

For Immediate Release

ZeitControl Marks Company's 10th Anniversary in Smart Card Industry With Its Participation at CTST '99 Trade Show.

Minden, Germany - April 28, 1999 - ZeitControl cardsystems, developer of the world's first smart card that can be programmed in BASIC, will be showcasing its inexpensive, easy-to-program BasicCard at CardTech/SecurTech '99 in Chicago, IL from May 11-14 (Booth #1419). Celebrating its 10th anniversary in the smart card business, the company has established a reliable track record by delivering highly cost-effective application development solutions to the marketplace.

Microsoft Corp. announced late last year its plans to develop a BASIC programmable smart card for its Windows® operating system. But according to Wolfgang Salge, managing director for ZeitControl, his company's unique BasicCard is already available and has proven itself to be an efficient smart card-based application development tool for the Windows environment. "Using our proven platform, BASIC programmers can custom design their own smart card in a single afternoon, with no previous experience required," Salge declares.

"The entire development cycle of writing code, downloading and testing takes hours instead of weeks. It is perfect for non-experts in the field."

The BasicCard is available in two versions: the Compact BasicCard and the Enhanced BasicCard. Both products contain 256 bytes of RAM, plus user-programmable EEPROM: 1 kilobyte in the Compact BasicCard, and 8 kilobytes in the Enhanced BasicCard. The Enhanced version now also contains a DES + 3DES algorithm as well as Elliptic Curve Cryptography, making it possible to process an electronic signature in only 9 seconds without coprocessor (a plug-in Elliptic Curve library will be on display at ZeitControl's CTST booth). Because these two cards require smaller chips compared to other programming alternatives, pricing is extremely attractive. The Compact BasicCard costs \$3 and the Enhanced BasicCard is currently priced at \$4.35.

ZeitControl, in partnership with Philips Semiconductor, is now developing a Mifare Pro BasicCard (contact and contactless in one chip). The first sample cards are expected to become available by the end of the summer. Future products in their early planning stages include an RSA-based Public-Key BasicCard as well as a Multi-Application BasicCard.

ZeitControl expects to unveil the industry's first PC/SC compatible reader with USB and a working PC/SC driver at this year's CTST Show. The single unit price for the "cybermouse" will be \$39, with large-volume orders running about \$20 per unit. A slightly less expensive version of the "cybermouse" comes equipped with a serial interface (RS232).

ZeitControl cardsystems GmbH, headquartered in Minden, Germany, is a pioneer in the development of BASIC-programmable smart cards. Among the company's numerous milestones are the design of the first chip card readers for the German health service, as well as the development of a contactless admission and identification system. Founded in 1989, the company has delivered more than 5 million cards to customers around the world. For more information on ZeitControl and its BasicCard, visit the company's Web Site at www.basiccard.com or www.zeitcontrol.de

For Media Attending CTST

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