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Press Release

The German Bundestag approves electronic identity card

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OpenLimit supports all eID and signature functions of the new identity card

(Baar/Berlin, December 19th, 2008) Yesterday the German Bundestag decided the implementation of the new electronic identity card. The electronic identity card is a technical innovative break through that noticeably improves the security within online business traffic. During the last months different cases of data abuse caught public attention, but with the electronic ID citizens and companies receive an instrument that guarantees the secure use of their personal data on the Internet. The identity card in check card format is planned to be implemented in November 2010. With the electronic ID citizens and companies can use typical identity card data, e.g. name, address and age, securely on the Internet and they are able to securely identify themselves within the digital world.

OpenLimit software is prepared for the electronic identity card

At this stage the current signature software from OpenLimit supports the electronic identity card. This fact could be experienced by visitors of the third national IT summit in Darmstadt already on November 20, 2008. There, the Swiss company presented this new development together with the TU Darmstadt, Fujitsu Siemens Computers, Bundesdruckerei and T-Systems. Therewith OpenLimit is a pioneer concerning the implementation of the eCard strategy of the Federal Government. It defines general standards and interfaces that shall ensure the compatibility of signature software, check cards with electronic identity and signature functions and card readers. At the CeBIT in Hanover, citizens and companies will have the chance to try out the different fields of application of the new identity card at the stand of OpenLimit.

Electronic ID guarantees security and data privacy on the Internet

Until now citizens using online services have passed through individual application procedures applying different passwords and PINs - both concerning authorities and companies, e.g. online shopping or online banking. Related security risks and deficits in data privacy are resolved with the new identity card. With the eID function the card owner can decide which personal data - name, address, date of birth - is transferred for the identification. Internet service providers that want to use identity card data need to identify themselves with so-called electronic authorization certificates in advance. As a result a new dimension of confidence is developing within the field of electronic business traffic.

Qualified electronic signature can additionally be integrated

Each new identity card will be provided with the “electronic proof of identity”. When receiving their documents, citizens can decide if they want to activate the identification function for the internet. In addition, a qualified electronic signature can be added. It is legally equal to the handwritten signature and serves as clearly stated expression. Owners of the electronic ID who have the suitable signature software and a card reader don't have to print applications, letters and contracts to send them by post. They simply sign and administrate their business traffic on a digital basis.

About OpenLimit:

OpenLimit is an internationally leading provider of certified electronic identity and signature solutions. The components of the solution can be easily integrated into existing applications and allow a highly efficient document management, workflows without discontinuity of media and process optimization for all business areas. OpenLimit holds the very first certification recognizing world-wide compliance with the international security standard Common Criteria EAL 4+ guaranteeing the highest degree of security and legal validity currently available.

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