

Gemalto Wins Best Vendor Partner Award from MasterCard

MasterCard® OneSmart™ *PayPass*™ EMV Contactless Combi Cards Provided by Gemalto Enhance Consumers' Purchasing Experiences

Amsterdam--Taipei, August 22, 2006– Gemalto (Euronext NL0000400653 GTO), a world leader in digital security, today announced that it has won a “Best Vendor Partner Award” for its MasterCard® OneSmart™ *PayPass*™ EMV (Europay MasterCard Visa) Contactless Combi Cards at the MasterCard Asia/Pacific, Middle East & Africa Product Forum in August 2006. Gemalto is delivering the cards to two of Taiwan’s leading banks: Cathay United Bank, one of the top three credit card issuing banks in Taiwan; and Taipei Fubon Bank, Taiwan’s second-largest privately owned bank.

“MasterCard presented this Best Vendor Partner Award to Gemalto in recognition of their efforts in taking a lead in designing and producing MasterCard® OneSmart™ *PayPass*™ EMV Contactless Combi Card to financial institutions in Taiwan. The convenient, flexible and secure MasterCard® OneSmart™ *PayPass*™ EMV Contactless Combi Card produced by Gemalto will enable banks to extend a wide range of valuable services to their customers.” Commented by MasterCard.

The cards are compliant with Taipei Smart Card Corporation’s applications (stored value card, and Epurse for transportation applications) and will simplify and quicken small-sum payments for Taiwan’s MRT, bus, parking lots and other locations, allowing cardholders to benefit from high-tech, secure and convenient transactions. Cardholders no longer need to swipe their cards, search for coins or wait for change: they can simply tap their MasterCard *PayPass* EMV Combi cards at *PayPass*™ readers to complete the transactions. The *PayPass*™ EMV Contactless Combi Card features both a built-in chip and a standard magnetic stripe, ensuring the card is still applicable to be used at existing terminals.

“We are very proud to be recognized as a Best Partner by MasterCard,” said Tan Teck Lee, President of Gemalto North Asia. “Our MasterCard® OneSmart™ *PayPass*™ EMV Contactless Combi Card provides an enhanced experience that benefits both consumers and enterprises. As our projects with two Taiwanese banks demonstrate, our ultimate goal is not only to make the deployment of card applications easier for our partners, but also enable our clients to bring more value to their end users. With a strong R&D base in the Asia-Pacific region and the advanced capacity to provide customized state-of-the-art products, Gemalto is well prepared to explore more business opportunities in local markets with diverse groups of partners.”

About MasterCard® *PayPass*™

MasterCard *PayPass* is a new “contactless” payment program that provides consumers with a simple way to pay. Using MasterCard *PayPass*, consumers simply “tap” their payment card, or alternative *PayPass* form factor, on a specially equipped merchant terminal, eliminating the need to swipe a card through a reader or fumble for cash and coins. The new solution is ideal for quick payment environments where speed is essential, such as quick serve restaurants, gas stations, drug stores, supermarkets and movie theaters.

About MasterCard Worldwide

MasterCard Worldwide advances global commerce by providing a critical economic link between financial institutions, businesses, cardholders and merchants worldwide. As a franchisor, processor and advisor, MasterCard develops and markets payment solutions, processes close to 14 billion payments each year, and provides industry-leading analysis and consulting services to financial institution customers and merchants. Through its family of brands, including MasterCard®, Maestro® and Cirrus®, MasterCard Worldwide serves consumers and businesses in more than 210 countries and territories. For more information go to www.mastercardworldwide.com.

About Cathay United Bank

Cathay United was formed in a merger between United World Chinese Commercial Bank and Cathay United Bank, both wholly-owned subsidiaries of Cathay Financial Holding Company. United World Chinese Commercial Bank is the surviving company, but the merged bank was re-named Cathay United Bank, effective October 27, 2003. Cathay United Bank is headquartered in Taipei, Taiwan and does business throughout Taiwan with more than 107 branches providing four major product lines: corporate banking, consumer banking, wealth management and credit cards. It currently has eight offices in locations outside of Taiwan, including Mainland China, South East Asia and the United States. For more information, please visit: <https://www.cathaybk.com.tw/cathaybk/>

About Taipei Fubon Bank

Taipei Fubon Bank was formed in January 2005 following a merger between Fubon Bank and Taipei Bank. With a total capital NTD 28.1 billion, Taipei Fubon Bank is headquartered in Taipei, Taiwan and has 121 branches in Taiwan and 4 overseas with 5,318 employees. Its lines of business include corporate banking, consumer banking, wealth management, credit cards, treasury services, trust services, government banking and lottery services. For more information, please visit: <http://www.taipeifubon.com.tw/>

About Gemalto

Gemalto (Euronext NL 0000400653 GTO) is a leader in digital security with pro forma 2005 annual revenues of EUR 1.7 billion (USD 2.2 billion), operations in 120 countries and 11,000 employees including 1,500 R&D engineers. The company's solutions make personal digital interactions secure and easy in a world where everything of value - from money to entertainment to identities - is increasingly represented as bits and bytes communicated over networks.

Gemalto thrives on creating and deploying secure platforms, portable and secure forms of software in highly personal objects like smart cards, SIMs, e-passports, readers and tokens. More than a billion people worldwide use the company's products and services for telecommunications, banking, e-government, identity management, multimedia content, digital rights management, IT security and other applications. Gemalto was formed in June 2006 by the combination of Axalto and Gemplus International S.A. For more information please visit www.gemalto.com.

***Combi card** is a smart card that is the same size and shape as a magnetic stripe card, but contains a computer chip with a microprocessor. It has both contact and contactless interfaces, carries more information than regular cards, and has the processing power to serve many different applications.