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EUROPAY, MASTERCARD AND VISA COMPLETE FINAL PHASE OF GLOBAL CHIP CARD SPECIFICATIONS
- EMV '96 Ready for release -

Waterloo/New York/San Francisco, 16 July, 1996

Europay International, MasterCard International and Visa International (EMV) today announced the updated version of the joint specifications for Integrated Circuit Cards (ICC) for Payment Systems, EMV '96. This newly-revised release is backward-compatible with the June 1995 release 2.0 and completes the specifications for a global payments framework using "chip" or "smart" cards.

EMV '96 includes new information regarding dynamic data authentication and terminal software architecture. The specifications also include post-issuance commands and secure messaging for application management. The document structure also was re-organised to make the content more user-friendly for manufacturers developing globally compatible chip cards and terminals that will operate consistently, securely, and reliably across borders and systems worldwide.

This EMV '96 release marks the culmination of the two-and-a-half year joint effort by the three payment organisations, resulting in the industry's first global chip card payment infrastructure. The infrastructure itself is based on a common set of technical specifications derived from standards set by International Standards Organisation (ISO) for microprocessor cards and card-reading terminals for the payment industry.

Newly-Designed Functional Areas

The June 1996 release of the specification has been re-organised to ease the understanding of the new information and the addition of new applications. The EMV '96, Integrated Circuit Card (ICC) Specifications for Payment Systems, consists of three documents : the ICC Card Specification, the ICC Terminal Specification, and the ICC Application Specification.

These three documents integrate new information that addresses optional card and terminal processing methods and applications as follows:

- Dynamic Data Authentication - a risk control mechanism that enhances security by performing off-line card authentication using public key cryptography in both the card and terminal;

- Terminal Software Architecture - an additional section in the ICC Terminal Specification

containing different approaches that terminal manufacturers and member financial institutions may use when designing future terminal software;

- Post-Issuance Commands - commands in a card that facilitate application management by the card-issuing financial institution;

- Secure messaging - a mechanism that ensures the confidentiality and the integrity of the data that is originated by a card-issuing financial institution and sent to the card.

With the completion of this final phase, further versions of the EMV ICC Specifications for Payment Systems will be regular maintenance releases. There are no further plans for a functionally-enhanced EMV specification.

Those who have copies of the 1995 EMV release 2.0 will automatically receive the EMV '96 specifications. Interested parties who did not receive the earlier 2.0 specifications can obtain the latest version either by request or by contacting any one of the following Internet websites : http://www.europay.com; http://www.mastercard.com or http://www.visa.com.

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