Press Release

ecsec enables German eID card for electronic signatures

[Berlin, March 22nd 2018] Within the scope of today's "eIDAS Summit", taking place at the German Federal Ministry of Economics and Energy, ecsec has presented an important innovation: From now on the German electronic Identity (eID) card, commonly known as "Personalausweis", can not only be used for strong authentication and highly secure identification, but also for the generation of advanced electronic signatures in compliance with relevant European and international standards.

The German eID card …

The German electronic Identity (eID) card, issued since November 2010, is known to provide a highly secure and privacy-friendly means for authentication and identification, which in combination with a suitable smartphone is also usable in a mobile environment. Due to the notification of the electronic identification scheme around the German eID card and the residence permit at the highest possible security level (level of assurance "high"), the German eID card will be recognised for the electronic identification in digital administrative procedures throughout Europe from September 29th 2018 onwards.

… now with advanced electronic signature!

In addition to the steadily growing number of applications for the German electronic ID card, there is now another particularly useful feature: The advanced electronic signature of documents and data in compliance with Article 26 of the "Regulation (EU) No. 910/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 July 2014 on electronic identification and trust services for electronic transactions in the internal market and repealing Directive 1999/93/EC", commonly known as "eIDAS-Regulation". As a result, the integrity and origin (authenticity) of a signed document or data set are ensured in addition to the proof of identity of the signatory as stipulated by § 18 PauswG. The support of relevant European standards and signature formats standardised at ETSI for advanced electronics signatures (CAdES, PAdES and XAdES) ensures the greatest marketability and interoperability possible. The modular architecture and the support of interfaces standardised at OASIS facilitates the integration of this innovative solution into existing IT architectures.

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"We are pleased that from now on the German electronic Identity card can not only be used for strong authentication and identification, but also for advanced electronic signatures", explains Dr. Detlef Hühnlein, CEO of ecsec GmbH.

About ecsec GmbH

ecsec is a specialized vendor of innovative solutions in the sector of security in the information and communication technology, security management, smart card technology, identity management, web security and electronic signature technology. Based on experiences from several consulting projects with international reach ecsec GmbH counts to the leading providers in this sector and supports well known customers within the conception and implementation of tailor-made solutions. Due to the observance of current results of science and technology and current and future international standards, an excellent consulting quality and sustainable customer prosperity are guaranteed. For example, ecsec developed the Open eCard App, which is the first and only open source eID client certified by the German Federal Office for Information Security (BSI). The company also received numerous international awards for its innovative SkIDentity service, which allows the use of „Mobile eID as a Service" and innovative signature services in accordance with the eIDAS regulation.

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