



Axalto Partners with Bharti Telesoft to Deliver Cash-Based Prepaid Reloading Solution

Voucherless top-up solution enables 25 million subscribers worldwide
to recharge their account with cash

Amsterdam, The Netherlands, 22 March, 2006 – Axalto (Euronext: NL0000400653 – AXL), the world's leader in microprocessor cards, today announced a partnership with Bharti Telesoft in India to provide mobile operators with PreTUPS, a convenient prepaid top-up solution that enables subscribers to recharge their account with cash or directly through their mobile phone.

Bharti Telesoft is India's leading provider of software solutions and services to mobile operators and has more than 45 implementations of PreTUPS worldwide, allowing 25 million subscribers to benefit from this highly practical recharge solution. Through this partnership with Axalto, Bharti Telesoft will gain more access to operators and enhance business opportunities, further boosting the commerciality of its PreTUPS application since its win at the Axalto SIMagine 2005 worldwide contest.

In some developing markets, prepaid subscribers can account for more than 90% of a mobile operator's customer base. Users require a fast, simple and flexible means to top-up their talk time in small and variable amounts. PreTUPS enables subscribers to pay for just the talk time they need, freeing them from the constraint of buying vouchers with predetermined values.

With this solution, prepaid subscribers simply buy airtime with cash from a local retailer and their account is automatically credited. PreTUPS also allows peer-to-peer top-up and enables users to transfer talk time to friends and family.

"PreTUPS is perfectly suited to the needs of subscribers in fast growing countries, where most people do not have a bank account," said Sanjiv Mital, Bharti Telesoft's chief executive officer. "They want to be able to recharge their account with cash, in lower denominations than are usually available with traditional vouchers."

"We are delighted to embark on this partnership with Bharti Telesoft, following the SIMagine2005 contest where PreTUPS received the Silver award," said Cédric Collomb, director of mobile communications at Axalto. "PreTUPS offers operators an innovative alternative to the scratch card, which is costly to produce, deploy and store in secure places. Thanks to its ease of deployment, PreTUPS is cheaper to implement, as it does not require any specific infrastructure as opposed to e-vouchers for instance."

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 65 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

About Bharti Telesoft

Bharti Telesoft provides value added products and solutions to wireless and wireline telecom service providers. Bharti Telesoft's flexible, telco-grade applications span the core areas of an operator's business: Messaging, Call Management, Roaming, Prepaid, Customer Care and Billing, and Content. Bharti Telesoft has deployed value added solutions in over 25 countries to service providers operating over 100 networks and serving over 100 million subscribers. The company is ranked as India's second fastest growing technology company by Deloitte Technology and as one of Asia's Top 100 Technology Companies by Red Herring, a premier business technology and innovation magazine. Bharti Telesoft is part of Bharti Enterprises, a group encompassing India's largest telecom service provider, Bharti Tele-Ventures.

For more information, please visit www.bhartitelesoft.com

Contacts**Axalto**

Aline Borne

T.: +33 (0)1 55 01 51 05

M.: +33 (0)6 16 29 87 04

aborne@axalto.com

Fleishman – Hillard

Arnaud Malherbe

T.: +33 (0)1 47 42 92 76

M.: +33 (0)6 12 26 22 95

malherba@fleishmaneurop.com