

NEPAL

# Nepal innovates by issuing its first ePassports with IDEMIA

Providing Nepalese citizens  
with seamless access to an  
ePassport infrastructure  
in line with international  
standards

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# Needs & challenges

**N**epal is on the move. With a vision to continually develop and **modernize its digital infrastructure**, the country is undergoing mass transformation and is evolving fast. As a long-term partner of Nepal, IDEMIA has already been supporting the Nepalese people on this journey by providing national ID cards, an AFIS system and Machine Readable Passports (MRPs). **With an economy and people that transcend its own borders**, the next step for Nepal is to implement a **global ePassport solution** for its citizens around the world. Nepal turned to IDEMIA to make this happen<sup>1</sup>.

## Population (2020 est.):

29.14 million

## Land surface:

147,180 km<sup>2</sup>

## Key industries:

The main sources of economy in Nepal are agriculture, foreign remittances and tourism. **1 million tourists visited Nepal in 2019, making it the 5th most visited country in South Asia.**



## Boosting the Nepalese economy through a new passport infrastructure

With the ICAO's recommended deadline for MRPs coming up in 2030, the Nepalese Department of Passports (DOP) decided that it was the right time to introduce a new passport and modernize the entire passport infrastructure.

The DOP envisioned implementing a structure that provides all Nepalese citizens with seamless access to an internationally compliant ePassport infrastructure. **Nepal's main financial resources are derived from tourism as well as**

**the incomes of Nepalese migrant workers.** The remittances Nepal receives from migrant workers alone account for 28% of the country's GDP<sup>2</sup>.

The implementation of this new infrastructure enables the country **to maintain interoperability and boost trust in the Nepalese passport in order to continue to benefit from these key financial sources.**

## Establishing a new agreement with IDEMIA

In 2019, the DOP published a tender to implement a new passport. After a rigorous and competitive international bidding process to implement the future Nepalese passport, the DOP chose to partner with IDEMIA, continuing this longstanding relationship. Over several years IDEMIA had demonstrated

its ability to provide quality support to Nepal and the DOP also recognized IDEMIA's extensive worldwide experience in making **fraud-resistant ID documents**. As part of the agreement, IDEMIA will **deliver 2 million ePassports and modernize the country's entire passport infrastructure.**

<sup>1</sup> <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.POP.TOTL?locations=NP>  
<https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/AG.SRF.TOTL.K2?locations=NP>  
<https://www.worlddata.info/asia/nepal/tourism.php>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.knomad.org/sites/default/files/2019-04/Migrationanddevelopmentbrief31.pdf>



## Providing an end-to-end ePassport solution

Reliable and secure, the solution put forth by IDEMIA exceeded Nepal's expectations. By issuing ePassports, **Nepal has become the 80th member of the ICAO PKD**, a global repository for exchanging and verifying the data contained in the chip to authenticate ePassports.

The modernized passport provided by IDEMIA has a polycarbonate data page with a chip containing the holder's photograph and fingerprint biometrics. **Not only does this new passport ensure hassle-free travel for Nepalese migrant workers, but it also boosts the passport ranking and overall trust for**

**all citizens.** The PKD also ensures that Nepal adheres to the technical standards required to achieve and maintain interoperability.

To meet the DOP's requirements for the new passport infrastructure, the agreement also includes the provision of IDway. With this **robust ID management system**, Nepal benefits from the IDEMIA Document Personalization System (IDPS), a solution that supports the entire personalization process of an ID document. This covers the **provision of a back-end, delivery of blank documents and enrollment of citizens.**

## Confirming a strong partnership

IDEMIA has been working alongside the Nepalese government for over 12 years and is proud to **contribute to Nepal efforts to develop state-of-art IT services.** This renewed partnership will continue to support the country's development.

The DOP began issuing ePassports in 2021. Together with IDEMIA, the DOP will continue to ensure a successful roll-out to Nepalese citizens around the world.

*"We are so proud to be working alongside the Nepalese government. This project strengthens our long-term relationship with Nepal. Moreover, it demonstrates our leadership in supplying secure and reliable identity management solutions on a global scale."*

**Matt Cole,**  
Group Executive Vice President, Public Security and Identity at IDEMIA

*"We are pleased to be partnering with IDEMIA again. Our decision reaffirms our confidence in IDEMIA's leadership for supplying secure and reliable identity management solutions. By issuing one of the best passports in terms of security, design and other features, the Nepalese passport ranking will significantly increase."*

**Sharad Raj Aran,**  
Director at the Department of Passports, Nepal

# Unlocking trusted ID credentials

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