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ViVOtech and Giesecke & Devrient Confirm Interoperability Between G&D NFC-Enabled SIM Cards and ViVOtech's Over-the-Air (OTA) NFC Infrastructure Software

MUNICH, Germany and SANTA CLARA, Calif., Sept. 9 /PRNewswire/ -- Continuing to deliver the latest technologies for powering the most flexible and open Near Field Communications (NFC) mobile payment systems, Giesecke & Devrient (G&D) and ViVOtech, two global leaders in NFC technology today announced that their respective technologies are interoperable following successfully concluded testing between their NFC products. Now applications stored on NFC-enabled SIM cards made by G&D can be managed through NFC over-the-air (OTA) provisioning server software developed by ViVOtech.

The G&D and ViVOtech interoperable solution is the first to enable OTA provisioning of not only the financial account applet (virtual card) but also provisions the complete payment applet to the SIM card. The companies jointly confirmed the test was successfully performed using multiple Single Wire Protocol (SWP) prototype mobile phone models. ViVOtech and G&D plan to use this joint technology infrastructure as the basis for an upcoming NFC field trial with a Large European MNO and Issuer Bank.

G&D, as a leading manufacturer of SIM cards, has developed the ProxSIM product line of NFC-enabled SIM cards for this purpose. It is based on Single Wire Protocol (SWP) standard defined to link the SIM card with the NFC chip in a mobile phone. The European Telecommunications Standards Institute (ETSI) adopted this standard in October 2007.

Using the joint solution, NFC applications are loaded onto the SIM card through special OTA servers -- that is, via the mobile network -- and updated by the same means throughout their lifecycle in the field. ViVOtech is a leading provider of NFC OTA provisioning servers that are used by Trusted Service Managers (TSM) to provide OTA services to mobile network operators and service providers while ensuring that the applications remain under the full and exclusive control of the respective service provider.

"The joint interoperability tests with ViVOtech send an important signal to everyone involved in NFC applications: If they use our ProxSIM cards, they can rely on the latest and future-proof technology of NFC-enabled SIM cards and compatible standards for future NFC systems. This, coupled with the experience that we have garnered from numerous NFC projects all over the world, enable us together to forge ahead with the