

Schengen

Solutions for interfacing national police and migration control systems



Flight	Time	Gate	Destination
SN2284	1710	39	Londres
K473	1710	48	Paris
K1482	1730	34	Stockholm
209	1735	36	Dusseldorf
523	1735	36	Dusseldorf
475	1740	38	Berlin
52	1745	53	Oslo
15	1745	13	Berlin
45	1745	42	Athènes
319	1750	24	Madrid
681	1755	43	Lisbonne
245	1755	43	Rome

SIS II - Steria Interconnection Box

The new Schengen Information Systems

To compensate for the reduction in security that would inevitably result from the removal of border controls between the States participating in the Schengen Convention, it was decided to set up a system to enable the rapid exchange of information between the various national law enforcement authorities (Border Control, Police) on wanted persons and objects. In 1995 the first generation of the Schengen System (SIS) became operational. Following a feasibility study in the years 2002 and 2003, the European Council, in its conclusions of June 2003 confirmed the decision to develop a second-generation Schengen Information System to be known as SIS II. By June 2004 the Council adopted the decision to establish the Visa Information System (VIS) for exchanging visa data between the Member States.

The contract for developing the SIS II / VIS was awarded by the European Commission to the HP/Steria Consortium in September 2004. In accordance with the current plan, the whole of the SIS II will be operational in 2007. This implies that parallel to the current development of the Central System, the SIS II / VIS Users will be obliged to implement the necessary infrastructure (organisation, hardware, software, networks) on their premises capable of accessing the Central System. It will be necessary in most cases for the User to integrate heterogeneous National Systems (NS).

Steria's solutions for interfacing NS to SIS II and VIS

Steria offers the members of the new enlarged Schengen area – incorporating the 10 new EU Member States and the United Kingdom and Ireland – highly secure solutions for migrating and integrating their national information systems with the central servers developed by the European Commission.

Each Steria's SIS II or VIS connection offer is based on a pre-packaged software solution known as the "Steria Interconnection Box" (SIB): a flexible, modular application based on SOA for enabling bidirectional service calls between central and national systems, while technically decoupling these systems. Each offer is also accompanied by consulting and systems integration services designed to meet the specific needs of each country, regardless of its size.

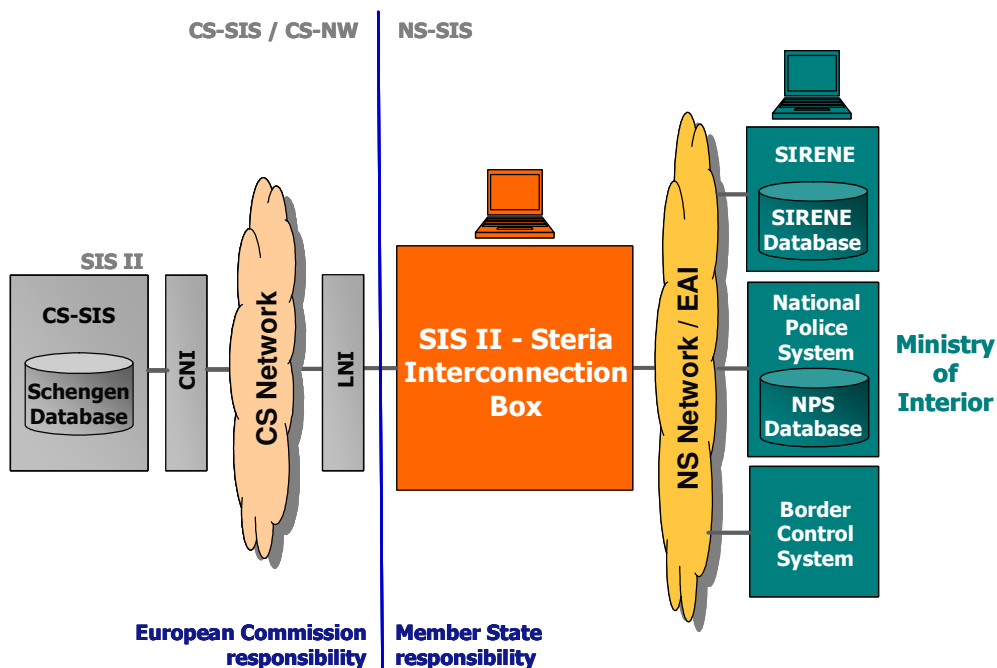


SIS II - Steria Interconnection Box objectives

☛ The SIS II - Steria Interconnection Box (SIS II - SIB) is a pre-packaged software solution which, on the one hand, will suffice as stand-alone solution to enable a User to access and manage the data on the SISII Central System and on the other hand will provide the suitable means to integrate the various national systems, ideally through a National Network providing EAI/ESB services.

