



# STATE OF GUJARAT INDIA

Internet voting for municipal elections



The State of Gujarat awarded a 5-year contract to ScytI and its partner Tata Consulting Services to provide a remote and polling place Internet voting technology to be used in Municipal and State elections. This Indian State with a population of 50 million people was the first State to implement a remote and kiosk Internet voting in public elections in India. ScytI's Internet voting system was initially used in 6 municipalities during the September 2010 municipal elections. Citizens from these municipalities were able to cast their votes over the Internet from home or from any polling station.

## PROJECT CONTEXT

The State Election Commission (SEC) of Gujarat is the entity responsible for organizing and executing the elections for the State of Gujarat, India. With the aim of further automating and modernizing their electoral processes, increasing voter turnout and ensuring the highest levels of security, SEC decided in 2010 to execute a project that would allow their citizens to vote from their homes through the Internet with an SMS authentication procedure, in addition to providing the possibility of using voting kiosks at polling places across the State.

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This Internet voting system (known as OVS) was required to coexist with the current e-voting system based on electronic terminals (EVMs). SEC selected ScytI, in collaboration with Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), to provide

both the hardware platform to host the solution, the software and electoral support services for their 2010 elections and the following State elections in the next 5 years.

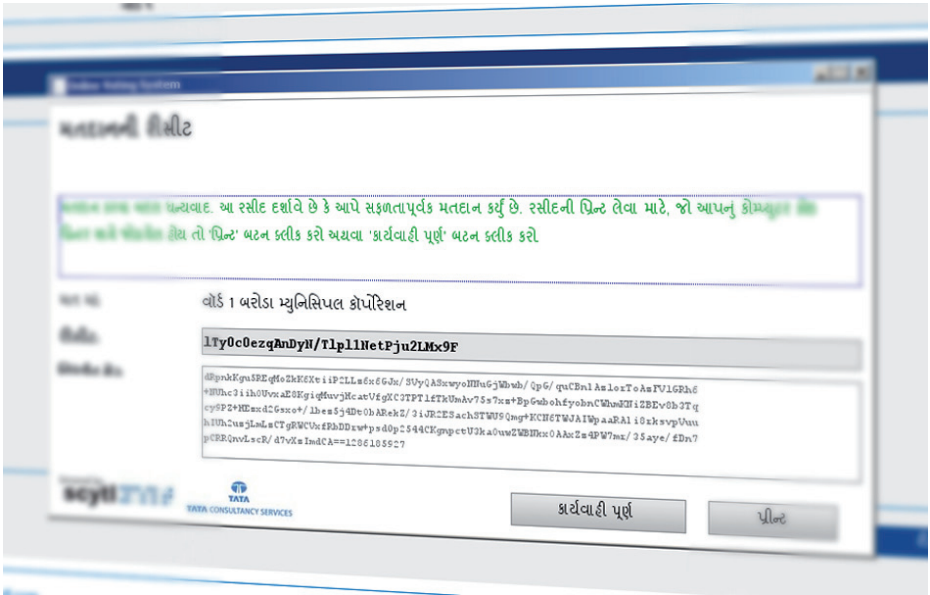
ScytI customized its Internet voting solution to fulfill the requirements of the State Election Commission that included availability in English and Gujarati languages, an authentication system based on login/password and pass-code sent by SMS and a single sign-in integrated with Gujarat's voter and registration portal.

In addition to training election officials and support staff to the new voting system, ScytI worked with the SEC on the design and development of specific voter training programs concerning the new technology and procedures to ensure the success of this new voting channel.

Advanced audit tools were implemented, using immutable logs technology, and support was provided to election monitoring and observation processes. Election observers were able to use the advanced audit module to perform verifications and audit trails checks.

## PROJECT OUTCOME

This was the first Internet voting experience in India, and 6 Wards of the State of Gujarat participated simultaneously. Previous mock elections (up to 3 different events) were executed under the SEC Gujarat supervision, to test each and every option of the solution. TCS and



Scytl supported every mock election process to identify and solve any issue that could arise; this support also included procedural and training issues. The project reached its most critical stage on October 10, 2010 with the execution of the Municipal Elections. The results were available within minutes. The project was considered a success.

A second round of online elections took place in March 2011, during Gandhinagar’s Municipal Corporation elections, where 77.16% of registered voters cast their vote electronically - either from home or from e-voting booths.

On October 2011, the e-voting project of Gujarat was awarded by the e-world forum 2011 awards among the best e-governance pro-

jects, as this was the first Online Voting System in the country. The 2011 eWorld Forum Award rewards the best innovative project in the field of eGovernance. The e-World Forum is a global thought leadership conference designed to celebrate innovation and broaden opportunity to convene leaders, change makers, and participants from all fields of global governance and health to address a range of critically important issues and themes relating to Governance and Health.

# Testimonies

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Some comments of participants through the OVS:

“ It felt like paying a bill online, it was so easy. ”

“ We wanted to try out this new system of voting and we wanted to avoid the hassle of going to the polling booths. ”

“ E-voting can be done from anywhere after your IP address is registered. That makes it convenient. ”

“ We did not face any problem during the voting process. ”

“ We would prefer e-voting next time. ”



## About Scytl

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Scytl empowers public administrations to tackle precisely the challenges they face with the organization of elections through powerful and specialized electronic voting and electoral modernization software solutions.

Our solutions include, among others, online voter registration, multi-channel e-voting solutions such as Internet voting, poll-site e-voting and phone voting, electronic voter list, results consolidation and solutions specifically

designed for parliaments. They incorporate advanced cryptography to allow electoral processes to be carried out electronically with the highest standards of security, privacy, integrity and transparency.

Scytl has successfully implemented its technology across the world for the last ten years, including significant references like the USA, France, Norway, Australia, Switzerland, the UAE, etc.

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