STid
Electronic Identification

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Case Study : Banque Populaire Provençale et Corse

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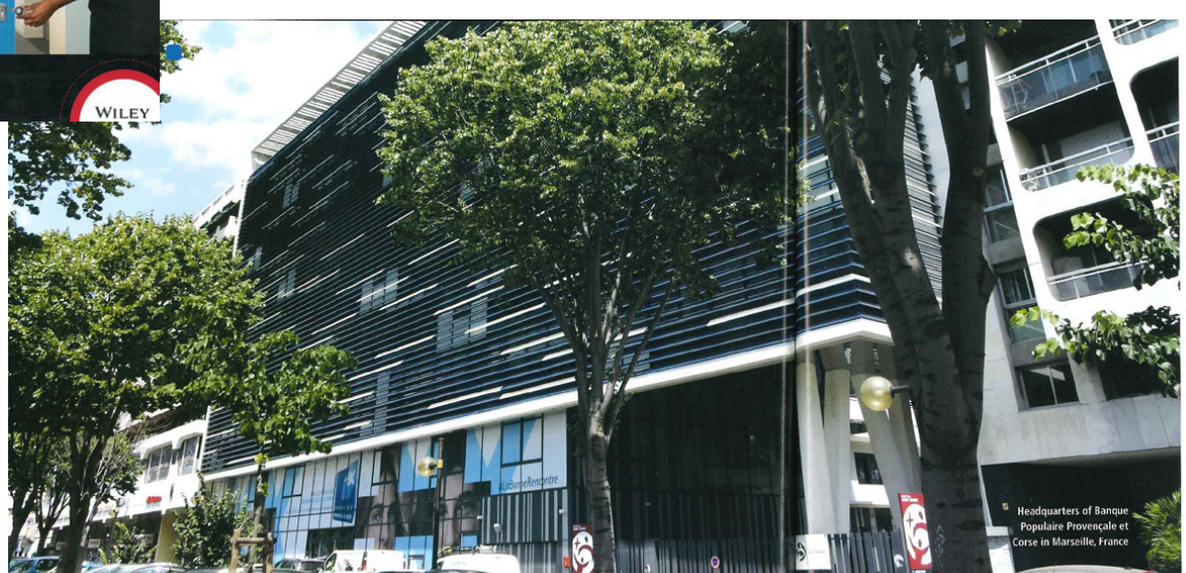
Headquarters of Banque Populaire Provençale et Corse in Marseille, France

ACCESS CONTROL

One Mission, One System

Secure Multi-application Access Control Solution for French Bank

Banque Populaire Provençale et Corse (BPPC) is a regional bank which operates in the Bouches-du-Rhône and Vaucluse départements of south-eastern France and on Corsica. It is part of the Banque Populaire et Caisse d'Epargne group. It currently has 1000 staff, over 90 branches, 190,000 customers, including 77,000 companies. In May 2015, BPPC's management board unveiled its new 11,300 square meter head office – Pythéas Prado – located in the heart of Marseille on the famous Avenue du Prado. STid and integrator Unicacces were selected by BPPC to provide a secure multi-application access control solution.

BPPC wanted to implement an access control system, not only to ensure a level of security consistent with its brand image, but also to have a single multi-application card and centralize security management. In addition to a multi-application card, BPPC was looking for RFID card readers to secure access to the building and its parking lot. The main selection criteria were as follows: Sturdy and vandal-resistant (IK09 minimum): resistant to physical attack for external access control, in particular on Avenue du Prado, which is a busy street. To develop the project, the Security Department worked in close collaboration with integrator Unicacces, which provided consulting and a solution that perfectly meets BPPC specifications.

"We needed an access control system, to secure the Head Office, manage the flow of hundreds of staff and to integrate all our applications into a single system", says BPPC Security Manager, Isabelle Blanco. "The multi-application card means that our applications can be managed using a single device, simplifying the multiple uses in daytoday activities. This reduces the number of physical keys and considerably reduces the associated risks – losing them, forgetting them, malfunctions etc."

Solution: Use of a Single Multi-application Card

The collaborative STid & Unicacces solution, with Architect readers, UHF systems and dual frequency cards, has been adopted to meet all these demanding criteria. BPPC wanted to implement an access control system, using a secure solution to operate all business services that require identification with a single device that would not only provide physical access, but also be used for purchases from vending machines and storage of personal data etc.

The BPPC Security Department has implemented a secure access control system based on dual-frequency 13.56 MHz Mifare & UHF STid cards to centralize all applications onto a single device. Mifare technologies make it possible to integrate numerous applications, while providing a flexible and dynamic memory management solution. The card, combined with several dozen readers, is used daily for physical access, payment in the cafeteria, purchases from vending machines and access to shared resources (such as printers) and secure cabinets etc.

Improved, Centralized, and Well-managed Security

With this in mind, BPPC installed about forty upgradeable Architect readers to secure and manage flows for all sensitive areas: external doors, elevators, internal ground floor doors, Kaba access gates, server and IT rooms etc. These High Security readers are combined with URC systems, high-performance long-distance UHF readers, to secure and control access to the parking lot. These ensure reliable identification of vehicle drivers on successive entries, while providing more convenient reading distances.

In order to facilitate access management and reduce overhead, a Bodet access control system is used to centralize management of people flow, various profiles and uses, access authorizations based on time slots, and maintenance operations etc.

"We manage significant flows of people, such as staff, visitors and maintenance workers, so it was crucial to create fully secure zoning," comments Isabelle Bianco.

Installation of Vandal-resistant Readers

"As it was crucial to install sturdy readers in the high traffic areas around the building, the Design Firm based its decision on the video highlighting the resistance of STid readers to validate the performance of the Architect range," confided the BPPC Security Manager.

STid readers are IK10 and IP65 rated, and designed to withstand acts of vandalism: fire, impact, and liquids. Their sturdy design provides high resistance in high traffic environments subject to extreme conditions (bad weather, sea air, pollution, large temperature swings etc.). To enhance security, Architect readers