



# Zetes delivers 10,000 biometric enrolment kits to Congo

20 years of experience in the field of identification of goods have allowed ZETES to build up various competencies in service provision. This expertise is now being put to use in the company's solutions for the authentication of people, particularly in large-scale projects such as the one implemented by the United Nations in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Within the world of automatic identification, the secured identification/authentication of people is a relatively new and rather specialised market. In 1999 Zetes decided to try its fortune in this new niche following the approach that had led to the company's success in the field of automatic identification of goods, namely: setting itself up as a system integrator and organisation with an unmistakable surplus value. This added value results from the combination of various elements: technological know-how, selection of only the best components, in-depth knowledge of its clients' activities and needs, and a long-term relationship with these clients.

Zetes also invests strongly in another of its prime concerns as an organisation responsible for the supply of a wide range of services covering consultancy, analysis, development, realisation, implementation, integration, training, assistance and maintenance as well as programme and project management. This is reflected in large-scale projects such as the one recently carried out in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

## 10,000 kits in 8 weeks

In May of 2005, within the *Support to the Electoral Process in the Democratic Republic of Congo* project, the purchasing department of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) placed an order for 10,000 kits for the identification and biometric enrolment of voters: a world first on this scale! 17 candidates responded to the order, that was eventually

awarded to Zetes after a very strict vetting procedure including validation tests in the field. The specifications stipulated that the first 2,500 kits had to arrive in Kinshasa 4 weeks after the purchase order was sent and that the 7,500 remaining kits were expected 4 weeks later.

Zetes fully respected these very short delivery deadlines, mobilising and organising more than twenty suppliers and subcontractors to bring this project to a successful conclusion, including the charter of six planes to bring the kits from Belgium to Congo, and a further two related flights from China.

## Material – Software – Services

The mobile kits developed by Zetes were housed in a shockproof metal case. They comprise an electric power supply guaranteeing an autonomy of up to 18 hours, consumer goods (blank voter cards, ink, CDs, etc.) and all the material needed by the people in charge of the enrolment: a computer, camera, digital fingerprint reader and printer. The kits function fully under some of the most difficult circumstances in both rural and urban environments.

Moreover, Zetes also developed the Population Registration Solution, an application for the secured capturing and registration of data, pictures and fingerprints of the voters and for the immediate delivery of their voter card with a unique identification barcode.

On the spot, Zetes put together a team of around one hundred people (project managers, trainers and technicians) responsible for organising the training of 25,000 local operators and technicians and for the technical support with regard to the registration operations during the entire duration of this phase.

## An exemplary demonstration

The enrolment took place between June and December of 2005. Thanks to the global solution provided to the UN by Zetes, more than 25 million voters were registered; a figure far surpassing the initial expectations of the project organisers. Both the organisers and the media emphasised the success of the project and the quality of the solution delivered by Zetes.

With this major realisation, Zetes clearly proved its capability to develop and manage large and complex projects for large public and private organisations, that can count on the expertise and the all-embracing product and service offer of an experienced integrator of systems for the automatic identification of goods and people.