

ICT Minister Witnesses Signing Agreement between ITIDA, SCA to Provide e-Signature Services

Cairo, 4 December 2017

The Minister of Communications and Information Technology Yasser Elkady witnessed, today, signing a cooperation agreement between ITIDA and the Suez Canal Authority (SCA) to provide electronic signature, training and application support services.

The agreement was signed on the sidelines of the second day of the 21st Cairo ICT, held under the auspices of President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi, on December 3-6, at Egypt Convention Center, in New Cairo.

Signed by the Information Technology Industry Development Agency (ITIDA) CEO Asma Hosni, and SCA Acting Director of Communications and Information Systems Department and Board Member Nagy Ahmed Amin, the agreement aims to utilize the expertise of the E-Signature Competence Center to improve the level of its operations through the transfer of practices and expertise required to increase productivity, raise the quality and reduce the costs.

E-Signature Competence Center offers e-signature applications, e-mail security and training services in three phases. Phase I includes Java technology-based applications deployment and support, over nine months. Phase II, implemented over seven months, includes Internet applications deployment and support. The implementation of the project ends in Phase III, over seven months, where Android applications are supported as well.

Through the agreement, the Center will provide technical support services, deploy the information security program and train SCA information systems staff on how to use the program. This is in addition to providing electronic correspondence security service by encrypting or signing electronic correspondence via e-mail and providing all necessary licenses.

The two parties further agreed that SCA Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs) shall include all

IPRs related to products, documents and other materials related to the execution of the contract or those which have been issued, prepared or collected in accordance with the requirements of the applicable laws, especially the provisions of Law No. 82 of 2002 on the Protection of Intellectual Property Rights and its Executive Regulations issued by the Prime Minister's Decree No. 1366 of 2003.

ITIDA aims to deploy e-signature services, especially at the level of various business sectors. ITIDA has taken a number of measures that contribute to integrate and activate e-signature services, improve the methods of providing SCA services and develop electronic services, especially at the level of companies registered at SCA database.

Electronic signature technology has become part of registering at and benefiting from a number of available development services and programs such as the latest version of Export IT Program, Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) support and funding programs.

ITIDA is, currently, automating, securing and encrypting files on smartphones. ITIDA is currently studying a number of experiences of countries— especially the European ones and a number of Gulf countries such as the United Arab Emirates— in e-signature use, digital identity and digital transformation, ceasing dealing with tangible documents and maintaining only encrypted digital and electronically-approved documents.

The Center seeks to maintain the systems that were secured by e-signature in order to prevent it from being exposed to cyber penetration. It provided technical support services and periodic updates to the software developed by the Center for the Presidency of the Cabinet, the Central Bank of Egypt (CBE), Damietta Port Authority, the National Telecom Regulatory Authority (NTRA), ITIDA and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP).

Established in 2011, the E-Signature Competence Center manages, regulates and sets standards for e-signature, issuing and renewing licenses required to conduct activities in the field of e-transactions. The Center is the only one in the Middle East and North Africa that provides services for the establishment of e-signature infrastructure centers, services and applications on various operating systems and achieve interconnection and integration between Public Key Infrastructure (PKI) software and hardware and information security systems.

The practices of e-signature in Egypt are governed and regulated by Law No. 15 of 2004 and its Executive Regulation No. 109 of 2005, which includes civil, commercial and administrative transactions which can be completed electronically. This helps to raise the efficiency of administrative work, activate electronic commerce and enhance governmental services performance.

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About ITIDA:

The Information Technology Industry Development Agency (ITIDA) is a governmental entity affiliated to Egypt's Ministry of Communications and Information Technology. It is responsible for growing and developing Egypt's position as a leading global outsourcing location by attracting foreign direct investment to the industry and maximizing the exports of IT services and applications.

Located in the heart of the modern business environment at Smart Village, the six hundred acre business park on the outskirts of Cairo, ITIDA is a self-sustainable entity that drives the IT industry in Egypt and raises awareness among the Egyptian people of the benefits and use of ICT to advance socio-economic welfare of the whole community.

