



Thales Joins Smart Card Alliance Leadership Council

Weston, Florida, April 10, 2007 - Thales, a leading provider of cryptographic security products securing value based transactions over global payment networks and high performance network encryption, announced today that it has joined the Leadership Council of the Smart Card Alliance.

The Smart Card Alliance is the world's largest smart card industry association which strongly advocates the use of smart card technology in a way that protects privacy and enhances data security and integrity. Its membership includes leading companies in the banking, financial services, computer, telecommunications, technology, healthcare, retail, and entertainment industries. Thales has been a member of the Smart Card Alliance since September 2002 and through the Leadership Council now takes a larger role in the shaping of alliance policy and activities, which accelerate the adoption of smart cards throughout the world.

As this industry grows, the leadership provided by Smart Card Alliance members and the educational tools they develop, is highly influential in proper adoption of smart card technology for critical needs. "We are pleased to commit broader support of the Smart Card Alliance through the Leadership Council and elected roles on its councils," said Cynthia Provin, President of e-Security activities of Thales in the Americas.

Thales is increasing its presence in the United States with its SafeSign product line, providing flexible, Federated ID services for FIPS 201 compliant solutions, Real ID and airport access control and credentialing to these markets. The Smart Card Alliance's councils on Identity, Physical Access Control Systems, Transportation and Contactless payments provides thought leadership and solid educational materials enabling the use of smart card technology in solutions that are secure, sensitive to privacy concerns, scalable and reliable.

-END-

About Thales

Thales is a leading international electronics and systems group, serving defense, aerospace and security markets worldwide, supported by a comprehensive services offering. Thales offers unmatched capability in the development and deployment of critical information systems. The group's civil and military businesses develop in parallel to serve a single objective: the security of people, property and nations. Thales group employs 70,000 people in 50 countries and generated revenues of \$13 billion in 2006.

The new Security Solutions & Services Division, operational since 5 January 2007, combines the businesses of Thales's former Security and Services divisions with those of Alcatel-Lucent's Transport Systems Division and Integration & Services Division. The new division makes Thales a world market leader in transport and security markets. Our security solutions and services activities around the world now generate revenues of about 4 billion dollars, with 20,000 employees in 35 countries.

Thales is a world leader in the provision of cryptographic security products and solutions for all critical infrastructures including governments, the military, satellite networks, enterprises and the finance industry. Thales has 40 years of unrivalled track record in protecting networks up to TOP SECRET and a complete portfolio of products which includes network encryption, access control and remote user solutions. In the financial world, Thales secures value bearing transactions, data preparation for card and PIN issuing, and provides advanced user and message authentication solutions supported by secure identity management and token issuing. Over half of the world's banks, together with the majority of the busiest exchanges, currently use Thales technology and services. Visit Thales e-Security on the Web at: www.thalesesec.com

About the Smart Card Alliance

The Smart Card Alliance is a not-for-profit, multi-industry association working to stimulate the understanding, adoption, use and widespread application of smart card technology.

Through specific projects such as education programs, market research, advocacy, industry relations and open forums, the Alliance keeps its members connected to industry leaders and innovative thought. The Alliance is the single industry voice for smart cards, leading industry discussion on the impact and value of smart cards in the U.S. and Latin America. For more information, please visit <http://www.smartcardalliance.org>.

Thales e-Security, Inc.

Rochelle Hopke - Manager, Marketing Communications
Tel: 954-888-6200/1-888-744-4976
Direct: 954-888-6297
rochelle.hopke@thalesesec.com

Smart Card Alliance Contact:

Randy Vanderhoof, Executive Director
Tel: 800-556-6828
Direct: 609-587-4208
rvanderhoof@smartcardalliance.org