

Cardag Deutschland GmbH new BRIDGE card certified by ITSO in the UK

Wutha Farnroda- June 10th, 2011 - Cardag Deutschland GmbH in Thuringia has been successful in attaining full certification for its new BRIDGE card by ITSO Ltd, the UK Transport Smartcard Standards Organisation, according to the ITSO CMD2 specification. In a single card this combines transport functionality with a 4K byte MIFARE™ emulation and supports applications such as electronic purse, cashless catering, access control, library, leisure services, student attendance management, taxi use, and a broad range of citizen benefits.

As part of their plans to expand their product range Cardag Deutschland GmbH has developed, in conjunction with its carefully selected partners, the new BRIDGE card as a multifunction contactless microprocessor card. The card can provide transport operators the opportunity to migrate existing transport schemes to the more sophisticated ITSO Customer Media Device type 2 (CMD2) generic microprocessor specification, whilst supporting non-transport legacy applications.

There are over 12 million ITSO cards in circulation in the UK used for concessionary and commercial public transport. The vast majority were originally based on a MIFARE™ Classic 4K Byte design and have been used also by some local authorities to provide citizen services by the addition of various applications on the same card. ITSO requires that future transport applications use more secure and sophisticated chip platforms.

The BRIDGE card is based on one of the Infineon security controllers that are used in a variety of transport applications world-wide. It can store multiple ticket products within its ITSO CMD2 function and support the legacy services of local authorities with its 4K byte MIFARE™ emulation. In this way, with one card, the requirements of transport operators and citizens can both be satisfied, whilst reducing the need to upgrade infrastructure. “Open flexible multifunction secure transport ticketing is a growing trend across the world. The ITSO specification facilitates this powerful concept in the UK. The potential for focussed special designs like the BRIDGE card in schemes based on Open Public Transport Standards is enormous” so says Dr. Tilo Pannenbäcker, Vice President & General Manager, Business Line Personal & Object ID of Infineon Technologies AG.

The BRIDGE card will be supplied in the UK by Cardag’s local partner Magnadata. Magnadata working in conjunction with its partner Cardag has always been a market leader with the supply of ITSO accredited products into the UK market. “We were one of the first to get approval of MIFARE™ 1K, 4K and Ultralight. We supplied the first large volumes of Desfire card to our UK customers and we aim to continue this trend with the launch and approval of the BRIDGE Card” said Mr John Wise, Divisional Director for Magnadata International.

Card personalization bureaus can initialize the BRIDGE card ITSO transport function and at the same time load the specific local citizen services applications including e-purse applications and combined staff/transit cards, building access, entitlement and much more. ESP Systex Ltd, who have been responsible for issuing the majority of ITSO cards in the UK, strongly endorse the migration of schemes to microprocessor platforms like the BRIDGE card which, through their increased power, capacity and security, will improve the business case for wider smartcard deployment in the future.

MIFARE™— is a trademark of NXP B.V.

*ITSO Ltd is a UK Government-backed, non-profit organisation which defines and develops the UK-wide technical specification for smart ticketing. Its main aim is to help make rail and bus travel throughout the UK seamless and hassle-free. For more info visit www.itso.org.uk

About Cardag

Cardag Deutschland GmbH with approximately 40 employees specializes in the manufacture of Contactless Smart Cards at its headquarters near Eisenach. In recent years, it has supplied over 7 million cards in accordance with the ITSO standard. Based on our experience in German public transport with over 4 million supplied microprocessor cards we are prepared to assist the migration to a similar technology platform together with our partner companies in the UK.

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About Magnadata

Magnadata International is a 'Global' leading manufacturer of security print products, primarily for the mass transit industry and has been trading since the mid 1980's. Magnadata headquarters are based in Boston, Lincolnshire, UK, is one of the world's largest suppliers of passenger transport ticketing, whose customers include New York Metro, Dublin Bus, Valencia Metro, Sydney Rail and London Underground.

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About ESP System

Operating from two main bureau sites in Hull and with contact centres on two sites in Scotland, ESP are able to offer the highest levels of skill and expertise necessary to ensure that the deployment and on-going management of your smartcard scheme is a success offering :

Consultancy Systems Design, Supply & Integration Services

Applications Development

Programme Management

Bureau Smartcard Personalisation and Encoding Services

Turnkey Smartcard Issuance Systems

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