

Breakthrough for Digital Signature: Legally-compliant Mass Signatures Directly from SAP Applications

- **Utimaco is presenting an innovative product at CeBIT: with the SignatureServer SmartCard for SAP you can create legally-compliant mass signatures directly from mySAP.com applications**
- **For example, legally-compliant electronic invoices can be created and processed within a digital workflow without media discontinuities.**
- **Using this technology, the 1000 largest German companies alone could make annual savings of around Euros 500 million.**

Oberursel, March 1st, 2005 - German businesses still have some way to go to catch up when it comes to using electronic communications pathways consistently – at least where important commercial documents like invoices are concerned: 74 % of the 1000 largest companies in Germany still entrust their invoices to normal postal services, just as they did a century ago. This anachronism costs business dearly: according to data provided by E-Finance Labs in Frankfurt the top 1000 companies alone could make annual savings of up to half a billion Euros if they sent their invoices automatically and electronically. However, unlike traditional paper invoices, electronic invoices that are created by computer fax or e-mail are not yet fully legally binding in Germany. At present, financial authorities only accept digital invoices in their sales tax calculations if they are accompanied by a qualified electronic signature.

Using Utimaco's SignatureServer SmartCard for SAP which will be premiered at CeBIT in Hanover, Germany, from the 10th to 16th of March 2005, companies can automatically add digital signatures to electronic invoices that have been created directly in SAP systems and then encrypt them. This technology also protects SAP R/3 data or documents when they are saved and transferred.

"For the first time, legally-compliant electronic invoices can be created and processed efficiently within a structured digital workflow. This means users can avoid media discontinuities, further optimize their business processes and therefore make considerable savings", stated technology expert Andreas Philipp, Deputy Vice President of the Transaction Security Division at Utimaco. "Using electronic invoicing, companies can also improve the quality of the service they provide for business partners and so strengthen their links with customers."

Utimaco Safeware AG is one of the leading technology manufacturers of professional solutions for IT security. The security technologies and solutions developed by Utimaco Safeware protect electronic values of companies and authorities from unauthorized access and guarantee that business processes and administration procedures are binding and confidential.

The business unit Personal Device Security provides technologies and solutions to guarantee mobile security in the fields of strong authentication, including biometric procedures, encryption and integrity control. The products and solutions secure data in Terminal Server and Citrix environments, on PCs, Laptops and PDAs.