IMPLEMENTATION OF PKI ICELAND (PKI-IS)
Leading a national-level construction of PKI

The government of Iceland has been working on electronic certificates in Iceland for almost a decade. Soft certificates have been issued by the government since 2003, mainly for financial auditors when communicating with the Internal Revenue Directorate and for importers communicating with the Directorate of Customs.

At the same time the Icelandic banks had been initiating an effort to introduce electronic certificates to the local market and to that effect formed the company Auðkenni to serve as a CSP.

In 2005 the Icelandic Financial Services Association and the Ministry of Finance began cooperation in implementing an open Public Key Infrastructure (PKI) based on a state-owned Iceland Root with qualified certificates issued to the public and to legal entities in Iceland.

The Ministry of Finance and Auðkenni signed a cooperation agreement for general usage of electronic certificates and implementation of PKI Iceland (PKI-IS) in March 2007. The main objective is to issue qualified certificates to all current debit card customers of all banks and savings banks in Iceland and to reach general and active usage of theses certificates, both for identification and for qualified electronic signatures. The certificates are stored on the chip of the debit card, which also contains the EMV payment application. When this objective has been realised, Iceland could be the first nation in the world to reach general usage of qualified certificates.

Admon has been managing these projects since 2003, first for the Ministry of Finance and then for the joint steering committee of the Ministry of Finance and Auðkenni. In the current cooperative project the responsibility of Admon has been as follows:

- Project management of the cooperative project.
- Project management for installation of information technology for certificate services.
- Consultants for implementing PKI.
- Editors and contributing consultants for all common documents.

The expertise Admon is bringing to the cooperative project includes policy requirements and practices, security requirements and management, definitions and technical specifications for X.509 certificates and project management of a large scale project from strategy to design, through implementation to rollout and realisation.

For further information, please contact Halldór Pétursson, hp@admon.is.