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Aruba Makes Steady Progress In Launching New Digital Travel Credential

The Aruba Happy One Pass (AHOP) program combines an innovative automatic border control gate system and privacy-preserving biometric technology to create a seamless travel experience for visitors

ORANJESTAD, Aruba, November 16, 2023 – The Aruba Tourism Authority (ATA), in partnership with the Office of Minister of Tourism and Public Health for Aruba, has announced the successful demo of the Aruba Happy One Pass (AHOP) program and unveiled plans for the upcoming installation of the SITA Automatic Border Control Gates at Queen Beatrix International Airport.

A first of its kind, AHOP is a digital travel credential system that allows visitors to hold their data on their personal mobile devices and share it directly with immigration officials to create a hassle-free travel experience, centered around privacy. Now, travelers can complete pre-boarding verification and smoothly cross border checkpoints without providing their physical passports. AHOP is slated to launch for all travelers coming to Aruba beginning March 2024.

“The latest achievements for Aruba Happy One Pass signify our steady progress in transforming the traveler experience – ensuring our guests start their vacations sooner,” **said Ronella Croes, CEO of Aruba Tourism Authority.** “Aruba is proud to continue building upon its innovative approach within the tourism industry, providing an exceptional travel experience for its visitors. We continue to look forward to the full implementation of the Aruba Happy One pass program.”

Through AHOP, travelers can turn their physical passports into verifiable digital credentials on their mobile devices, and through additional biometric checks at immigration, they will be matched to their passport images via facial recognition. This process streamlines border control’s flow, cutting wait times and getting travelers to their destinations quicker, while also reducing risk of error, identity theft or fraud.

As an advocate for digital innovation in Aruba, **Minister of Tourism and Public Health, Dangui Oduber** envisions AHOP as a launching pad for digital transformation across the island’s tourist-focused economy and hopes to leverage it in different sectors including hospitality, events and services. Through AHOP’s technology, Aruba is poised to offer a level of service that will propel it to the forefront of the global tourism industry.

“The emergence of digital identities means we will be able to travel from anywhere to everywhere – by air, land, or sea – without needing to show physical travel documents,” **said Jeremy Springall, SITA’s Senior Vice-President, SITA AT BORDERS.** “This latest demonstration with AHOP represents a significant step forward in the shift towards digital travel. A critical feature of the technology is that it puts passengers first, following privacy-by-design principles that give passengers complete control of their data and permitting them to consent to sharing data when needed.”

Designed through ‘passenger-first’ approach, AHOP allows passengers to hold their own data and biometrics, eliminating the need for a third-party data storage – a true milestone in the industry. This feature ensures compliance with data protection laws and reassures visitors their personal information is protected and under their control.

“Adding biometrics to Aruba HOP’s capabilities is an important step toward transforming global travel,” said **Heather Dahl, CEO of Indicio**, a global leader in verifiable data and decentralized identity technology. “It adds a critical element to identity verification, binding the credential to a person’s device so that we can be sure that when it’s used, it’s the credential owner using it. This provides the final element of trust to accelerate Aruba’s digital transformation of the travel and tourism experience. We are excited to see this result from our ground-breaking work with our partner SITA and where it will go next. We’d say, “The sky’s the limit,” but we’ve already exceeded that.”

AHOP is built with digital travel credential (DTC) technology previously developed by the Aruba Tourism Authority (ATA), Immigration Aruba (the Aruba Immigration), SITA, and Indicio to manage traveler health data around COVID-19 testing and vaccination. The design of AHOP was based on the principles set out in the International Air Transport Association’s [One ID](#) and the International Civil Aviation Organization’s standards for a digital travel credential. It was built on open-source technologies from the Hyperledger Foundation for maximum interoperability.

For more information on AHOP, please visit [www. ArubaHOP.com](http://www.ArubaHOP.com)

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About Aruba

As one of the most revisited Caribbean destinations, Aruba – One happy island – offers breathtaking beaches, diverse culinary delights, a sprawling and unforgettable Arikok National Park, and award-winning hotels and villas. A leader in innovation, the country was awarded a top spot on Lonely Planet’s Best in Travel 2020 list due to their ambitious sustainability efforts. In today’s ever-changing world, Aruba’s ‘Health and Happiness Code’ safety protocols provide peace of mind, while still delivering a relaxing on-island experience. Located outside the hurricane belt, explore all Aruba has to offer, from romantic beach getaways, unique wellness experiences and more, on Aruba.com.

About SITA

SITA is the IT provider for the air transport industry, delivering solutions for airlines, airports, aircraft and governments. Our technology powers more seamless, safe and sustainable air travel. Today, SITA’s solutions drive operational efficiencies at more than 1,000 airports while delivering the promise of the connected aircraft to more than 400 customers on 18,000 aircraft globally. SITA also provides the technology solutions that help more than 60 governments strike the balance of secure borders and seamless travel. Our communications network connects every corner of the globe and bridges 60% of the air transport community’s data exchange. SITA is 100% owned by the industry and driven by its needs. It is one of the most internationally diverse companies, with a presence in over 200 countries and territories. For further information, go to www.sita.aero

About Indicio.tech

Indicio is the market leader in developing enterprise-class verifiable data solutions that optimize your existing systems ensuring digital privacy, efficiency, and trust. Through its flagship product range, Indicio Proven™, companies now have an easy way to integrate, implement, and scale decentralized identity and verifiable credential solutions, manage data privacy, and avail of enhanced, Zero-Trust enabling security. Specializing in applications for financial, healthcare, and travel markets, Indicio enables its global

customers to create and use immediately actionable, verifiable data and implement Web 2.0 and Web3 digital transformation. Learn more at Indicio.tech

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