

Press release



Over 15% growth this year

September 16-19, 2008 - Sophia-Antipolis, French Riviera

www.smart-event.eu

680 participants attended the 3 co-located international conferences, the advanced educational program and the 4 parallel meetings and workshops of Smart Event 2008. This record attendance confirms its successful positioning, combining scientific and strategic contents to foster debates, exchanges and networking around Smart Cards & Digital Security, Trusted Mobile Platforms & Applications, e-ID management & e-Government applications.

The next edition will take place from Sept. 23 to Sept. 25, 2009, in Sophia Antipolis.

Paris, October 9th, 2008 - Smart Event confirmed again its positioning as the premier "Innovation Forum for Mobility and Digital Security". Its 3 conferences, 6 educational modules, 2 parallel meetings and 3 workshops brought together 680 participants, a 15% growth compared to 2007.

Smart Event also strengthened its international scope, along two trends. First, Europe gained weight and reached this year 88 % of the total audience, of which EU countries represent 68 %. The relative share of France lost ground to other large EU countries and incoming ones. This is the second trend: the attendance came from 48 countries this year, compared to 44 in 2007. Among the newcomers, the 3 first countries of the BRIC group, the 4th one, China being already an old participant. All in all, 387 companies and organizations took part in Smart Event compared to 338 in 2007, that is +14%.

This record attendance reflects both the quality of the speakers, among whom 20 world-class keynotes, and the richness of the contents, ranging from smart cards & digital security to trusted mobile platforms & applications, e-ID management & e-government applications, as well as ambient intelligence research. Overall, more than 180 individual presentations were made before various profiles of "innovation-makers": professionals from research, academia, industry, government departments and agencies.

Statistics before and after the event remain high: Smart Event website receives 25,000 unique visitors each month (with a peak during September over 35,000 which shows the impact of the event on a targeted professional community of 80,000 persons worldwide).

The future of mobility & digital security outlined

One of the most significant features of this year's edition was the Opening Session, common to the three main conferences e-Smart, Smart Mobility and World e-ID. In a full-packed amphitheatre, top keynotes outlined key trends for the digital and mobile security industry. Among other speeches, Dr. Walter Weigel, Director-General ETSI, stressed the necessary evolution of the smart cards' ecosystem and hardware capabilities to enable implementation of Internet technologies and new USB-based interface. On the same line, Jacques Seneca, Eurosmart Chairman, pledged a safer Internet thanks to Smart Secure Devices. In this fast moving connected world, interoperable and end to end e-ID solutions are key, a vision developed in particular by Jan Muehlfeit, Chairman Europe, Microsoft. Mung Ki Woo, Vice-President Payment and Contactless, Orange, emphasized the strategic role of emerging countries for the growth of mobile industry.

e-ID issues boosted by e-government applications

Another striking event, World e-ID conference, dedicated to e-ID management and e-government applications, set the agenda in particular for the latest national and cross-border e-ID initiatives: EU citizen card, e-health, transport, e-government and many other e-services. The impressive panel of e-government representatives of 11 countries and the EU representatives, kept its promises, offering an almost comprehensive view of the major e-ID deployments from across the globe. e-ID has become a perfect answer to security threats. The panel debate extended the discussions under the theme "European e-ID: from Common Criteria to Full Interoperability?" The live exchanges between e-ID unit leaders from Gemalto, G&D, Microsoft, Sagem, Siemens, Stork Project (the new major European project dedicated to e-ID interoperability), sketched fruitful perspectives about the requirements, strategies and architectures for the future e-ID deployments.

Mobility and convergence at stake

For its first edition, the Smart Mobility conference, dedicated to trusted mobile platforms and applications, met its audience. Reflecting the enlarging scope of digital security to telecoms/IT issues, Smart Mobility presentations insisted on new usages and market opportunities, lessons learned from trials and live roll-outs of mobile applications, with one motto: combining trust, convenience and security. One example among the numerous speeches, Janne Uusilehto, Head of Product Security, Nokia, introduced an innovative solution meeting the requirements mentioned above: "On-board Credentials", that is virtual credentials protected by on-board trusted hardware. The panel debate "Towards trusted convergence", common to the e-Smart conference, united Smart Security and Mobile worlds. Panellists involved came from ENISA, Fraunhofer Institute, Nokia, OMTP, RIM/Blackberry, W3C.

Many more Mobility & Digital Security issues addressed

Among the "events inside the event", the 5 live demos have to be mentioned. They received strong interest from the audience and excellent networking opportunities for the demoers. For example, Serenity EU project (system engineering for security and dependability) presented its Smart items scenarios (also called smart objects). The 6 advanced educational modules of Smart University, lead by eminent experts, attracted also a broad audience of researchers, academics as well as executives. Under the spotlights this year, "The art of Java Card 3.0 Programming" and "Near Field Communication" modules broke new record of attendance.

New endorsements from the W3C and the NFC Forum

The recognition of Smart Event has been reinforced this year by various new endorsements among which those from the W3C (World Wide Web Consortium) and the NFC Forum (near Field Communication) need to be mentioned. These two prestigious and influent industry associations also illustrate the shift of Smart Event's themes towards cutting edge digital security themes: global mobility and end user experience. Institutional partnerships will result in active presence and contribution in Smart Event's Program Committees, Call for Papers and programs. Among the "historical" partners: ETSI, Eurosmart, e-Forum, Java Card Forum, INRIA, EHTEL, European Biometrics Forum, NMDA, Smart Card Alliance, Smart Card Forum of China, EHTEL, GlobalPlatform, ACT Canada, Asia IC Card Forum, Silicon Trust...

Detailed report on Smart Event'08, photo album and more information:

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Co-Organizers: Eurosmart, JCF, GlobalPlatform, eForum, Stratégies Telecoms & Multimedia

Strategic Partners and Sponsors: Gemalto, Microsoft, Blackberry, Oberthur Technologies, Atos Worldline

Institutional Partners: ACT Canada, Asia IC Card Forum, European Biometrics Forum, ETSI, European Commission, EHTEL, NFC, NMDA, Nordic Biometrics Forum, Silicon Trust, Smart Card Alliance, Smart Card Forum of China, W3C

Main Sponsors and Exhibitors: Gemalto, Microsoft, RIM/Blackberry, Atos Worldline, Oberthur Technologies

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