# VISABIO : French Biometric Visa System

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Lessons learnt from the BIODEV 1 Pilot Project

- ## A few facts :
  - First biometric visa issued and controlled in march 2005

  - More than 550,000 travellers enrolled

  - 57 consulates equipped

  - Controls performed daily

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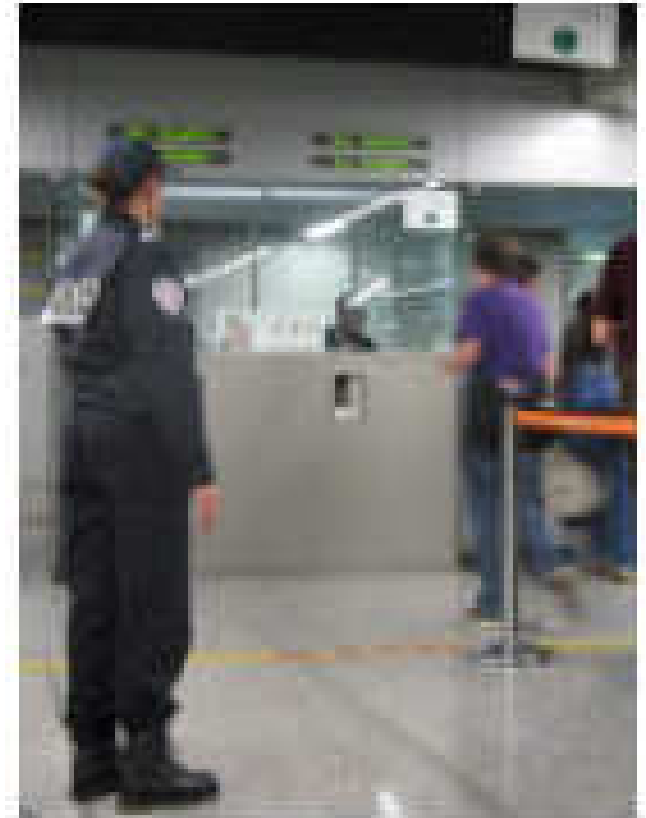
Consulates : fingerprint capture

French consulate of France in Minsk (Belarus)

French consulate of France in Bamako (Mali)

Lessons learnt from the BIODEV 1 Pilot Project

- Good acceptability by the travellers and the foreign authorities
- Constraint of a change management structure for the Border police agents
- Feasability of the data capture in the consulates
- Criticity of the points of entry: fluidity is not only a key issue, but the main one

The VISABIO project

- VISABIO is first of all, a national system to process and store the biometric visas, including an AFIS

- Its main purposes are:
  - Fight against illegal immigration
  - Fight against terrorism
  - Preparation of the connection to the european VIS system

- Five French ministries are involved
  - Immigration and integration
  - Foreign affairs
  - Interior
 - Defence/ gendarmerie
  - Finance/customs

The VISABIO project: main features

- AFIS 15M records

- More than 2,000 capture stations and 5,000 workstations

- Integrated border control workstation

- Simulator for all staff in charge of biometric control

- High level of data protection (privacy)

