

# NewsRelease

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## GPO PRODUCES MILLIONTH E-PASSPORT

[High-resolution photos available.](#)

WASHINGTON—The United States Government Printing Office is leading the high-tech transformation of the Nation’s passports and this week produced the millionth electronic passport (e-passport). The e-passport includes an embedded electronic chip that contains a traveler’s information and can be digitally scanned at equipped airports. The passport contains security features to prevent the chips from being read, cloned or changed. GPO not only produces the new passport, but GPO employees helped design the pages inside. Production of the new e-passport began earlier this year for the Department of State.

“We are very proud to reach this milestone,” said Ben Brink, Assistant Public Printer for Security and Intelligent Documents. “In the post-9/11 era, many documents require new levels of security from their creation to their distribution. The employees of GPO have the experience to handle projects, such as the e-passport, with the latest knowledge and technology.”

GPO produces the blank e-passport, while the Department of State subsequently adjudicates applications and personalizes the individual documents. The Department of State issued the first ever e-passport to the public this past summer. “The Department of State is very pleased with our relationship with GPO in producing the e-passport, a state-of-the-art travel document,” said Maura Harty, Assistant Secretary for Consular Affairs at the Department of State. “We expect the already high demand for U.S. passports to continue to increase, as the requirements for citizens of the United States to present a passport when entering the United States by air from any part of the Western Hemisphere begins on January 23, 2007.”

The U.S. Government Printing Office is the Federal Government’s primary centralized resource for gathering, cataloging, producing, providing, authenticating, and preserving published U.S. Government information in all its forms. GPO is responsible for the production and distribution of information products and services for all three Branches of the Federal Government. In addition to publication sales, GPO makes Government information available at no cost to the public through GPO Access ([www.gpoaccess.gov](http://www.gpoaccess.gov)), and through partnerships with more than 1,250 libraries nationwide participating in the Federal Depository Library Program. For more information, please visit [www.gpo.gov](http://www.gpo.gov).

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