☛ The SIS II - SIB will have to ensure that messages are correctly transmitted to the CS-SIS, and that each and every message it receives from the CS-SIS is correctly processed in particular ensuring an up-to-date and consistent National Copy of the central database. In addition to providing the mechanisms to guarantee security, user management access control, logging, as well as the necessary administration functions, the SIS II - SIB shall also have to support the business processes necessary to maintain and manage the Schengen alerts.

☛ The following figure presents a generic target National System-SIS (NS-SIS) with its link with the SIS II, as envisioned by Steria :



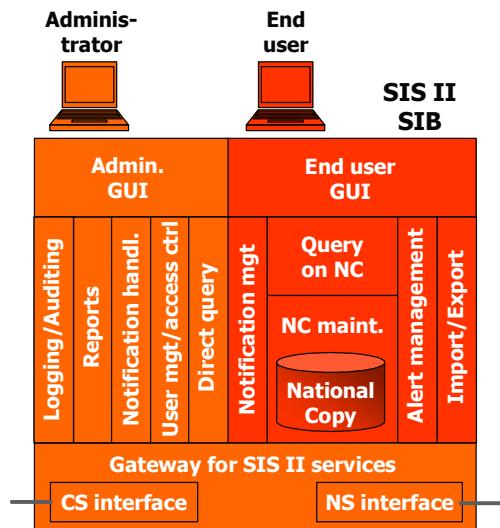
NS-SIS generic target architecture

☛ The SIS II-SIB and VIS-SIB solutions manage all interconnection and data exchange operations between the national systems and the centralised European databases. The group members are therefore guaranteed:

- ☛ Total integration of all SIS II and VIS data and central services;
- ☛ A standard applications interface to facilitate the customised integration of the different national systems (existing and new);
- ☛ High availability of the interconnection nodes to the central systems achieved via dedicated SIB software set up on redundant IT platforms;
- ☛ Easy installation, use and maintenance and total flexibility for modifying existing functionalities in line with regulatory changes.

SIS II - Steria Interconnection Box features

The following drawing is representing the SIS II - SIB as a collection of functional modules. The orange/brown marked modules are part of the basic configuration and the orange/red marked modules are part of the extended configuration (also including the basic modules).



Following functional modules are included in the basic configuration :

- Gateway for SIS II services
- Logging and auditing
- Reports
- Notification handling
- User management and access control
- Direct query
- Administration GUI

The extended configuration includes all the basic configuration functional modules plus the following modules :

- Notification management
- National copy maintenance
- Query on National Copy
- End user GUI
- Alert management (incompatible/multiple alerts handling)
- Import/export of biometric data

The Steria Interconnection Box main advantages

- Complete respect of the Interface Control Document. (ICD)
- Decoupling of the protocols and formats between the CS and NS interfaces.
- Compliance to of the standard and proprietary protocols and formats.
- Usage of an Enterprise Service Bus (ESB) giving a great flexibility.
- Guarantee of a National Copy with data consistency and without NS intervention.
- Ability to grow from a simple system to a complex system including all features available.
- Possibility to execute local queries in parallel with central queries.
- Portability of the software.
- User interfaces for day to day usage or to ensure a survival kit in case of other NS nodes unavailability.
- Parallel development between CS and NS node to be just on time for the connection to the Central Systems.
- Easy integration in complete NS applications including workflow engines.
- Minimum risks for planning, budgeting, robustness of the solution and maintenance.
- User Group for knowledge transfer, experience sharing and rapid adaptation to changes.

Steria delivers

The Customers will always receive the latest version of the messages exchanged between the National and the Central Systems. When getting live, the Customers are guaranteed to have the latest version of the ICD. Moreover, under the maintenance contract, Steria will deliver an extended support to the Customer and new releases of the package including new version of the ICD.

Thanks to our performance at the Central System level, we are able to anticipate the necessary developments at the National System level. Steria will support their Customers for the coming years.

General Steria Value Added

► Knowledge of the central SIS

Steria takes advantage of its expertise of the Central System, making easier the interconnection between both the NS and CS. Our knowledge of the ICD, the detailed technical specifications (DTS) and the schedule is unique. We can help the customer and our partners to gain a severe amount of time.

► The CS simulator

The CS simulator is an important instrument in the validation of the messages of the NS-SIS. Steria has developed this tool and has given courses to the Member States to increase their understanding of the tool.

► Compliance testing

A major milestone in the development of the NS-SIS is the compliance testing. Steria is defining the needed Test Definition Document for these tests. The Steria Interconnection Box is fully compatible with these tests as it will be tested upfront. Furthermore the results of the compliance testing will be evaluated by our Central Team.

► Operational system testing

Steria is defining the testing that must be performed by MS toward the Central System. With Steria at the central side and at the National side the integration of these tests will be smoother.

► References

Steria is also the Company that has developed EURODAC and NAP / FIT.



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