



## **SIMALLIANCE NEWS RELEASE**

### **JAVA™ CARD APPLICATIONS PUT THROUGH THEIR PACES AT THIRD ETSI SMART CARD INTEROPERABILITY TESTING EVENT**

Sophia Antipolis, France – 23 October 2003

The development of smart card technology received a boost this week with a programme of special events held in the South of France as part of 'Smart Week'. The highlight was the third Smart Card Interoperability Event organized by ETSI's Plugtests™ service in co-operation with SIMalliance, which demonstrated that the Java Card SIM has become a stable technology platform for the deployment of new applications.

Interoperability is essential to ensure that equipment and services produced by different developers are able to work together. This benefits both the industry, by widening markets and minimising development costs, and ultimately the end user. Held on 21 and 22 October 2003 at ETSI headquarters in Sophia Antipolis, this Plugtest was designed for companies and individuals developing services based on Java Cards, to test the interoperability of their applets on SIM cards from different manufacturers. Confidential testing rooms were provided and delegates from competing organizations were able to meet together in a commercially secure environment to share experiences and improve interoperability between their implementations.

The event attracted over 70 engineers from 15 countries in different parts of the world. This Smart Card Plugtest is becoming an increasingly popular annual event, attracting mobile network operators, SIM card manufacturers, content providers and developers, and mobile manufacturers.

The event offered two distinct areas for testing:

- Applet testing – to review Java Card™ applications (checking code efficiency, redundancy and good Java Card programming practices) and to assess their interoperability with major Java Card products.

- Test suite ETSI 11.13 – to check the compliancy of Java Cards with the latest version of the ETSI 11.13 test suite using the SIMalliance tracer tool.

The following topics were addressed: the SIM Toolkit (core specifications, icon management and BIP), 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> generation mobile testing and low level testing. The event proved beneficial for smart card and applications developers; in the light of recent 3G deployments, it was also an especially valuable experience this year for mobile handset manufacturers, who took advantage of the improved technical capabilities on site including full radio environment to run all test cases with OTA (over the air) conditions.

Giancarlo Celentano, Chair of the SIMalliance Java Interoperability Workgroup, commented:

"For operators and content developers, it's how consumers interact with mobile services on their handset that will drive adoption and usage. Our challenge is to take the reality of technical interoperability a step further by working together with handset manufacturers to combine the benefits of fast and low cost service deployment with a universal end-user experience."

Joy Kelsey, Smart Card Delivery Team Manager, Orange UK added:

"This Plugtests event has shown that interoperability has significantly progressed. The Java Card SIM is becoming a stable technology platform for the deployment of new applications."

This interoperability event was funded under the European Commission's (EC's) eEurope Initiative, which aims to modernize the European economy. To achieve its goals, the EC has identified a number of prerequisites, including the need for a secure information infrastructure and the use of smart cards.

Other activities held during Smart Week have included, on 20 October, the SIMalliance Conference: 'Working Together - Java Card', on the future of the Java Card SIM, which explored the latest business and technical developments as well as operator experiences of Java Card SIM interoperability; and, on 21 October, a SIMalliance Workshop with a live demonstration of diagnostic tools and a technical panel discussion on interoperability. In parallel, from 21-24 October, the Plugtests service ran a second interoperability event, on J2ME™ (Java 2 Micro Edition), allowing developers, manufacturers, operators and other interested parties to check the interoperability of their J2ME applications.

A competition to find the best interoperable application, held during the Smart Card Plugtest, was won by SoNear of France for its two serverless location-based services. Said Jean-Romain Mejane of SoNear: "It's an important achievement for us that this Plugtest event proves the interoperability of our applications across the different industry Java Card SIMs."

Further details of this event and other forthcoming Plugtests events are available at:

[www.etsi.org/plugtests/home.htm](http://www.etsi.org/plugtests/home.htm).

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## NOTES TO EDITORS

### **About SIMalliance**

*SIMalliance is a non-profit organization of leading SIM card manufacturers (Axalto, Gemplus, Giesecke & Devrient, Oberthur, ORGA Kartensysteme, Prism, ST Incard and Xponcard) created to promote the benefits of SIM cards and SIM-based services and to provide open and interoperable solutions for mobile service deployment.*

For further information: [www.simalliance.org](http://www.simalliance.org)

### **About ETSI**

*Based in Sophia Antipolis (France), the European Telecommunications Standards Institute (ETSI) is officially responsible for standardization in telecommunications, broadcasting and certain aspects of information technology within Europe. As such, it also plays a major role in global standardization. ETSI unites almost 800 members from nearly 60 countries inside and outside Europe, including manufacturers, network operators, administrations, service providers, research bodies and users – in fact, all the key players in the telecommunications arena.*

For more information: [www.etsi.org/](http://www.etsi.org/)

### **About the European Commission's eEurope Initiative**

*eEurope 2002 – An Information Society For All – was launched in 2000 to ensure that the whole of Europe reaps the benefits of the Information Society; it is a key element in the strategy for modernizing the European economy and aims to bring everyone in Europe – every citizen, every school and every company – on-line as quickly as possible.*

For more information: [www.eeurope-standards.org/](http://www.eeurope-standards.org/)

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