



## A World First:

### Groupe SILICOMP gives the green light to the electronic passport.

A laboratory, which is unique in the world, will be established to become operational from the start of 2006 in Singapore. Apart from technological performance, this again highlights the importance of the Group's position in Asia to take account of the responsiveness of this geographical area regarding the integration of the most advanced technologies.

This laboratory will enable players in the area to have a completely independent test of their electronic passport products, a highly sensitive subject. It will make available a complete suite of radio frequency, functional, compatibility, reliability and performance tests.

As a result, Groupe SILICOMP will be in a sector that is expanding rapidly, where only a few players can be present, and which gives it access to the public markets of five continents.

The Group, as provider of information technology solutions, is thus extending the operations of its FIME (1) laboratory with the addition of an ePassPort test centre in the electronic capital of south east Asia.

Mr Wong Kan Seng, assistant to the Prime Minister of Singapore, in charge of the Interior Ministry, stated: "Silicomp will establish the world's first permanent Digital Identity Inter-operability Lab in Singapore. Such an environment will help to encourage and to enable industry players and national governments to perform rigorous testing for security products and systems all year long, and iron out inter-operability issues efficiently."

In the face of a security offensive led by the US, the electronic passport is an initiative that has strategic features for many countries. It will provide tighter controls at borders by adding biometric data that cannot be falsified and is able to identify people without any risk of an error, while also offering a level of security never achieved before. However, in order for one country to read the electronic passport of another, there must be effective compatibility.

Emmanuel Arnould, General Manager of the Group stated: "Groupe SILICOMP is the ideal company to successfully open such a laboratory. We have carried out interoperability tests on contactless technology for 2 years already, electronic Identity cards for 3 years, and this is in close collaboration with the ISO and AFNOR standardisation work groups."

(1) Company acquired by the Group in July 2005. FIME specialises in the certification tests for cards and terminals. It is the world leader in EMV (Eurocard, MasterCard, Visa) card testing.

#### About Groupe Silicomp

*Groupe Silicomp is a leading Information Technology Solutions provider of innovative, high-technology content solutions. The Group is active in consulting and implementation services, and is a recognised specialist in computer security. The Group's unique know-how for developing communicating systems for your future needs are reflected in its control and integration of network systems, industrial applications and real time, on-board computing. With a presence on three continents, Groupe Silicomp is the preferred partner of major manufacturers.*

**Shares of Groupe SILICOMP (ISIN code: FR000063794) are listed in Compartment C of Eurolist Paris since 16 June 1998.**

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