBSP

NBSP was created to increase national security and personal identity protection by enhancing identity assurance with biometrics. NBSP provides biometric acquisition support, testing, training, standards development and data services to public and private sector clients. As a 501 (c) (3) non-profit corporation, and as the first biometrics-only laboratory to receive ISO/IEC 17025 accreditation, NBSP is able to assure a technology-neutral, vendor-independent posture and focus on user requirements.

For more information about NBSP and to view the most recent Standards Status Spreadsheet please visit us at: www.nationalbiometric.org

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