



## PRESS INFORMATION

### **Oberthur Card Systems delivers 500 000 ID-One biometric cards to banking customers in the Ivory Coast**

**- The “Reference” Project deploys the first biometric ID cards ever used in a financial institution -**

**Paris, September, 6<sup>th</sup>, 2004** – Oberthur Card Systems, a leader in smart cards, the number one supplier of Visa & MasterCard payment cards and a key player in many identity projects throughout the world, particularly in the US, was selected by CECP (Caisse d’Épargne et des Chèques Postaux), the leading financial institution in the Ivory Coast with 200 branches to deliver biometric ID cards used to reduce fraud by securely identifying its customers and accelerate teller operations.

A long time partner of CECP with the Warry Card<sup>1</sup>, Oberthur Card Systems developed a solution that provides a two-level authentication of the cardholder – via both a photograph and fingerprints. After a three months pilot deemed successful by both customers and employees of Abidjan’s main branch, the bank will deploy the project known as “Reference” to all its branches. With an initial order of 500,000 cards and 300 biometrics readers, CECP employees will now be able to quickly authenticate customers in every branch.

“We are proud to be a pioneer in the banking sector by using this new solution and we are also satisfied to be able to answer our customers’ needs in terms of

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<sup>1</sup> e purse

modernization, fast services and secured transactions. Oberthur Card Systems has been our partner for other projects and proved once more to be a reliable ally by understanding the needs of our market”, declared Marcellin Zahui, CECP CEO.

The fingerprints are authenticated offline by comparing the prints on the reader with the reference prints in the chip on the card. What makes Oberthur’s ID-one solution highly secure is the fact that the matching algorithm resides on the chip - a technology known as “Matching on-Card”. Since the reference fingerprints never leave the card and are not sent to a centralised database, the authentication takes less than two seconds.

The ID-One solution combines the Group François-Charles Oberthur’s know-how in fiduciary printing and Oberthur Card Systems’ expertise and innovation capability in smart cards and has already received the strictest European security certifications – Common Criteria – as well as the US FIPS 140 certification.

“The solution implemented by CECP is an example of the possible use of our biometric authentication technologies outside of government applications”, declared Xavier Drilhon, Managing Director, SEMEA-LA<sup>2</sup> for Oberthur Card Systems. “It reinforces the security level of the bank while enhancing the service offered to its customers. The return on investment is extremely fast. This project also illustrates the potential size of the African market and our commitment to increase our presence”.

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<sup>2</sup> Southern Europe, Middle East, Africa, Latin America

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## About Oberthur Card Systems

With sales of 430.1 million Euros in 2003, Oberthur Card Systems is one of the world's leading providers of card-based solutions, software and applications including SIM and multi-application smart cards as well as services ranging from consulting to personalization.

Innovative products, security expertise and high quality services ensure Oberthur's strong positioning in its main target markets.

- + Payment & Services: 54% of 2003 revenues. World leader and number one supplier of Visa and MasterCard payment cards.
- + Mobile Communications: 33% of 2003 revenues, with open and interoperable solutions based on Java™ technology.
- + Identity: strong positions in ID projects throughout the world.
- + Multimedia: leading position in the Pay-TV market with an end-to-end expertise in the value chain : software development, manufacturing and personalization.
- + Transit:: focus in the high-end segment with a microprocessor-based offer.

Close to its customers, the company benefits from an industrial and commercial presence across all five continents. Listed on the Euronext Stock Exchange (ISIN : FR0000124133) since July 2000, Oberthur Card Systems is a subsidiary of the François-Charles Oberthur Group. For more information, visit [www.oberthurcs.com](http://www.oberthurcs.com)

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