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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3005

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AND THE INNOVATION ECONOMY**
CO-CHAIR

July 21, 2026

The Honorable Edward C. Forst
Administrator
U.S. General Services Administration
1800 F Street NW
Washington, DC 20405

The Honorable Russell Vought
Director
Office of Management and Budget
725 17th Street NW
Washington, DC 20503

Dear Administrator Forst and Director Vought:

I write to raise concerns regarding the alarming software failure involving IDEMIA that resulted in approximately 6,600 non-U.S. citizens being added to New Jersey's voter rolls, several years ago, under the prior State administration.¹ This incident raises serious concerns about the reliability of IDEMIA's software, the company's quality control practices, and the federal government's reliance on a single contractor to manage highly sensitive identity and biometric systems. I urge the General Services Administration (GSA) to conduct a comprehensive, government-wide audit of every federal contract involving IDEMIA — including IDEMIA Public Security North America, IDEMIA Identity & Security USA LLC, and IDEMIA National Security Solutions.

On July 21, New Jersey state officials found that 6,600 noncitizens were registered to vote when they applied for driver's licenses and identification cards from June 2023 to June 2024. This software malfunction at New Jersey's Motor Vehicle Commission allowed fewer than 400 people — across the state — registered as Republicans, Democrats, and Unaffiliated to vote. This is alarming and unacceptable. But, New Jersey is only where this came into view. The deeper problem is national: IDEMIA sits at the center of the federal government's identity, screening, and border infrastructure, and the breadth of that role demands scrutiny that the public and Congress have never been given.

Alarmingly, an excessive amount of the federal security apparatus runs through this one company. At the Transportation Security Administration (TSA), IDEMIA is the contracted

¹ Wildstein, D. (2026, July 21). New Jersey discloses 6,600 non-citizens were on New Jersey voter rolls after motor vehicles software error in 2023 and 2024 - New Jersey Globe. New Jersey Globe.
<https://newjerseyglobe.com/governor/new-jersey-admits-6600-non-citizens-were-on-new-jersey-voter-rolls-after-motor-vehicles-software-error/>

Universal Enrollment Services provider that manages the online pre-enrollment application and the enrollment centers collecting biographic and biometric information for programs like TSA PreCheck, the Hazardous Materials Endorsement Threat Assessment Program, and the Transportation Worker Identification Credential program. It has been a TSA PreCheck enrollment provider since 2013, and has processed more than 19 million enrollments across 630-plus centers nationwide, and deployed IDEMIA's Credential Authentication Technology at roughly 120 airports since 2019.² A “small” software issue like what happened in New Jersey could, right now, be allowing improperly vetted individuals to enter our airports, and board our airplanes.

The company's reach extends across the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and the border. IDEMIA's facial recognition technology has been used in the Customs and Border Protections (CBP) deployments supporting the agency's congressionally mandated biometric entry-exit mission, where CBP performs the biometric matching.³ IDEMIA is also one of the few companies approved to submit fingerprints to and receive background-check information from the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), and it is the leading driver's-license provider to 36 states, representing roughly 70 percent of the driver's licenses issued in the United States.⁴

Its defense and intelligence work is equally significant. IDEMIA National Security Solutions holds contracts across defense, intelligence, law enforcement, and homeland security, and recently became the first biometrics vendor to achieve Cybersecurity Maturity Model Certification Level 2 — the designation now required to obtain and keep contracts with the U.S. Department of Defense. A single vendor is thus embedded, simultaneously, in how the government screens travelers, secures ports and hazardous-materials handlers, processes travelers at the border, runs criminal background checks, issues civilian identity credentials, and supports military and intelligence identity operations.

