

Reading passports at Japan's oldest Buddhist temple

Operating in over 72 countries worldwide, Access-IS creates world class products that accurately capture and transfer information into electronic systems. Ludovic Coumétoú, Head of Sales, Identity & Security at Access-IS, highlights the recent deployment of their ATOM ePassport reader at the Ekoin Buddhist monastery near Mt. Kōya, in Japan. "It is a genuine honour to have been deployed in such an iconic temple."

Access-IS started out manufacturing custom keyboards. Following 9/11, they developed an OEM Optical Character Recognition (OCR) engine to respond to the new airline requirement to scan ID documents to ensure accurate capture of passenger information at check-in. By integrating this OCR engine in keyboards, they became the de-facto standard in the worldwide airline industry. More recently, the company has developed innovative boarding gate and ticket reading solutions, and a range of sophisticated ID Document Readers designed to look in detail at Passports and the like to capture information whilst identifying the tell-tale signs of a forged or tampered document. In addition, Access-IS's barcode and NFC ticket readers and validators have found great traction in the Transport & Ticketing sector with major installations on heavy and light rail systems worldwide.

In Mr. Coumétoú's view, their ATOM ePassport reader stands out in terms of speed, ease of use and reliability. "For many years, passport readers have been designed for Governmental use by trained operators and officers, which meant that very often they were difficult for untrained operators to use. In comparison ATOM requires almost no training and is easily used by bank clerks, border officers and retail assistants alike. Additionally, most ID Document readers were ugly big black boxes that did not suit the beautiful front desk of an ultra-modern hotel, or the marble counter of prestigious high-end hotel, or, for that matter, the tranquil setting of a Buddhist temple. ATOM by contrast is a totally innovative and modern design, which can easily fit on onto any desk saving space or be simply integrated into a worktop or an automated kiosk."



While Access-IS serves a variety of industry verticals, the recent Mt. Kōya deployment is a unique project for them. With 120 temples and multiple lodging facilities, it is well known by Japanese and non-Japanese alike as a destination to experience a uniquely spiritual atmosphere with opportunities to participate in Buddhist rituals and teachings. They needed to deploy a passport reader solution as Japanese regulations require that every hotel, hostel and guest house obtains and verifies a copy of each guest's passport and then retain that for a period of 5 years. "By using ATOM, the Ekoin Monks have been able to significantly reduce the check-in time despite the number of guests increasing year on year," Mr. Coumétoú points out. "This is achieved whilst satisfying the regulations and simultaneously improving the guest experience."



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