

/Atlas Venture and Wellington invest EUR 7 million in SAFE ID Solutions AG/

In the first round of funding, Atlas Venture and Wellington Partners are investing EUR 7 million in SAFE ID Solutions AG. The former CEO of Infineon Technologies AG, Dr. Ulrich Schumacher, will assume the chairmanship of the supervisory board of this Munich-based company. SAFE ID Solutions AG offers end-to-end personalization solutions for travel documents. The personalization machines integrate biometric characteristics (such as fingerprints or iris scans) both physically and electronically into passports or other identification documents. A suite of software provides uninterrupted monitoring of the entire production process, thus reliably protecting against forgery.

Munich, February 3, 2005. In its first round of funding, SAFE ID Solutions AG was able to win two prestigious venture capital firms as investors, Atlas Venture and Wellington Partners. At the same time, one of the IT industry's most dynamic visionaries, Dr. Ulrich Schumacher, will be assuming the chairmanship of the supervisory board. The company, which was formed in November 2003, intends to utilize the seven million euro investment to evolve its products and expand internationally. "Governments throughout the world are introducing biometric documents. We are one of the few vendors who are able to cover the process of secure personalization with an unrivaled technology," explains Karsten Neugebauer, the CEO of SAFE ID Solutions AG.

Following the attacks on September 11, 2001, governments worldwide reached agreement on new standards. These utilize individual biometric characteristics, such as fingerprints or face recognition, to assure that the holders of identification documents are truly who the documents purport them to be. Beginning in the autumn of 2005, for example, it will only be possible to enter the United States without a visa with these kinds of so-called ePassports. "The pioneering role that is being played by the United States will spark global demand for passports that incorporate biometric characteristics, thus opening up enormous market potential for SAFE ID," is the way Wellington Partner Frank Böhnke explains the reasoning behind the investment. SAFE ID Solutions AG has already demonstrated its competence in this field in connection with several projects in Europe.

In contrast to its competitors, SAFE ID Solutions AG is already offering an integrated hardware and software solution for high-security personalization of electronic identification documents today. Together with systems integrators or established identification document manufacturers, SAFE ID Solutions AG can assure secure production of identification documents around the globe. New Supervisory Board Chairman Dr. Schumacher sees the young German company as playing a pioneering role with this technology. "SAFE ID enjoys a one- to two-year technology edge. The company now has to leverage this competitive edge in the market."

All of the investors hold a positive view of the company's management team with its years of international experience in top management positions at companies like Infineon Technologies AG, Siemens AG, DataCard and Giesecke & Devrient. "The quality of the management team, which brings to the table both in-depth technology expertise as well as years of experience in the management of technology products, was one of the crucial factors in our decision to make the investment," stresses Alexander Brühl from Atlas Venture.

About Atlas Venture

Atlas Venture is the leading international early-stage venture capital firm, investing in information technology, communications and life sciences companies. With investing offices in Boston, London, Munich and Paris, Atlas Venture divides its investments between the United States and Europe. Founded in 1980, Atlas Venture has organized six international funds, and currently manages \$2.1 billion in committed capital.

The Atlas Venture investment team comprises seasoned operating executives and career venture capitalists who have been deeply involved in the formation and development of more than 300 companies worldwide. For more information about Atlas Venture, go to www.atlasventure.com.

About Wellington Partners

Wellington Partners, formed in 1991, invests in start-ups throughout Europe in the fields of information and communication technology and life science, and numbers among Europe's most successful early-stage investors. The Munich-based company today manages a total fund volume of € 350 million. To date, Wellington Partners has invested in over 70 companies and has sold 21 of them at a profit, in four cases through an IPO. Serving as the lead or co-investor, the company has already accompanied e.g. Chipbroker ACG or biotech player Actelion in going public, and sold e.g. WLAN AG to Swisscom and the German auctioneer Alando to eBay. Further information: www.wellington.de.

About SAFE ID Solutions AG

Munich-based **SAFE ID Solutions AG** offers private-sector organizations and governments reliable, high-security solutions for the production of travel documents. A seasoned team of globally acknowledged experts is focusing on the development and production of personalization solutions for integrating personal data into passports, ID cards and other security documents. With a view to the impending changeover of international travel documents to radiofrequency identification (RFID) technology and the resulting ability to store biometric data, SAFE ID Solutions AG has been focusing on an integrated hardware and software solution that enables the production process to be monitored from the chip right through to personalization. The funding provided by two leading venture capital firms will enable the company to comprehensively serve the personalization market, which is seeing strong growth worldwide, and be a strong and dependable partner to its customers. Further information is available at www.safe-id.de

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