



Brussels, 11th April 2000-- SIMalliance, a group of the world's leading SIM card manufacturers, is restructuring its organization to incorporate new members and will publish its first specifications in May 2000.

SIMalliance success

SIMalliance was established by four of the world's leading SIM card manufacturers with a common interest in promoting the benefits of SIM technology for mobile phone operators. Following its announcement at GSM World Congress 2000 in Cannes, the initiative set up by Gemplus, Giesecke & Devrient, ORGA Kartensysteme and Schlumberger has received application for membership from more than 35 companies. Whilst restructuring to easily incorporate the new members, the SIMalliance has continued preparing S@T (SIM @lliance Toolbox) specifications for interoperable systems and products to access WML-based (WAP) mobile Internet services from any of the widely available phase2+ handsets.

SIM @lliance Toolbox (S@T) specifications

In March, the SIMalliance approved the first set of specifications covering the WML capabilities of S@T gateways and browsers and associated protocols ensuring interoperability among each other. Empowering a huge mass of legacy phones with browsing capabilities, this appears as a major breakthrough for short term mass market access to mobile internet content (WML).

The alliance is now working on comprehensive implementation guidelines, service development guidelines, tests and processes to complement this initial work. It is also planning to address support for Public Key Infrastructures (PKI) and bearer independence (Circuit Switched Data, General Packet Radio System).

Before end of July, the SIMalliance will set up a dedicated publication procedure for these specifications.

S@T specifications for service developers available in May

The SIMalliance will be accompanied by an explanatory white paper, the SIM @lliance Toolbox Markup Language (S@TML) specification. This document replicates the WML specification and outlines the core mediation capabilities of S@T technology applicable to access mobile Internet content (i.e. WAP services) from current GSM mobile phones. This release will allow service developers to offer large unified portfolios of services to WAP phones and Phase2+ handsets simultaneously, thus drastically extending the potential audience for these services, often by an order of magnitude or more.

This new Markup Language also proposes to mobile service developers an extension of WML (the mobile Internet service development language) to benefit from the existing SIM ToolKit (STK) technology - security, telephony interface... - over S@T gateways and SIM-based S@T browsers. This extension, primarily dedicated to support interactive STK services, provides an opportunity for WAP service providers and STK service providers to unify their information content and development environment. This document will be available for download on the SIMalliance website (www.SIMalliance.org).

SIMalliance Limited structure

In order to easily and efficiently incorporate a large membership, the SIMalliance is finalising its structure. Whilst it remains a non-profit organization, the SIMalliance is now incorporated as a company limited by guarantee in England by its four founding members, Gemplus, Giesecke & Devrient, ORGA Kartensysteme and Schlumberger. The board of directors, with overall responsibility for the operations of SIMalliance, establishes and terminates working groups to create or develop specifications. Naturally, the first group created is the S@T working group. Each working group will have three components: a Head, a Technical Development Group (TDG) and a Business Development Group (BDG). The TDG is responsible for the technical aspects of the working group's activities, and the BDG will be in charge of the non-technical aspects related to the working group's activity.

Membership Policy

Considering the objectives of the SIMalliance, the core of its membership consists of SIM card manufacturers, including the founding members. In addition, SIMalliance accepts application for membership from companies active in the fields directly relevant to its operations such as manufacturers of Over-The-Air management platforms, Short Message Service Centers and mobile handsets.

SIMalliance Forum

Interested parties who are not members of SIMalliance may contribute to the work carried out within the alliance in two ways. First, SIMalliance will regularly invite Strategic Partners to open forums to present the progress made in the working groups. The results of these forums will in turn be fed back into the working groups. In addition, Strategic Partners contributing via input papers and with available resources, can temporarily participate within a working group on specific subjects.

Glossary

SIM : Subscriber Identity Module

WAP : Wireless Application Protocol

WML : Wireless Markup Language