Identification cards have become a way of life for employees worldwide. Many businesses are turning to “smart” cards as a way to improve safety and security. These cards integrate easily with an access control program, they are simple to update with user profile information, they are easy to deactivate and replace if they are lost or stolen, and they do much more than just allow the user to unlock a door.

The cards – usually the size of a credit card – contain memory or microprocessor chips that make them ‘smarter’ than other credentials and offer greater functionality. Smart cards actually exchange information with readers through a process known as mutual authentication. It’s an added level of security and it ensures communication between the reader and the credential is unique and cannot be compromised.

What makes smart cards such a smart choice is that they have the capability of doing more than just access control. Advanced functionality gives you the opportunity to provide other convenient applications, including cashless vending, college/university applications, network login, retail and more.

Applications

Here are a few ideas for customizing your contactless smart credential:

- Access control
- Identification
- Access to data & networks
- Access to materials (prescription drugs, tools, etc.)
- Cashless vending
- Loyalty & incentive programs
- Data storage & transfer
- Biometric template storage

While smart card technology may cost slightly more than other card credential technologies up front, it can be a smart investment in the long run as you add new capabilities, expand your security system and add users without the need for changing credentials. Talk to a security consultant to find out how to leverage smart card technology to enhance your security and give your business and your employees more convenience too.

About Allegion

Allegion (NYSE: ALLE) creates peace of mind by pioneering safety and security. As a $2 billion provider of security solutions for homes and businesses, Allegion employs more than 7,800 people and sells products in more than 120 countries across the world. Allegion comprises 23 global brands, including strategic brands CISA®, Interflex®, LCN®, Schlage® and Von Duprin®.

For more, visit allegion.com.