



Last week, the International Biometrics+Identity Association ([IBIA](#)) had the privilege of sponsoring [the 5th annual connect:ID Conference & Expo](#) alongside UK-based Science Media Partners (SMP), bringing together the leading authorities in identity solutions innovation, security, and privacy. In addition to the expo, where talent from the industry's biggest names to its newest start-ups showcased their latest technologies, [connect:ID](#) hosted three days of expert panels and keynote speeches on the most important challenges of tomorrow and today. Here are some highlights from a few of our favorite sessions:

On the first day of the conference, Jim Loudermilk, Senior Director of IDEMIA National Security Solutions and retired senior technologist at the FBI, moderated a fascinating discussion titled "National ID Concepts," which examined the issue from all sides. Professor Magdalena Krajewska, author of *Documenting Americans*, presented a comprehensive history of national ID card proposals and developments in identity policing in the United States. She was followed by Michelle Richardson, Deputy Director of the Center for Democracy and Technology's Freedom, Security, and Technology Project, who outlined the privacy and civil liberty considerations for a National ID system. And lastly, David Kelts, Director & Architect at IDEMIA Citizen Digital Identity, responded with how identity solutions developer can engineer user privacy into such a system.

The second day gave us a glimpse into the future of air travel, introducing some of the latest ways that identity solutions are being used to improve the passenger experience. The first panel of the day, Getting to the Gate on Time, was moderated by Amy Krause, Senior Program Manager at Leidos, and included some of the industry's leading adopters of biometrics in the terminal. Sherry Stein, Sr. Manager of Projects & Innovation at SITA, as well as experts from IBIA members Vision-Box and NEC Corporation of America, detailed how facial recognition technology is allowing passengers to move more securely and effortlessly through boarding. And Liliana Petrova, Director Customer Experience, JetBlue Airways and Jordie Knoppers, Manager Product Innovation, KLM, explained that while some logistical barriers remain in global adoption, paperless, identity-driven solutions will soon be an industry staple.

Finally, the third and the last day of [connect:ID](#) did not disappoint, focusing on the technologies that are predicted to revolutionize the industry and the user experience. One such innovation is blockchain, which has been in the headlines ever since the cryptocurrency craze began, yet is still not widely understood. Terry Hsiao, CEO of Hook Mobile, moderated a compelling discussion on the opportunities presented by blockchain, as well as its limitations. He was joined by veteran technology gurus, Tim Ruff, CEO of Evernym, and Adam Migus, Principal at The Migus Group, as well as respected privacy expert Brenda Leong, Senior Counsel and Director of Strategy at Future of Privacy Forum. The panel did an excellent job of explaining the role blockchain plays today and how developers could soon use the technology to provide identity solutions.

It's safe to say that [connect:ID](#) was yet again a resounding success, bringing together industry leaders from a wide variety of sectors to exchange ideas and learn about exciting innovations in biometrics and identity management.