SIMALLIANCE PRESS RELEASE

SIM Java Card

Applet Interoperability Testing produces excellent results

SIMalliance, UK – 9th September 2002

At the second Smart Card Interoperability Test event, held at ETSI’s premises and organised with the SIMalliance, a major step forward was taken to demonstrate true commercial interoperability of SIM Java Card based applications.

The event had two main themes:

- testing of the SIM/USIM Application Toolkit, aimed at technical staff from card and handset manufacturers;
- for the first time, testing of SIM API for Java™ Card, focusing on the real interchange of Java applets between different card manufacturers, and aimed at Java applet developers, operators, card manufacturers and handset suppliers.

Some 50 representatives from mobile operators, handset manufacturers, Applet developers, test-tool suppliers and smart card manufacturers gathered together for 2 days to provide an opportunity for those engineers from these competing and complementary organisations to meet together to improve and test interoperability between their Java Card SIM based applications.

The tests, which were held on Wednesday 4 and Thursday 5 September at the headquarters of the European Telecommunications Standards Institute (ETSI) in Sophia Antipolis, France, were organised by ETSI’s Plugtests™ Service in co-operation with the SIMalliance industrial forum.

A variety of tests were run on some 5 independently provided applets, with criteria of performance and adherence to the ETSI standards, Java Card standards and SIMalliance Interoperability Guidelines the major requirement. 3 independent test-houses assisting the SIMalliance (Bantry Technologies, Trusted Logic and Integri) judged the supplied applets for code compilation, CAP file conversion, loading and execution as well as applet behaviour in
different GSM™ handsets. 7 different manufacturers’ Java Cards were used in the tests with a variety of 32 and 64Kbyte EEPROM and data structures.

Covering some 95% of all currently shipped SIM Java Cards, the tests strongly confirmed the viability of the interoperability of Java SIM cards. This in turn should boost business in the SIM applet development area and give greater confidence to operators and users of the technology that, by engaging complete co-operation of all parties in the smart card technology chain, nobody will be frustrated by the inability of the various systems to inter-operate.

In recognition of the work at the event, the SIMalliance also took the opportunity to award its first Interoperability Prize to Matchtip Ltd for its SIMecho background phonebook management application. The sophisticated applet was loaded onto all supplied Java cards and demonstrated a high degree of compliance to the standards. Matchtip were awarded a Java developers training package at a company of their choice paid for by the SIMalliance.

Eric Swain, VP Business Development, Matchtip, commented: "Matchtip Ltd was very pleased to be at the SIMalliance/ETSI Interoperability Plug-Test Event. It gave us the opportunity to prove that our SIMecho applet successfully passed the interoperability tests for many different manufacturers’ Java Cards."

The event also confirmed SIMalliance’s position as a major force in bringing commercial interoperability issues to practical solutions. The work of the SIMalliance will continue especially with emerging handset implementations of Java J2ME bringing new integration and security challenges with the (U) SIM cards and sophisticated Over-The-Air application management.

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NOTES TO EDITORS

About SIMalliance

SIMalliance is a collaboration of the world’s leading SIM card manufacturers: Gemplus, Giesecke & devrient, Oberthur, ORGA Kartensysteme, SchlumbergerSema and Xponcard. SIMalliance is a non-profit organisation created to promote the benefits of SIM Cards and SIM-Based services.
The SIMalliance:
- Acts as an incubator for SIM Card enhancements to be proposed to standardisation bodies and Industry Forums,
- Boosts adoption of innovative and interoperable SIM Card solutions,
- Eases the integration of the SIM card in the new mobile data architectures and services landscape.

SIMalliance promotes key functionalities and usages of the SIM Card that help energise the new generation of mobile services.

The major achievements include proposing enhancements and providing support to standards and interoperable products surrounding mobile internet and open platform technologies.

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About ETSI

For more information on Plugtests: http://www.etsi.org/plugtests/

ETSI (the European Telecommunications Standards Institute) is a non-profit-making, independent organisation whose mission is to produce the telecommunications standards that will be used for decades to come throughout Europe and beyond.
Based in Sophia Antipolis (France), ETSI unites 913 members from 54 countries inside and outside Europe, and represents manufacturers, network operators, administrations, service providers, research bodies and users. Its members, who are also responsible for approving its deliverables, determine the Institute’s work programme. As a result, ETSI’s activities are maintained in close alignment with the market needs expressed by its members.
ETSI plays a major role in developing a wide range of standards and other technical documentation as Europe's contribution to world-wide standardisation in telecommunications, broadcasting and information technology. ETSI’s prime objective is to support global harmonisation by providing a forum in which all the key players can contribute actively. ETSI is officially recognised by the European Commission (EC) and the European Free Trade Association (EFTA). ETSI web site: http://www.etsi.org/