CAMBRIDGE, MA – In 2008, the value of the entire RFID market will be $5.29 billion, up 6.8% year-over-year, according to **IDTechEx**.

This figure includes tags, readers and software/services for RFID cards, labels, fobs and all other form factors. The majority of this value is a result of large national RFID schemes for transportation and national ID, incorporating contactless (RFID) cards, says a report.

China has almost finished issuing each citizen with a national ID RFID card. The tagging of pallets and cases as demanded by retailers (mostly in the U.S.) will use approximately 325 million RFID labels in 2008, but IDTechEX sees strong take off in retail outside mandates, such as from **Marks & Spencer**, who have used more than 100 million RFID tags to date.

The tagging of animals is increasing, as it becomes a legal requirement in many more territories, with 90 million tags being used in 2008, according to the report. In total, 2.16 billion tags will be sold in 2008, up 19% year-over-year.

By 2018, the market value will be more than five times the size of the market compared to 2008, but the number of tags supplied will be more than 300 times that of 2008, driven by the development of lower cost tags and installed infrastructure that will enable high volumes of articles to be tagged, says IDTechEx.

At the start of 2008, the cumulative number of RFID tags sold was just over 6 billion.