



Axalto Selected for the Czech Republic Electronic Passport Roll Out

Amsterdam / Praha, March 27, 2006 – Axalto (Euronext NL0000400653 AXL), the world's leader in microprocessor cards, today announced it will provide the digital security technology to be used in future electronic passports for Czech citizens. Under the contract, Swiss secure printing expert Trüb will provide the Czech national printing agency STC (Statni Tiskarna Cenin) with the polycarbonate data page embedding Axalto's advanced secure electronic passport technology.

Czech government intends to deliver the first electronic passports to Czech citizens by early April. Initial quantities of e-passports will be produced to meet that deadline while STC expects to ramp up production to 200 000 e-passports by end 2006. The STC currently produces between 500 000 and 600 000 passports each year. The contract includes three million pieces by 2010.

Axseal, the technology provided by Axalto, features in particular the company's highly secure operating system with advanced cryptographic capabilities running on a large capacity contactless chip. This operating system is EAL4+ security certified along the international security common criteria, and compliant with the latest International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) standards and with the European Union regulatory framework.

Frédéric Trojani, director public sector products at Axalto commented: "Czech citizens will shortly benefit from the convenience of smart travel documents, and Axalto is honored to participate in this ambitious electronic passport program initiated by the Czech Republic government".

Axalto's global footprint and recognized expertise in digital security for public sector applications, combined with Trüb's technology for secure electronic passport and historical printing proficiency will provide Czech citizens and government with the greatest advantages of electronic passports, addressing security, privacy and durability.

About Axalto

Axalto (Euronext: NL0000400653 AXL) is the world's leading provider of microprocessor cards (Gartner 2005, Frost & Sullivan 2004) - the key to digital networks - and a major supplier of point-of-sale terminals. Its 4500 employees come from over 60 nationalities and serve customers in more than 100 countries, with worldwide sales exceeding 3 billion smart cards to date. The company has 25 years' experience in smart card innovation and leads its industry in security technology and open systems.

Axalto continuously creates new generations of products for use in a variety of applications in the telecommunications, finance, retail, transport, entertainment, healthcare, personal identification, information technology and public sector markets. Microprocessor cards provide convenience, security and privacy to public and private services operators, their customers and end users. For more info, please visit www.axalto.com

Axalto

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