That concentration is precisely why IDEMIA's data-handling and contracting practices cannot be taken on faith and must go through an immediate audit. Concerns about the company are neither hypothetical nor limited to the United States. IDEMIA was embroiled in a biometrics tender scandal in South Africa, where the Airports Company South Africa terminated its contract in August 2024, amid a government investigation, and the company faced a multimillion-rand damages claim arising from that procurement.⁵ Domestically, its identity contracts have drawn pointed privacy objections; a New York legislator publicly pressed the state to pursue alternative mobile driver's-license vendors specifically to strengthen privacy protections around IDEMIA's

² *TSA PreCheck enrollment - checkpoint security | IDEMIA*. (2023, December 21). IDEMIA. <https://www.idemia.com/tsa-enrollment-and-airport-security-checkpoint-solutions>

³ *IDEMIA Brings Boarding Security to Los Angeles International Airport (LAX)*. (n.d.). Idemia.com. https://idemia.com/pdf-export.php?post_id=7073

⁴ *List of FBI-Approved Channelers for Departmental Order Submissions*. (n.d.). FBI.org. <https://www.fbi.gov/how-we-can-help-you/more-fbi-services-and-information/identity-history-summary-checks/list-of-fbi-approved-channelers-for-departmental-order-submissions>

⁵ Kennedy, C. (2024, November 21). *IDEMIA faces R39 million lawsuit in South African biometrics tender scandal*. ID Tech. <https://idtechwire.com/idemia-faces-r39-million-lawsuit-in-south-african-biometrics-tender-scandal/>
Lee, J. (2015, November 3). *DoD renews \$3.5M automated biometric identification system contract with MorphoTrust*. *Biometric Update | Biometrics News, Companies and Explainers*. <https://www.biometricupdate.com/201511/dod-renews-3-5m-automated-biometric-identification-system-contract-with-morphotrust>

platform.⁶ Collectively, these software errors and contracting concerns threaten our national security, our elections, and our constituents' personal information.

I therefore ask that the GSA and OMB immediately audit examine federal contracts, task orders, blanket purchase agreements, and interagency agreements involving IDEMIA and report to Congress on the following:

1. A complete inventory of all federal contracts and agreements involving IDEMIA and its affiliates, including contracting agency, dollar value, period of performance, and scope of work.
2. The categories and volume of biometric and personally identifiable information IDEMIA collects, processes, stores, or transmits under each contract — fingerprints, facial images, iris data, and biographic records — and where that data physically and logically resides.
3. IDEMIA's data-retention, data-sharing, subcontracting, and foreign-access practices, including any sharing with parent or affiliated entities abroad, and their compliance with applicable federal privacy and security requirements.
4. Each contract's compliance with federal information-security standards, including FISMA, applicable NIST frameworks, and CMMC where relevant, and the results of the most recent security assessments and authorizations.
5. Any past or pending breaches, security incidents, contract terminations, suspension-and-debarment referrals, or performance deficiencies involving IDEMIA in any jurisdiction, domestic or foreign.
6. Whether adequate competition and vendor alternatives exist for the critical identity and screening functions IDEMIA performs, so that the government is not dangerously dependent on a single supplier.

Protecting Americans' most sensitive data and safeguarding the integrity of federal identity, elections, screening, and border systems are core government obligations. They cannot be met without knowing exactly what a vendor of this magnitude is doing with the information entrusted to it. I ask that you initiate this audit promptly and brief my office on its scope and timeline immediately.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. I look forward to your prompt response.

Sincerely,

⁶ Burt, C. (2024, February 22). New York lawmaker pitches multiple mDL vendors despite \$1.7M contract with Idemia I&S. *Biometric Update | Biometrics News, Companies and Explainers*. <https://www.biometricupdate.com/202402/new-york-lawmaker-pitches-multiple-mdl-vendors-despite-1-7m-contract-with-idemia-is>

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Josh Gottheimer
Member of Congress

*Lee, J. (2015, November 3). DoD renews \$3.5M automated biometric identification system contract with MorphoTrust. Biometric Update | Biometrics News, Companies and Explainers.
<https://www.biometricupdate.com/201511/dod-renews-3-5m-automated-biometric-identification-system-contract-with-morphotrust>*