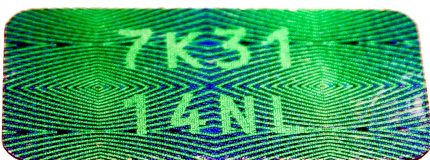
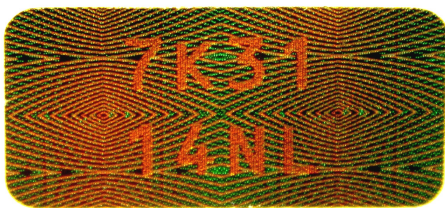


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At the last Intergraf conference in Stockholm, we encountered a young start-up company that had been spun-off from the University of Eindhoven in the Netherlands. Since its first steps in the world of security printing, Validus Technologies has made great strides

Validus Technologies introduced their liquid crystal based inkjet printable security feature in the July 2009 issue of Infosecura, following last year's Intergraf. This young security printing company from the Eindhoven region in the Netherlands have since then been active in marketing and sales as well as in creating new features based on their inkjet technology.

Validus Technologies B.V. was present last year at the Intergraf conference and exhibition showcasing their optical variable security feature with four different levels of security level. This feature has overt, covert, forensic and biometric security within one single printed layer allow stakeholders to check the validity of the feature on different levels. An angular dependent colour shift provides the overt security, the covert effect is revealed using a polar filter and forensic features are based on chemical tracers. As the feature is inkjet printable, each feature can be unique and can carry biometric information, personalised data, barcodes and the like.



*Example of a multicolour optical variable device at face angle (top) and at 50 degrees (bottom).*

In the last year this feature and its production process have been tested extensively, leading to a successful market introduction in early 2010 with a lead customer in the pharmaceutical industry. To exploit the growing market for their security feature, Validus has been setting up an international sales network of players in the security printing industry, some of which first met at last year's Intergraf conference in Stockholm.

Next to introduction of the Validus security feature in the field of brand and product protection, a new generation of the inkjet printable features was introduced early 2010 at the Optical Document Security conference in San Francisco. This feature, which has personalisation capabilities, consists of a multi-colour image, of which all colours shift to a different colour when viewed at a certain angle. This personalisation in combination with the multicolour effect sets it apart from other optical variable devices and will be even more than the first line of products suitable for document security.

The swift introduction of the second line of security features is a result of the platform inkjet technology developed by the Validus engineers. This allows for fast scaling up from a laboratory facility to production scale of newly developed products. The research at Validus is currently already working on future generations of their features, that include e.g. the addition of photo-luminescent effects to their features.

For an introduction in the high end document security industry, Validus is starting up co-operations with established players in the security industry, to gain access to the high end market. Niches that are particularly interesting are personalised documents and cards, but Validus is also looking into applying its security feature to banknotes and laminates.