



## **Axalto Recognized for “Excellence in Europe” by Foundation for Quality Management**

**Award places Barcelona site in the top tier enterprises in Europe for excellence**

**Amsterdam, The Netherlands, August 23, 2005** – Axalto (Euronext NL0000400653 AXL), the world's leader of microprocessor cards, today announced it has received the prestigious European Foundation for Quality Management “Recognized for Excellence” award at its production and service site in Barcelona. This award, which acknowledges a high level of business excellence and quality of service, places the company in the top 10% of the excellence enterprises in Europe.

European Foundation for Quality Management (EFQM) is a not-for-profit foundation for organizations in Europe looking to excel in their market and in their business. Its Excellence Model is aimed to provide enterprises with guidelines to achieve and measure their progress and success through self-assessment and benchmarking. This model for quality management is based on a number of criteria including leadership, results orientation, customer focus, people development and involvement and corporate social responsibility.

“The facility in Barcelona met all the requirements of the “Recognized for Excellence” level with flying colors,” said Vinciane Beauvain, marketing and member relations operational manager with EFQM. “This is evidence that Axalto is strongly committed to meeting the needs of their customers, employees, financial partners and other stakeholders.”

“This award is a milestone that celebrates our dedication to achieving world-class levels of excellence,” commented Jimmy Croll, operations manager of the Axalto Barcelona facility. “Striving for excellence allows our place to be a leading company in Europe. We have been able to consistently exceed customer expectations and demonstrate our progress to our stakeholders.”

Axalto started the EFQM model implementation in 2002. Its effort was already rewarded in 2004 by the “Committed to Excellence in Europe” prize. Today, the “Recognized for Excellence” level acknowledges the company's total commitment to business excellence. This award entitles the company to use the European Foundation for Quality Management “R4E” (Recognized for Excellence) insignia in their commercial and promotional efforts.

## **About Axalto**

Axalto (Euronext: NL0000400653 AXL) is the world's leading provider of microprocessor cards (Gartner 2005, Fost & Sullivan 2004) — the key to digital networks — and a major supplier of point-of-sale terminals. Its 4500 employees come from over 60 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.

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