- Integration within the technical environment

- VIS compatible interface design
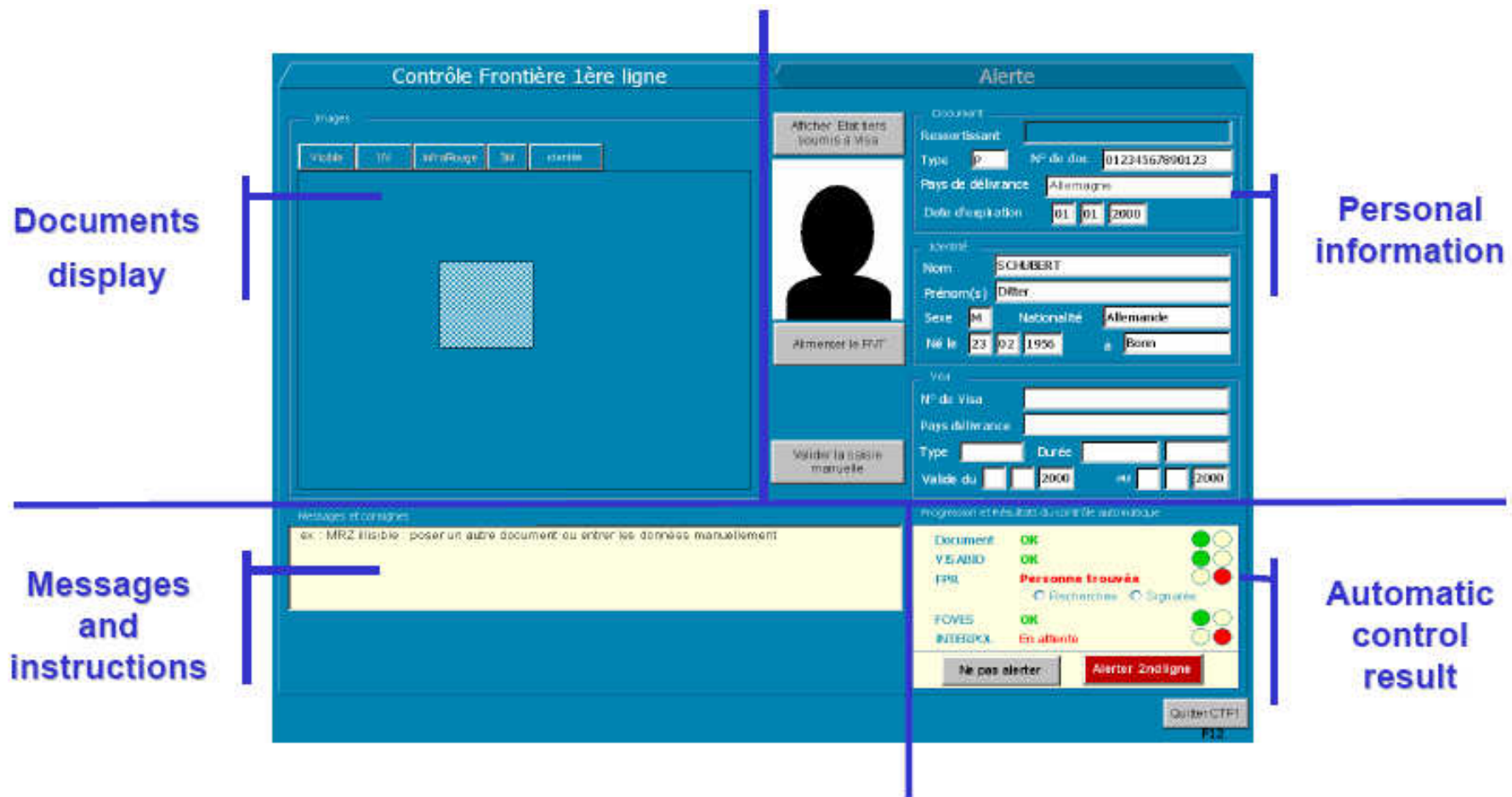
The VISABIO project: schedule

- Spring 2006: call for tender
- November 2006: contract notified to SAGEM security
- 2007: functional and technical specifications
- T1 2008: tests on the central system, migration of BIODEV data and specification of new generation integrated border control and territory control
- T2 2008: central system operational
- T3 2008: new generation of border control stations
- T4 2008: upgrade of the Foreign Affairs system and connection to the VIS (with NS-VIS and VIS simulator)
- June 2009: connecting VIS

