

INTERNATIONAL SECURITY CERTIFICATION FOR HITACHI SMART CARD MICROCONTROLLER

Tokyo, 14 May, 2002 – Hitachi, Ltd. (TSE: 6501, NYSE: HIT) today announced that its AE45C smart card IC has been granted a security certificate under the Common Criteria for IT Security Evaluation (“CC”).

The CC methodology is widely used in the smart card and other information technology fields to produce quantifiable and comparable security assurance ratings for a variety of IT products. The CC is an international standard (ISO 15408), and its certification results are recognised in many countries around the world.

“The certification of our AE45C chip is a major step forward for Hitachi and clearly demonstrates our security capabilities in the demanding smart card arena,” said Keiichi Kurakazu, General Manager of the IC Card Division, Semiconductor and Integrated Circuits at Hitachi, Ltd. “This award emphasises Hitachi’s continuous commitment to deliver high security smart card ICs to the market, including the demanding financial transaction areas.”

In achieving this product certification, Hitachi has used the latest international definition for smart card IC security (as specified in the IC platform protection profile, BSI-PP-0002) at assurance level EAL4 (augmented). The protection profile requires the highest levels of assurance possible under the CC, both for the product security component (AVA) and for the design and manufacturing security component (ALC_DVS). This evaluation was performed by a German evaluator, T-Systems ISS GmbH, and the certification body was the German Bundesamt für Sicherheit in der Informationstechnik (BSI).

The AE45C is a leading member of Hitachi’s popular AE-4 family of smart card microcontrollers, and includes 32kB EEPROM, plus DES and modular multiplication coprocessors. The certification of this device establishes the basis for the appropriate evaluation and certification of each of Hitachi’s new smart card microcontrollers and its manufacturing sites in the future.

Hitachi is the market leader in the supply of smartcard microcontroller chips for GSM SIM cards and also provides strong product offerings for applications such as financial and ID cards.

Information contained in this news release is current as of the date of the press announcement, but may be subject to change without prior notice.
