



Genesisius Newsletter No.3 September 2009

Project Genesisius is a pioneering initiative by the Metropolitan Police's Economic & Specialist Crime Command to work in partnership with the Printing Industry to reduce the harm to the UK from criminal gangs who obtain specialised printing equipment from legitimate suppliers and use it to produce thousands of fake identity documents. Operation Maxim is the Police operational team of the initiative.

Membership Updates

A further 20 members have joined the Genesisius Project recently – if you know of anyone in the trade who hasn't yet joined, please pass this Newsletter and/or our contact details on to them.

Maxim Operations & Results

Information passed to Maxim from a member company was about a printer sent for repairs. Five addresses were searched, including one in Northern Ireland and five Brazilian men arrested. All pleaded guilty to conspiracy to manufacture and distribute counterfeit ID documents.

Officers discovered a number of high value specialist printers, computers, hot foil presses, vacuum presses, blank counterfeit passports, blank driving licences, immigration embossers and stamps.

The discovery of three order books at the premises revealed the factory had

been producing between 20 and 30 forged identity documents a day, including passports, for the preceding six months.

They appeared at Court last week and each was sentenced to three years imprisonment.

Alerts Work!

After we had issued an alert, a member checked his historical data and discovered that the person mentioned had purchased printers, consumables and other equipment from his company over the last three years. Cash orders totaling in excess of £10,000's have led to an on-going Maxim operation – watch this space...

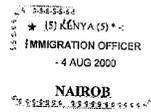
Oops!

A detective from a northern Police Force decided to show how easy it is to obtain false identity cards. He ordered various Council type ID cards with photos on, in false names, but was thwarted by the company and reported to Maxim!
Well done!

Maxim Advice for Stamp Makers

A stamp manufacturing member received an order for some 480 Kenyan Immigration stamps – see below -all sounded highly suspicious, but checks made by the Maxim Intelligence Unit with the Principle Immigration Officer in Nairobi showed the order to be genuine. No problems – contact Maxim if you

have any suspicions – we are there to help.



Intelligence Trends

News seems to have hit the Brazilian criminals that Britain is not a safe place to ply their trade – or have they gone to a new supplier? Please check your customer profiles thoroughly to protect yourselves and the community.

Other Updates

In May, Nick presented to the **Intergraf International Security Printers Conference** in Stockholm on Genesisus.

This has led to further meetings with other parts of the industry who are interested in the project.

He also spoke at the **Cross Channel Intelligence Conference** for Law Enforcement, where interest from the Dutch, Belgian and French Police in starting similar projects.

We had a meeting in April with the **US Immigration & Customs Enforcement (ICE)** representative, who was very keen on the project and has taken it back to the States to discuss further.

A **'High Level Group'** comprising Maxim, Identity & Passport Service, UK Border Agency, National Fraud Association, Association of Chief Police Officers and Industry representatives, has been formed to inform Government on legislative and regulatory issues.

Recent Alerts

The details below have been sent to the print industry as people to be wary of if they contact you and to email Maxim if they do.

1. **17, Albert Road, Finsbury Park, N4 3RR.**

2. **137, Isledon road, Islington, N7 7JP.**

For a full list of alerts email operationmaxim@met.police.uk and join up to Project Genesisus.



A seizure of stamps – used by forgers to authenticate their products.

Operation Clawson was a lengthy, proactive action by the London crime Squad, dealing with information passed from the Industry via Maxim. They targeted an Albanian organized criminal network involved in supply of class A drugs, money laundering and manufacture of identity documents on a grand scale.

In June, a number of search warrants were executed, including one in Watford, where a credit/ID card making 'factory' was discovered, plus £3,500's worth of cocaine and over £13,000 in cash. Over a thousand blank white cards were found and over 3,000 documents of all kinds. The three men are awaiting trial in custody.

Maxim Genesisus Team Members

Nick Downing – Detective Ch.Insp.

Gerri Mannion – Head of Intelligence

Shaheena Khanom – Analyst

David Ingham – Researcher

Karen Kinger – Prevention & Relations.

All can be contacted via the email –

OperationMaxim@met.pnn.police.uk