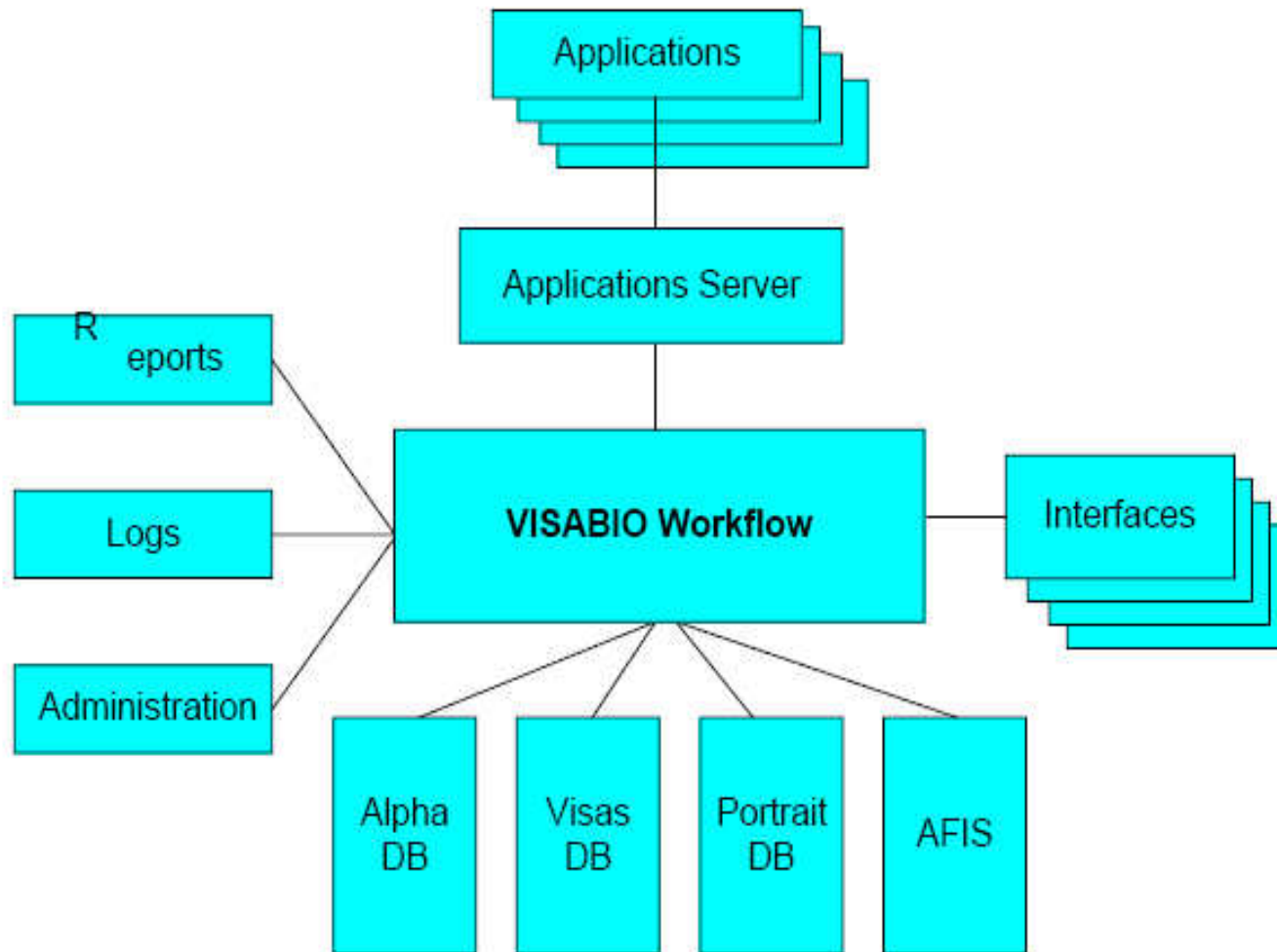# The VISABIO project: general architecture
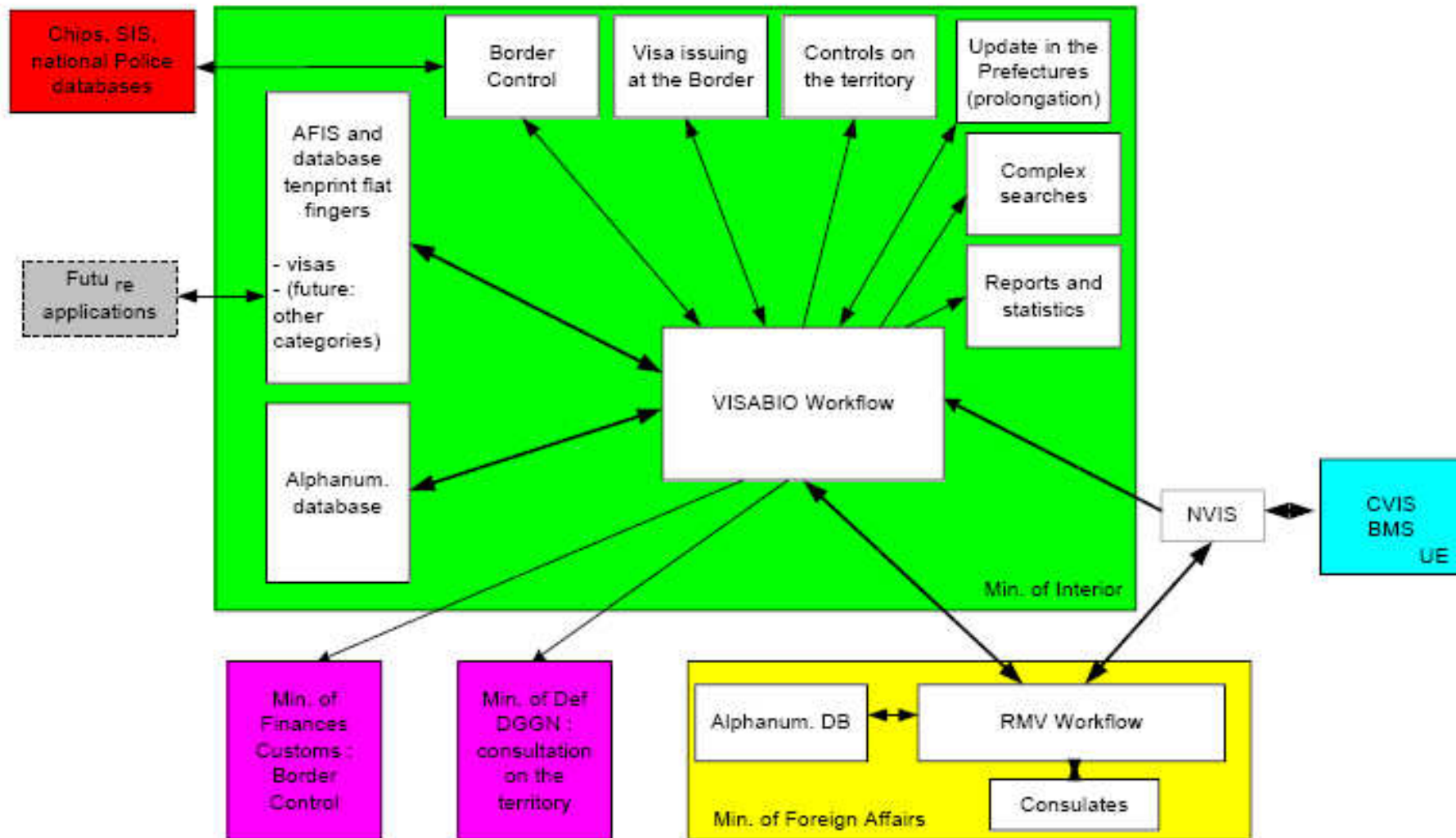
The VISABIO project: human factors

- A view of the of the border control station screen, able to process all types of travel documents

The VISABIO project: a modular approach

Toward the future: connection to e-gates

- Growing traffic and peaks (e.g. Airbus A380)
- E-Gates allow a better management of the Police resource and reduce the average time to cross the border
- Project « PARAFES »: equipment of main airports and harbours with automatic gates for UE residents

Toward the future: multimodal biometrics to reduce the error rate of fingerprint verification

- Observation: 1,5% of people controlled at the first border line are not authenticated and must be controlled at the second border line for a strong authentication [10: 10] or an identification:
  - Among these persons, some have been rejected wrongly. A second biometric data [1:1] should confirm or not the no hit.

- When a visa applicant is stored in the system, the AFIS controls if this applicant has a unique identity:
  - If there is a hit with another identity, a comparison with a second biometric data [1:1 would confirm the hit and avoid a manual expertise.