austriamicrosystems announces industryâ€™s first demonstration for standalone NFC MicroSD

Unterpremstaetten, Austria (November 15, 2011) â€“ austriamicrosystems today announced the first demonstration that enables NFC (near field communication) data transfer on removable secure elements using a micro-antenna design. This solution was developed in cooperation with Infineon Technologies AG. It will speed up the deployment and the acceptance of standalone NFC solutions based on ultra small form factors such as microSD.

NFC is now entering the consumer mass market and despite the release of new NFC enabled phones, standalone solutions are needed to enable NFC for the millions of mobile devices already in the field. According to Don Tait, Senior Market Analyst at IMS Research, â€œMost mobile phones are equipped with a microSD slot and represent a huge opportunity for expanding the success of NFC technology. Moreover, beyond the technological aspects, standalone NFC solutions such as NFC microSD are a way to support business models independent from mobile operators or mobile phone manufacturers.â€

Working in close technical cooperation, austriamicrosystems and Infineon leveraged their respective expertise to design solutions that combine an Infineon security contactless microcontroller with austriamicrosystemsâ€™ AS3922 RFID front-end chip. â€œInfineon is continuously innovating to bring NFC to the consumer mass marketâ€ said Thomas Rosteck, Vice President & General Manager, Secure Mobile & Transaction at Infineon Technologies. â€œWith our active NFC solution developed together with austriamicrosystems we extend our comprehensive portfolio helping the business models of the mobile payment stakeholders and we enable the introduction of new secure NFC services to the consumer.â€ Infineonâ€™s secure microcontrollers are certified according to the Common Criteria and EMVCo

international standards and answers to the requirements of NFC Mobile Payment.

The AS3922, the result of the cooperation, supports an antenna booster technology to overcome the lack of reliability of the existing NFC microSD. Existing solutions only operate in a very limited number of phones and over a very short distance. â€œPartnering with Infineon enabled us to leverage their huge wealth of experience within the payment industry as well as their expertise as a market leader for secure microcontrollers,â€ said Kambiz Dawoodi, Senior VP & GM for the Consumer & Communications Business Unit of austriamicrosystems. â€œBoth companies bring a lot of complementary IP to the overall design platform, resulting in a truly unique solution for the market.â€

The NFC microSD solution is integrated with the micro-antenna included in the ultra small form factor. No other design approach currently on the market allows for reliable contactless payment fully enclosed within the microSD.

The solution will be demonstrated at the CARTES & Identification 2011 exhibition in Paris on the Eurosmart booth, Hall 3, Booth 3F 078, November 15th - 17th, 2011.

Please visit www.austriamicrosystems.com/RFID/AS3922 [1] and www.eurosmart.com [2]

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