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Contact: Debra Yemenijian
Schubert Communications Inc.
PR Consultant for Datastrip
610-269-2100, ext. 224
debray@schubert.com

Andrea Gural
Eclipse Media Group
PR Consultant for Codebench
207-319-7372
agural@eclipsemediagroup.net

Port of Houston Authority Enrolls TWIC Cardholders with Datastrip and Codebench Card Reader Solution

HOUSTON (June 17, 2009) — The Port of Houston Authority (PHA) successfully implemented the Transportation Worker Identification Credential (TWIC) program by harnessing a handheld card reader technology solution from Datastrip and Codebench Inc. Using Datastrip's DSV2+^{TURBO}® with Codebench's PIVCheck Plus software, PHA has enrolled close to 7,000 TWIC cardholders in the Houston area to date.

To comply with federal TWIC guidelines, all longshoremen, truckers, steamship line personnel, stevedores and vendors requiring access to PHA restricted areas must carry a TWIC card. To meet the April 15 compliance deadline, PHA initiated an aggressive outreach program through which authorities visited trucking companies to remotely enroll drivers using Datastrip's mobile readers.

Once back at the port, the data was transmitted from the handheld devices to the port's existing AMAG Symmetry physical access control system (PACS). The PIVCheck Certificate Manager software checks cardholder data against the TSA hotlist twice daily and notifies PHA if a cardholder appears on the list. The U.S. Coast Guard will use the Datastrip card readers and PIVCheck software to confirm the identity of TWIC cardholders during regular inspections as well as random spot checks.

Additionally, Codebench's PIVCheck Plus software has been installed in four of the port's desktop computers so that TWIC cards can be registered on-site.

“The Port of Houston Authority's top priority is to maintain a secure port that ensures individuals who pose a threat do not gain access to secure areas of the nation's maritime transportation system,” said Bill Crews, port security and emergency operations manager at PHA. “The Datastrip-Codebench TWIC solution allowed us to enroll thousands of transportation workers into our existing access control system in a timely manner in order to take full advantage of the increased security layer offered by the TWIC process.”

The field-proven DSV2+^{TURBO} meets government standards, attesting to its rugged durability. The unit is weather-resistant to the elements, as well as drop-resistant to withstand freefalls. When integrated with Codebench's PIVCheck Plus software, the DSV2+^{TURBO} provides a critical link between the TWIC card and a port's PACS, allowing users to quickly validate and manage credentials.

About Datastrip

Datastrip is a world leader in field-proven mobile identity verification. Together with market-leading biometric and information technology vendors, Datastrip specializes in providing secure portable information and ID solutions that provide on-the-spot verification of credentials from any individual. The Datastrip product line supports facial, iris and fingerprint biometric matching, as well as contact-based and contactless ID cards such as national ID cards and passports. For more information, visit www.datastrip.com or call (800) 548-2517. Datastrip is an authorized reseller of Codebench products.

About Codebench

Codebench is a software development firm focused exclusively on physical security applications. A leading developer of software integration solutions, Codebench is a certified Women's Business Enterprise located in Coconut Creek, Fla., and serves the Fortune 500, academic and government markets. For more information, visit www.pivcheck.com or call (561) 883-3218.

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