



**ISPIN**  
Swiss made Security.

## Success Story Emcredit

### ISO 27001 for Emcredit

Credit information service firm Emcredit has received ISO 27001 certification for its information protection and security systems. The certification is the world's highest accreditation in the field.



Questions at Emad Khatib, Chief Information Officer emcredit for the implementation of the ISO 27001 certification in the enterprise

#### **Mr. Khatib, What were your motivation and/or your pressure to turn on the ISO 27001 certification?**

When I started as the CIO at Emcredit, one of the first initiatives I focused on was the development of a Roadmap for Security for the next several years. What that meant for us is:

1. Solid security placement
2. Construction and integration of effective security policy
3. Improvement of our image and establishment of a (security) culture

Our goal was to complete this process by the end of 2008 and I am proud to say that we were successful in this effort.

#### **How was the project designed to get the ISO certificate? How was the implementation? Can you give us a short description?**

The implementation for this project followed a methodical approach to ensure our successful completion. We first started with a detailed planning phase for the definition of the project and to obtain full buy-in and support from all Emcredit executives. Second, we focused on the selection of a consulting partner that has deep expertise in such certification processes. Through our partnership with ISPIN and the extensive collaboration between Emcredit's IT team and ISPIN, we were able to receive the ISO 27001 certifications in a relatively short time.

#### **What was the reason that you selected the ISPIN MEA as partners and advisor to the certification preparation?**

Extensive knowledge in information security and familiarity with the ISO process with experienced staff was

see overleaf

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**Emad Khatib, PE, PMP,  
Chief Information Officer,  
Emcredit Limited, Dubai,  
UAE, [www.emcredit.com](http://www.emcredit.com)**

our primary selection criteria. It was critical for us to partner with a consulting firm that can bring in strong experience in security technologies and security methodology that can ensure a quick successful implementation. Other criteria such as Pricing, customer satisfaction, and the number of authoritative customer were also important points. The credibility of Dr. Gunnar Siebert, the CEO of the ISPIN MEA and the project managers in our ISO 27001 project also added assurance that we made the right decision. Throughout the project, we were very happy and satisfied to have such a competent partner on our side.

### **Did you achieve the goals? What are next steps after the ISO certification from yours side?**

At Emcredit, we have very ambitious goals for the protection of our customers' and stakeholders' data and to ensure solid security in our company. Therefore Security for us is an ongoing process. This certification was a small task in the big context of "security" and was just the first step. Our partnership with ISPIN will continue after the certification to continue our strong focus on security and to ensure proper execution the ISO guidelines.

### **Ali Ibrahim, Managing Director, Emcredit:**

*"Personal and credit information forms the backbone of our business and ensuring the integrity, confidentiality and security of our data assets are paramount to our success," said Ali Ibrahim, managing director, Emcredit. "Our latest ISO 27001 certification is testament to our focus on safeguarding information privacy and represents a strong vote of confidence for our members and data-sharing partners."*

Emcredit was formed in January 2006 as The Emirates Credit Information Company, in accordance with the directives of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai. Emcredit is incorporated in the Dubai International Financial Centre and is fully compliant with international standards of data protection and security.

Emcredit provides enterprise and credit information solutions. They offer identity and data verification, data enrichment, decision support analytics and other tools necessary to improve customer acquisition, servicing, debt collection and portfolio management. Emcredit helps businesses to make better and thus more profitable decisions at every stage.