



For Immediate Release

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Washington, DC – The Smart Card Alliance and Electronic Transactions Association (ETA) will wrap up their successful webinar series on the use of smart card technology in the payments industry by addressing the important topic of security.

The final free webinar in the organizations' Smart Card Payments Application Series, "Smart Cards and Payment Security," will take place on Tuesday, February 17, 2009 from 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. ET. Registration is available for the event at the ETA web site.

"Security has been a top-of-mind topic for our merchant acquirer members, as the Payment Card Industry Data Security Standard (PCI DSS) makes it a critical issue for their business, as well as their merchant customers implementing contactless and mobile payment technology," said Carla Balakgie, CEO of ETA. "This is an important topic to close out this successful webinar series, as it will answer key security questions, as well as any lingering questions anyone might have regarding smart cards and payments."

Speakers include Rori Ferensic, ETA; Jose Diaz, Thales Information Systems Security; Sally Ramadan, First Data Corporation; and Randy Vanderhoof, Smart Card Alliance. The webinar will cover security in the overall payment system, including multi-factor authentication, EMV, and online security. Speakers will also address the security issues affecting merchants and merchant acquirers, such as PCI compliance, and PCI PED upgrades. The session will conclude with a question-and-answer period.

"The Smart Card Alliance wishes to thank ETA for partnering with us on such a valuable webinar series," said Randy Vanderhoof, executive director of the Smart Card Alliance. "As we conclude the series, we feel we have covered the most critical issues surrounding smart cards in payments – basics of the technology, mobile payment and NFC, implementation, and security."

The other well-attended webinars in the series were, "Smart Cards in Mobile Payment/Near Field Communications (NFC)," "Fundamentals of Smart Cards for Payment," and "Best Practices: Contactless and Mobile Payments Implementation."

About the Smart Card Alliance

The Smart Card Alliance is a not-for-profit, multi-industry association working to stimulate the understanding, adoption, use and widespread application of smart card technology. Through specific projects such as education programs, market research, advocacy, industry relations and open forums, the Alliance keeps its members connected to industry leaders and innovative thought. The Alliance is the single industry voice for smart cards, leading industry discussion on the impact and value of smart cards in the U.S. and Latin America. For more information please visit <http://www.smartcardalliance.org>.

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About ETA:

The Electronic Transactions Association is an international trade association representing more than 500 companies who offer electronic transaction processing products and services.