

News Release

**Faisal Islamic Bank and Mediterranean Smart Cards Company
Sign Processing Agreement**

Cairo, April 2006 – Faisal Islamic Bank (FIB) and Mediterranean Smart Cards Company (MSCC) announced that they have signed an agreement which officially appoints MSCC as the bank's card processing company.

The new agreement between the two parties establishes MSCC as the gateway to Visa International's processing Network, VisaNet, so as to process all of FIB's Visa debit cards transactions as well as ATM transactions in Egypt.

"Our partnership with MSCC will bring many benefits to our retail banking services in the market," commented *Dr. Ismail El Malawani*, General Supervisor for Information Systems and Economic Researches at FIB. "We are extremely committed to offering a range of modern banking services which match today's standards while still maintain the basis of our Islamic banking practices. E-payment is spreading at an increasing rate worldwide, and our goal is to support the adoption of this technology in our market and implement it within the rules of Islamic Shari'ah."

"We are extremely pleased to be partnering with Faisal Islamic Bank and have them become part of our expanding client base," added *Filipe Dos Santos*, Chairman of MSCC. "This partnership comes as a further dedication by the banking community in Egypt toward the full adoption of e-payment technology in the market, and we are glad to be part of attracting a new segment of Egyptian society. I would also like to reaffirm our commitment to continuously offer unmatched processing services to our clients."

MSCC is the first smart card processing company in Egypt and currently serves several markets across Central and Eastern Europe, the Middle East and Africa such as Russia, Algeria, Libya, Benin, Mali, Cape Verde and Madagascar. The company was also the first to introduce smart corporate cards in the region to serve the business community.

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Note to Editors:

About Mediterranean Smart Cards Company (MSCC): MSCC is an Egyptian joint-venture company, offering one of the most sophisticated smart card processing environments in the world. Besides delivering a range of services and benefits to its clients, MSCC's mission is to provide high-quality, premium smart card payment processing services to banks across markets in Central and Eastern Europe, Middle East and Africa, and to spread electronic payment knowledge and expertise.

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