



## **Axalto and Ghirlanda EMV Card Shipments to CartaSi Top 2 Million**

**Partners achieve massive smart cards delivery to largest Italian credit card issuer**

**Amsterdam, The Netherlands, April 3, 2006** – Axalto (Euronext: NL0000400653 – AXL), the world's leader in microprocessor cards, today announced it is working alongside Ghirlanda, Italy's leading provider of banking cards and personalization services, to supply high-end EMV (Europay MasterCard Visa) cards to credit card issuer CartaSi. Under the contract, Axalto supplies the modules and the related digital security technology, while Ghirlanda is in charge of local card production and personalization.

Italian banks are following the path of many European countries in migrating to the EMV standard in order to reinforce the security of transactions and protect their customers from fraud. Adopting the EMV standard puts CartaSi in a position to provide cardholders with a secure and convenient means of payment. For financial institutions like CartaSi, issuing EMV smart cards will help to eliminate fraudulent card usage and open up multiple opportunities to provide their customers with differentiated value-added services such as loyalty programs and cardholder authentication for e-commerce and on-line services, as well as smart ticketing.

*"The switch to chip-based cards will reinforce our relationship with our clients by raising their confidence," commented Maurizio Cartocci, managing director, CartaSi. "Axalto and Ghirlanda were steadfast partners throughout the project and their professionalism allowed us to achieve success as we implemented the EMV standards."*

*"Drawing on its extensive experience in deploying EMV smart card programs worldwide, Axalto ensures a seamless migration process for CartaSi," added Philippe Cambriel, president EMEA, Axalto. "We are enthused to provide CartaSi with a differentiating advanced technology that strengthens their position in the market through new services."*

### **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](http://www.axalto.com)

### **About CartaSi**

CartaSi SpA is the leading company in the credit cards Italian market, with more than 7,5 million Cards in circulation.

CartaSi issues payment card for more than 800 banks, distributes transactions negotiation services and manages relations with network of acceptance.

For more info, [www.cartasi.it](http://www.cartasi.it)

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