



The stepping stones to full Java™ interoperability - SIMalliance lays the foundations

- *Open to key GSM players worldwide*

Cartes 2001, Paris, 23 October 2001 - SIMalliance announces the launch of its specialist Java Card™ Interoperability Group, formed to accelerate progress towards full seamless interoperability of GSM Java applets and deliver the full benefits of Java technology's capabilities to GSM operators and their subscribers.

The flexibility, security, ease and rapid development cycle of Java technology has made it the leading open standard for the smart card industry, and the GSM community in particular. However, even within Java standards there are inevitable differences in SIM card implementations by various hardware and software providers. By providing clearly defined “stepping stones” to interoperability, including guidelines and tools, the SIMalliance Java Interoperability Group will help network operators and their partners bring new services to market quickly and efficiently. Furthermore, this will allow them to take full benefit from new delivery channels such as points of sale, the web, and Over the Air servers.

The new Java work group builds on the pioneering work carried out by SIMalliance members announced at the GSM World Congress earlier this year. Its key initial focus will be interoperability of GSM applets at the execution and administration level, the cornerstones of rapid service development and flexible deployment. Membership of the group is open to all players in the GSM value-added services arena, and all the results of the group's work will be available on the SIMalliance web site.

“Interoperability across the wireless world is everyone’s goal, but even with the best will in the world, individual organisations working in isolation can only slow progress down”, said Jean-Philippe Betoïn, Chairman of SIMalliance. “That’s why we’ve established an open group to focus on establishing a practical path to interoperability - it’s the only way to make *real* progress.”

Full details of this group and its work are available at www.simalliance.org

About SIMalliance

SIMalliance is a collaboration of the world’s leading SIM card manufacturers Gemplus, Giesecke & Devrient, Oberthur Card Systems, Orga Kartensysteme, SchlumbergerSema and X-Poncard. The alliance was formed to meet the convergence of the Mobile and Internet worlds and promotes standardised access to Internet content using existing SIM technology, existing Phase 2+ handsets and existing infrastructure.

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