

Who Makes our Drivers License

L-1 Technologies, begun by Robert LaPenta, now produces nearly all drivers licenses, ePassports, and Welfare IDs in America. This publicly traded company went from a meager beginning to being a billion dollar conglomerate in a very short period of time. It is essentially a company of acquisitions.

L-1 Technologies (L1) began its existence by purchasing Viisage outright. Viisage was the then holder of most of the AAMVA member state's contracts for producing state drivers licenses. It was also a company with a shady past; likely the reason for dispensing with the Viisage name. This yielded the lion's share of the drivers license business in one simple purchase. L1 also produces the ePassports and Welfare IDs.

On March 24, 2008 the public media announced that L1 was purchasing the Digimarc Corporation. This recent acquisition now makes L1 the producer of nearly all drivers licenses in the United States. One can clearly call this a drivers license monopoly. Certainly price structuring and control over the issuance of the Real ID is now in the hands of one sole provider, L1.

But confusingly, if you read my article "How to Make a Drivers License" one can see that it takes very little to produce the ID itself, and every state already has their own database of drivers licensee information. So why is a billion dollar company justified and what might they provide to drivers license issuance that the states don't already provide?

Well, let's peek under the hood of L1 and see what it takes for them to produce a drivers license.

The Board of Directors of L-1 Technologies consists of George Tenet, Admiral Loy, B.G. (Buddy) Beck, Milton E. Cooper, Robert S. Gilbard, and formerly on the Board, Louie Free. What is in common with each of these Board members is their former high level rankings within the FBI, CIA, TSA, Army, DOT, and other governmental roles. This talent is far more than I would have needed in order to produce a tamper proof ID.

But one element must have been missing. So L-1 Technologies went on to acquire Spectal Corporation (Spectral). Now Spectal states right on their website that their company is a company of consultants made up of:

- Veterans of the CIA, DIA, NGA (NIMA), NRO, FBI, USSS, AFOSI, INS, ATF, DOS, and the uniformed military services.
- Speakers of more than 20 languages.
- Senior Intelligence Community leaders.

If I have left any doubt in anyone's mind that it takes some serious heavy duty undercover, covert, spy, intelligence gatherers, and well connected government operatives to produce a drivers license and now the Real ID. Then for God's sake listen! For an estimated 9 Billion dollars these folks will show us how to make the drivers licenses we've been making for decades; just that they can standardize them to meet ICAO and AAMVA international biometric and data standards. Why international standards, and employee consultants who speak 20 languages I don't follow, but hey.

You should feel safer. I don't, but some of you might.