



## **Axalto to Deliver Biometric Smart Cards for the National Identity Project of Qatar**

**Axalto sole supplier for this ID program with a potential roll out of 700 000 cards over the next three years**

**Amsterdam / Doha, May 17 2006** – Axalto (Euronext NL0000400653 AXL), the world's leader of microprocessor cards, today announced it will contribute to the Qatar national ID program with the delivery of fingerprint match-on cards, associated readers and services. Qatari citizens will use these high-end cards, combining a built-in biometrics feature, contact and contactless technologies as their national ID document as of the first quarter of 2007.

This smart card, the size of a credit card, will serve as the official ID document for Qatari citizens above 16, as well as foreign residents. In addition to the personal data available in usual ID documents (such as name, birth date, address etc), the microprocessor will also store the person's fingerprint. The biometric data remains on the chip and never leaves the card even when the identity verification is being performed, respecting privacy of the cardholder.

Thanks to the security features embedded in his/her ID card, the cardholder will be able to access e-government services and perform transactions in a simple and secure manner. Using an Axalto smart card reader connected to their home computer, citizens could use their smart ID card to declare a household employee, change of address, or obtain civil records (<http://www.moi.gov.qa>).

Moreover, the contactless technology built in the card together with the match-on card capability allows this ID card to be used as a travel document, increasing speed, convenience and security of identity verification at border crossing.

Colonel Saleh Khamis Al Kubaisi, head of computer systems department of the Qatar Ministry of Interior commented: "Worldwide concerns related to security, border control and financial criminality are prompting governments to fight identity theft attempts. And Qatar is no exception; but it is a strong will from our government to use a technology that can also improve our citizens' life and contribute to the modernization of our administration. The smart card technology strikes us as the best means to meet all these needs."

"For the Qatar national ID program, Axalto provides a comprehensive and multi-application smart card based solution that clearly benefits both the Ministry of Interior of Qatar and the card holder: security in the identification of the cardholder, convenience when crossing borders, and trust when accessing e-government services" added Olivier Piou, chief executive officer of Axalto.

### **About Axalto**

Axalto (Euronext: NL0000400653 AXL) is the world's leading provider of microprocessor cards (Gartner 2005) - 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. For more info, please visit [www.axalto.com](http://www.axalto.com)

### **Axalto**

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