



Axalto Scoops 3 out of 10 2005 Sesames Awards with Axseal, SmartFob and High-Speed USB Card

End-to-end advanced solution for e-passport production technology provides most stringent security, interoperability and durability

Make your watch, mobile phone or any other personal object your new contactless payment means!

High-speed USB cards open up a realm of new multimedia applications on PCs and mobile phones

Cartes 2005 tradeshow, Villepinte, France - November 15, 2005 – Axalto (Euronext NL0000400653 AXL) won the *“Best ID Application of the Year”*, the *“Best Hardware of the Year”* and the *“Best IT Security Application of the Year”* (in partnership with STMicroelectronics) awards at the smart card industry’s Cartes exhibition, demonstrating its leadership in smart card innovation.

The Sesames awards are a key part of the annual smart card industry event. They celebrate the unique contribution and investment of leading industry players like Axalto in developing next generation products and solutions for the digital age.

Axalto has designed Axseal to support governments and their secure printing agencies and partners in their migration to chip-enabled passports. The Axseal solution by Axalto assists booklet machine manufacturers and national printing offices in mass producing and personalizing electronic passports using the industry leader’s experience in security, performance and durability.

Axseal’s e-cover is an extremely innovative approach to solving the industrial challenge of integrating the Radio Frequency (RF) interface into passport coversheets. This innovative technology allows for massive industrial rollout on existing industrial equipment while significantly increasing the durability of the electronic passport solution to match the 5 to 10 years’ durability requirement. Axseal relies on a remarkable combination of flexibility, durability and invisible integration of the RF interface.

Axalto’s SmartFob is an innovative, trendy and convenient payment device that allows to create unlimited shapes and objects while providing the same functionality as a contactless smart card. It consists of a SIM card format module and a contactless keyfob, which can be easily equipped with a switch to avoid unauthorized transactions. The SmartFob concept could be expanded to create contactless payment means in the form of a watch, a mobile phone, or any other personal object.

Another aspect of the innovation is that the antenna has been separated from the chip. The miniature contactless card may be added after the keyfob production phase, just like a SIM card into a mobile phone. This feature enables SmartFob to be mass-produced much more easily and at much lower cost than keyfobs in which the antenna and the module are bound together. Furthermore, these miniature contactless cards can be personalized and updated as often as necessary, just like SIM cards.

High-speed USB microprocessor and card technology open up new uses for smart cards in consumer electronics, such as SIM-based conditional access and digital rights management for ADSL and mobile pay-TV, digital signature, and home-networked applications, including full-speed audio and video streaming with encryption and decryption on-the-fly.

About Axalto

Axalto (Euronext: NL0000400653 AXL) is the world's leading provider of microprocessor cards (Gartner 2005, Frost & Sullivan 2004) — the key to digital networks — and a major supplier of point-of-sale terminals. Its 4500 employees come from over 65 nationalities and serve customers in more than 100 countries, with worldwide sales exceeding 3 billion smart cards to date. The company has 25 years' experience in smart card innovation and leads its industry in security technology and open systems.

Axalto continuously creates new generations of products for use in a variety of applications in the telecommunications, finance, retail, transport, entertainment, healthcare, personal identification, information technology and public sector markets. Microprocessor cards provide convenience, security and privacy to public and private services operators, their customers and end users.

For more info, please visit www.axalto.com

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