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Oberthur Card Systems (OCS) has joined SIMalliance formed to maximise GSM operator benefits from SIM and SIM Toolkit (STK) usage in the growth of value-added services.

In particular, the SIMalliance is pulling the security of SIM technology, the STK and the information freedom of the Internet together in an open, global standard in time to support WAP rollout in 2000: the SIM @lliance Toolbox, or S@T.

"We welcome this move by the industry to work together to aid the advancement of Smart Card technology and greatly look forward to playing a very active role in the alliance's future," said Amedeo d'Angelo, OCS' Vice President of Smart Card Development.

By working alongside the other Smart Card manufacturers in the consortium - Gemplus, Giesecke & Devrient (G&D), ORGA Kartensysteme and Schlumberger - Oberthur Card Systems will be producing open specifications critical in facilitating mass-market penetration of new SIM-based applications and services.