



DeLaRue

CURRENCY

Successfully converting
the 20 Baht
to polymer

Bank of Thailand

The Bank of Thailand set a vision to become the world's leading producer and manager of highly secure, durable, and sustainable banknotes. Their mission was providing Thai citizens with sufficient high-quality banknotes through efficient, sustainable systems.

In pursuing these strategic goals, the Bank of Thailand began issuing 20-baht polymer banknotes in 2022, gradually replacing paper notes. Polymer was selected to align with environmental objectives and enable advanced anti-counterfeiting features on a durable substrate. The 20 Baht was initially printed on De La Rue's SAFEGUARD® substrate as part of a dual supply strategy.

The project involved extensive research by the bank to identify the most appropriate substrate for maximising durability and minimising environmental impact. They chose biaxially oriented polypropylene (BOPP) substrate, which withstands humidity, resists dirt, and lasts 2.5 times longer than paper.



Multi-vendor collaborations allowed sophisticated anti-counterfeiting features to be incorporated into the polymer design.

Polymer's increased durability was projected to reduce production costs by 30%, maintaining affordability alongside enhanced security.

In 2022, the 20-baht polymer banknotes were circulated, gradually replacing existing paper notes.

Outcomes included successfully launching durable, eco-friendly polymer banknotes with advanced security. Banknote production and distribution costs were reduced due to the polymer lifespan. The environmental impact of the 20 Baht has decreased since converting to polymer, both in production and throughout the cash cycle. Citizens are now using harder wearing, cleaner and highly secure cash.

Through careful research, collaborations, and adopting environmentally conscious practices, the Bank of Thailand transitioned to more sustainable banknote production and management. Today, polymer banknotes offer Thailand a durable, secure, and eco-friendly currency option.



“Banknote production/distribution costs were reduced due to the polymer lifespan. Environmental impact decreased through renewable energy use and ISO 14001 facilities. Citizens gained access to highly secure polymer banknotes.”



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