



FIME Becomes First Lab to Achieve EMVCo Accreditation for Contactless Card Specification v2.0.1

27 June 2011 – FIME is the first global laboratory and test tool provider for secure chip based applications, tokens and devices to achieve EMVCo Contactless Specification version 2.0.1 Level 1 accreditation. This allows FIME to use its qualified tool and laboratory expertise to certify the compliance of contactless card products to the requirements stipulated at Level 1 in this EMVCo Specification.

EMVCo is the EMV® standards body collectively owned by American Express, JCB, MasterCard and Visa. It accredits laboratories and qualifies test tools that in turn can deliver EMV product approval. FIME is the first laboratory and test tool developer to advance its EMVCo analogue level 1 testing technology to meet the needs of this particular EMVCo contactless specification, which describes the minimum functionality required for operation and market interoperability of contactless payment cards.

In addition to enhancing the tool in line with the standards body, FIME has also updated its EMV contactless offering to provide automated analogue testing which makes the technology easier to use. This increases the reliability of the test results and enables the tool to be operated independently outside of FIME's ISO 17025 accredited laboratories. Interested parties – such as contactless card manufacturers and NFC handset developers – can purchase the tool to ensure EMV alignment during their research and development activities which will facilitate a quicker product time to market.

Noël Catherine, Head of R&D at FIME, comments: “There is a lot of media attention around contactless technology and its application within the market. FIME is working with standardisation bodies to ensure it is supporting the current and future needs of this important and advancing industry, as we identify that implementation of contactless payment solutions will continue to increase. To achieve mass market adoption, however, the technology needs to be brought to market effectively and profitably. This is why FIME has invested in making its tools more accessible to a wider audience by ensuring they are user-friendly.”

On achieving EMVCo approval, Noel concludes: “We are delighted to be the first laboratory to receive EMVCo accreditation for this specification, which demonstrates our experience and expertise to test the latest features and functionality within this evolving marketplace.”

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Notes to editors:

About FIME

FIME is an independent global leader in consulting and market integration services for secure chip based applications, tokens and devices within the telecom, e-payment, transport, e-identity and logistic sectors. Its international team works with developers, issuers and acquirers within these markets throughout the research and development lifecycle to provide consulting expertise on sector requirements, functional and security features and industry regulation.

Established in 1995, FIME also has global ISO 17025 accredited laboratories which provide official testing and certification services to validate a solution's market capabilities before launch. FIME's technical ability ensures a customer's solution is secure, interoperable and achieves the highest level of industry standardisation.

With over 200 employees and operating across America, Europe, the Middle East, Africa, India and Asia, FIME has worked with leading brands such as American Express, Discover, Interac, JCB, MasterCard and Visa to bring pioneering and convenient chip-based services to end users.

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