

Case Study

Baja Mexico

ImageWare enables large scale prisoner movement

Upon its opening in the summer of 2002, El Hongo Prison—the most secure, high-tech detention facility in Latin America—was challenged with processing more than 2,500 of Mexico's highest-risk inmates. These inmates were to be simultaneously relocated to El Hongo from the La Mesa penal colony known as "El Pueblito".

What proved more challenging was that none of the inmates at La Mesa were documented—a process that must happen prior to their relocation. So, El Hongo turned to ImageWare Systems and their flagship product, Crime Capture System (CCS).



CCS is a scalable, easy-to-use digital booking and mugshot system that enables law enforcement to capture, store and retrieve images and related information.

Once an inmate arrived at El Hongo for processing, his booking information was entered into El Hongo's existing Records Management System (RMS). Because ImageWare created an interface between CCS and El Hongo's RMS, all information entered into the RMS was automatically populated into the CCS database, avoiding any duplicate data entry.

Prison officials then used CCS to take digital photos of the inmate's face and any scars, marks or tattoos. These photos are all stored in CCS's searchable database along with the inmate's booking information. Officials then used CCS to print an inmate wristband that contained the inmate's photo, personal information and a barcode. The wristband could then be scanned at various points throughout the prison to confirm inmate identity, as needed. For example, all inmates who receive medications at El Hongo must first have their wristbands scanned to ensure that the appropriate medications are being administered to the correct inmate.

The Baja government has been so pleased with success of the prisoner transfer to El Hongo, CCS is now being considered as the primary inmate processing software for all states throughout Mexico.