



SIA OSDP Frequently Asked Questions

What is SIA OSDP?

SIA Open Supervised Device Protocol (OSDP) is a communications protocol that allows peripheral devices such as card readers and biometric readers to interface with control panels or other security management systems. It adds sophistication and security benefits through features such as bi-directional communication and read/write capabilities.

Who owns SIA OSDP?

In 2012, The Security Industry Association was assigned ownership of the OSDP specification by Codebench, HID Global and Mercury Security, the companies that developed the specification.

Are there patent claims on SIA OSDP?

No, there are no patent claims on the SIA OSDP Specification itself. However a useful application of the specification – included in Appendix E – **Transparent Mode** is claimed as intellectual property of Assa Abloy (HID Global parent company). Other applications or related uses may be subject to further third party intellectual property rights. SIA uses commercially reasonable efforts to stay apprised of the intellectual property rights that cover the subject matter addressed by the OSDP Specification. SIA, however, is not responsible for any third party rights clearance or any rights clearance on behalf of any entity making use of the OSDP Specification.

What is Transparent Mode?

Transparent Mode is a method of passing messages (APDUs) between authentication software and a smartcard transparently, without reader support. The Transparent Mode is intended to support Federal Identity, Credentialing and Access Management (FICAM) compliant authentication in order to help eliminate the risks of attack-side decision-making.

Are there alternatives to Transparent Mode that supports FICAM authentication using OSDP?

Yes, any method of performing the asymmetric challenge- response operation that conforms to the parameters listed in Federal Information Processing Standards (FIPS) 201 supports FICAM authentication.

Are there rights currently associated with implementing OSDP with Transparent Mode?

Yes. The following U.S. patents may cover elements of implementing the OSDP with Transparent Mode.

1. United States, 6575360, Device and method for personalizing chip cards; and

2. United States, 7853789, Method and system for establishing a communications pipe between a personal security device and a remote computer system

SIA takes no position concerning the evidence, validity and scope of these patent rights, but does recommend that all users of the OSDP Specifications respect the intellectual property rights of third party rights holders.

Is there more information about Transparent Mode licensing rights?

Yes. Regarding the U.S. patents noted above, the holders of these patent rights have indicated, as of the date of this draft, that licenses under the foregoing U.S. patents are available pursuant to fair, reasonable and non-discriminatory (FRAND) terms and conditions with applications throughout the world. SIA has been provided the following information for those entities wishing to contact these patent rights holders for a license.

ActivIdentity Inc., 6623 Dumbarton Circle Fremont, CA 94555 United States, <http://info.hidglobal.com/ai-transparent-mode-license.html>