



## **Axalto Java Smart Cards Power Private Payment System for Moroccan Oil Leader Afriquia**

**Amsterdam, May 24, 2005**, Axalto (Euronext: NL0000400653 – AXL) today announced that it has provided smart cards to Afriquia, a leading Moroccan oil company, for its private payment system. The Afriquia program is the first implementation of a private payment program using Java-based cards by an oil company in Africa.

Afriquia issues smart cards from Axalto's Java Palmera™ line, as a proprietary charge card that lets Afriquia's business customers pay for, manage and control all fuel and service expenses for their vehicle fleets and employee owned cars. Under the program, the cards also can be used to pay for highway tolls and related services, such as auto repair, at Afriquia's partners.

"Security and flexibility were the two overriding requirements for the cards when we were developing this program," said Khalid Benabdelkader, corporate IT manager for Afriquia. "The Axalto Palmera smart card was the best choice for us because it provides a high level of security and because it lets us develop applications that can be securely added to cards after they're issued. This flexibility is essential for us to evolve our program by delivering new capabilities our customers want."

The Palmera smart card product family brings together the pioneering Java Card technology of Axalto with an Open Platform architecture. With Palmera, card issuers can offer multiple applications on a single smart card including secure financial transactions, e-purse, credit/debit and loyalty programs.

"Afriquia is a very service oriented company, and they fully utilized the Palmera capabilities to create a program that will help their customers control expenses and reduce fraud," said Philippe Cambriel, president EMEA, Axalto.

Afriquia designed the payment system so that business customers can track the gas and services expenses of employees who use a car while on the job. Employees directly benefit because by using the card, they participate in loyalty programs that offer discounts at participating vendors. This advantage encourages card usage and in turn reduces the chances that employees will use an alternate payment method that businesses cannot easily track.

### **About Axalto**

Axalto (Euronext: NL0000400653 AXL) is the world's leading provider of microprocessor cards (Gartner Dataquest 2004) — the key to digital networks — and a major supplier of point-of-sale terminals. Its 4500 employees come from 70 nationalities and serve customers in more than 100 countries, with worldwide sales reaching 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 Afriquia SMDC**

Afriquia SMDC operates since 1959 in the national distribution and storage of petroleum products. It stands in the first rank since 2003.

In addition to a network of 210 Gas-stations, Our Company operates on the fuel industry market, aviation and fishing sector.

Afriquia SMDC has developed in 1996 a line of Gas payment cards. The Afriquia cards offer the users the opportunity to settle their Gas costs and allow payment of all available services in the Gas-station.

Nowadays, all gas-stations are equipped with electronic payment terminals (EPT) developed and personalized for Afriquia SMDC by our supplier Axalto.

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### **Contacts**

#### **Fleishman-Hillard**

Arnaud Malherbe

Tél.: +33 (0)1 47 42 92 76

Mobile: +33 (0) 6 65 75 90 99

[malherba@fleishmaneuropa.com](mailto:malherba@fleishmaneuropa.com)