



NO EMBARGO

TIG welding - bad news for smart card door entry systems?

Leading defence contractor *BAE Systems Maritime - Submarines* recently experienced a frustrating issue whereby certain workers reported their 'contactless' ID smart cards had stopped functioning after being in the proximity of TIG welding operations; resulting in denied access to various sectors of a secure facility in England.

A number of workers at *BAE Systems Maritime - Submarines* (a wholly owned subsidiary of BAE Systems, based in Barrow-in-Furness) had been issued with proximity access smart card technology, or in layman's terms, 'contactless' ID badges designed to facilitate easy access throughout the plant. *BAE Systems Maritime - Submarines* eventually made a connection between the high-energy electro magnetic pulses emitted by TIG welding equipment used in the manufacture of submarines. Pulses from the welding equipment, during normal operations, had the effect of 'wiping' data held on smart cards in the vicinity. (This type of smart card is commonly used to store biometric templates and other user data.) Having taken independent advice from David Hambley MSc, C Eng, MIET (*Retired Technical Manager of York EMC Services Donibristle Laboratory*), Bedford-Based company RFID Protect provided *BAE Systems Maritime - Submarines* with a polycarbonate EMP (electro magnetic pulse) shielding ID badge holder, designed for its door access passes.

The unit supplied by RFID Protect proved a cost effective solution, and bench-testing at *BAE Systems Maritime - Submarines* has since demonstrated that this product is 100% effective against even extreme EMP surges from TIG welders. The device contains an integrated metal plate, which has the effect of absorbing electro magnetic energy, which might otherwise damage the smart card.

David Hambley holds the view that the EMP 'reach' of these particular welding devices could have been many metres. As the 'contactless' roll-out gains momentum, there is a view that this detrimental EMP phenomenon will become more of an issue for others in the welding industry.

David Maxwell, Director of **RFIDprotect** said,

"...I was surprised at the problem facing BAE Systems Maritime, it's not a situation we'd encountered before."

"...RFID Protect is currently unaware of any other company in the World that has been engaged to provide a solution to this particular problem!"

"Working with the manufacturers of high-specification TIG welding devices is a high priority for us in 2012, and hopefully together we can sort this issue out."

Notes to editors:

Image library:



A selection of royalty-free photos that can be used in tandem with this story are available in a high resolution format, and without charge, from the following website.

<http://superalchemy.com/press-zone/>

User password: **pr3ss#**

About RFID Protect:

RFIDprotect supply a range of sleeves, wallets, and ID card shields that are designed specifically to offer protection against unauthorised access to 'contactless technology'. RFID enabled devices that you may already possess include, but not exclusively, credit cards, passports, identity cards, travel cards, ski-passes and many passes for electronic 'swipe card' door entry systems. Components can be extremely small, and you may not even be aware that an item you carry about every day is already RFID enabled!

RFIDprotect is pleased to support the work of Bedfordshire Police Partnership Trust; helping to promote a better understanding of how individuals can protect themselves from ID theft and unauthorised access to secure facilities.

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Our 2012 product portfolio can be downloaded at:

http://www.rfidprotect.co.uk/downloads/rfidProtect_brochure.pdf

***We're often accused by others of hiding our light under a bushel.
So, here are 5 things you might like to know about **RFIDprotect**...***

#1 We don't do anything else.

It's true! As the only dedicated supplier in the United Kingdom for 'anti-skimming' RFID shielding products, you can be sure of a first rate service – because we don't do anything else. We won't try to sell you key fobs, USB sticks or even a free pen for that matter – just simple, effective products that when used correctly will help protect you from contactless crime. It's that simple!

#2 We manufacture too.

It's not just our current range of stock that you might be interested in. With a European manufacturing base there's no limit to the range of bespoke RFID shielding products that we can make for you. Whether you're a large corporation, industrial designer, or an individual working out of a garden shed – don't worry, because we can find solutions to meet your particular needs. We are pleased to count Europe's largest defence contractor amongst our many satisfied clients.

#3 An award winning design team at your disposal.

Products, packaging and print – we do the lot! If you've got a great idea for the 'look and feel' of your product then our in house design team will do the rest – just give us a call to discuss what might be possible. We also retain the services and expertise of an award-winning freelance copywriter with over 3 decades experience working as a senior writer and creative director at top London and International advertising agencies.

#4 Traditional customer care in a technological age.

Yes, it exists even in this technological age! We pride ourselves on providing traditional customer care, and are not satisfied with our service until you are. We don't have an automated phone system with premium tariffs and dozens of menu options – if we're not in the office, then we don't answer calls or emails! (But you might want to drop us a line or leave a message, because we will always get back to you as soon as is possible.) Of course, if you're someone who likes to poke, tweet or just wants to hear our latest news then we'd love you to follow us on Facebook and Twitter.

#5 We care about crime reduction.

With over fourteen years experience in law enforcement and security, we've seen some pretty ingenious crimes in our time. We've also witnessed at first hand the distress caused to victims and remain committed to helping improve things. When we saw the opportunity to combine practical and timely crime reduction information, with a terrific product we just had to do our bit.

We're aiming to make your contactless experience even more secure.

We hope we'll be doing it for a long time to come.



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