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Axalto shareholders approve combination project with Gemplus

Amsterdam, Tuesday January 31st 2006 - Axalto Holding N.V. (Euronext NL0000400653 - AXL) reports that its Extraordinary General Meeting of Shareholders convened today in the Sheraton Amsterdam Airport Hotel, in order to approve the projected combination of the company with Gemplus International S.A. announced on December 7th 2005.

A very large majority adopted the single resolution put forth to shareholders vote, with over 99.9% of votes cast in favor of the resolution (15 342 651 votes approved the resolution, no vote cast against the resolution, and 51 votes abstained).

Important information

Investors and security holders are strongly advised to read, when they become available, the prospectus/offer to exchange and related exchange offer materials regarding the business combination transaction referenced in this press release, as well as any amendments and supplements to those documents because they will contain important information. When available, the prospectus/offer to exchange and the other documents may also be obtained from Axalto Investor Relations. If required, the prospectus/offer to exchange will be filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission by Axalto. To the extent the prospectus/offer to exchange is filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC"), security holders may obtain a free copy of the prospectus/offer to exchange (when available) and other related documents filed by Axalto at the Commission's website at www.sec.gov.

Investors and security holders who are US persons or who are located in the United States should also read any solicitation/recommendation statement of Gemplus on Schedule 14D-9 when and if filed by Gemplus with the SEC because it will contain important information. The solicitation/recommendation statement and other public filings made from time to time by Gemplus with the SEC are available without charge from the SEC's website at www.sec.gov. This document, if issued, will also be available for inspection and copying at the public reference room maintained by the SEC at 450 Fifth Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20549, United States. For further information about the public reference room, call the SEC at +1 800 732 0330.

In France, holders of Gemplus securities are requested, with respect to the offer, to refer, when filed by Axalto, to the prospectus (note d'information) that will be available on the website of the AMF (www.amf-france.org).

This communication does not constitute an offer to purchase or exchange or the solicitation of an offer to sell or exchange any securities of Axalto or an offer to sell or exchange or the solicitation of an offer to buy or exchange any securities of Gemplus, nor shall there be any sale or exchange of securities in any jurisdiction in which such offer, solicitation, sale or exchange would be unlawful prior to the registration or qualification from the laws of such jurisdiction. Accordingly, persons who come into possession of this document should inform themselves of and observe these restrictions. The solicitation of offers to buy any Gemplus ordinary shares (including Gemplus shares represented by Gemplus American Depositary Shares) in the United States will only be made pursuant to a prospectus/offer to exchange and related offer materials that Axalto expects to send to holders of Gemplus securities, in accordance with or pursuant to an exemption from the U.S. securities laws.

Unless otherwise determined by Axalto, it is not intended that any offer will be made, directly or indirectly, in or into Australia, Canada or Japan and in such circumstances it will not be capable of acceptance in or from Australia, Canada or Japan. Accordingly, copies of this announcement are not being, and must not be, mailed or otherwise distributed or sent in or into Australia, Canada or Japan. Custodians, nominees and trustees should observe these restrictions and should not send or distribute this announcement in or into Australia, Canada or Japan.

Forward-Looking Statements

This communication contains certain statements that are neither reported financial results nor other historical information and other statements concerning Axalto, Gemplus and their combined businesses after completion of the proposed combination. These statements include financial projections and estimates and their underlying assumptions, statements regarding plans, objectives and expectations with respect to future operations, events, products and services and future performance. Forward-looking statements are generally identified by the words "expects", "anticipates", "believes", "intends", "estimates" and similar expressions. These and other information and statements contained in this communication constitute forward-looking statements within the safe harbor provisions of U.S. federal securities laws. Although management of the companies believe that the expectations reflected in the forward-looking statements are reasonable, investors and security holders are cautioned that forward-looking information and statements are subject to various risks and uncertainties, many of which are difficult to predict and generally beyond the control of the companies, that could cause actual results and developments to differ materially from those expressed in, or implied or projected by, the forward-looking information and statements, and the companies cannot guarantee future results, levels of activity, performance or achievements. Factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from those estimated by the forward-looking statements contained in this communication include, but are not limited to: the ability of the companies to integrate according to expectations; the ability of the companies to achieve the expected synergies from the transaction; trends in wireless communication and mobile commerce markets; the companies' ability to develop new technology and the effects of competing technologies developed and expected intense competition generally in the companies' main markets; profitability of expansion strategy; challenges to or loss of intellectual property rights; ability to establish and maintain strategic relationships in their major businesses; ability to develop and take advantage of new software and services; the effect of the transaction and any future acquisitions and investments on the companies' share prices; changes in global, political, economic, business, competitive, market and regulatory forces; and those discussed by Gemplus in its filings with the SEC, including under the headings "Cautionary Statement Concerning Forward-Looking Statements" and "Risk Factors". Moreover, neither the companies nor any other person assumes responsibility for the accuracy and completeness of such forward-looking statements. The forward-looking statements contained in this communication speak only as of this communication and the companies are under no duty to update any of the forward-looking statements after this date to conform such statements to actual results or to reflect the occurrence of anticipated results or otherwise.

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About Axalto

Axalto (AXAL.PA - Euronext: NL0000400653 - AXL) is the world's leading provider (Gartner 2005, Frost & Sullivan 2004) of microprocessor cards - the key to digital networks - and a major supplier of point-of-sale terminals. Its 4,500 employees, from over 60 nationalities, serve customers in more than 100 countries, with worldwide sales reaching over 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 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 information, please visit www.axalto.com