



Press Release

The Banque Populaire Group is strengthening the security of its online banking service with a XIRING strong authentication solution

Paris, 26 January 2009: The Banque Populaire Group is strengthening the security of its online banking operations in order to anticipate the risk of fraud and to develop new added-value services by equipping 400,000 customers with a bank card-based strong authentication solution. XIRING has supplied the Vericodes, which will be deployed to its customer base.

This solution will enable clients of the Banque Populaire Group to carry out their remote transactions in total confidence.

The operating mode is simple: to manage an online banking transaction, users insert their bank card into the reader, type in their PIN on the Vericode keypad, to be validated by the card chip that generates an 8 digit one-time password displayed on the reader LCD. The user then types in the one-time passnumber on the bank Web form to confirm the transaction.

With a bank card-based, personal, strong authentication solution, Internet shopping will follow the same operating mode as that used when making purchases in a local store. To carry out a remote transaction, the Vericode uses the security features provided by the smart card, in addition to the information stored in the chip on the smart card (number, expiry date and security number on the back of the card).

In the UK, this solution is known as Home Chip and Pin. XIRING has already equipped more than 4 million Britons, among the 5 million and more users equipped with such a card reader.

“The security of our clients’ banking transactions is one of our major concerns, and as such, we have decided to implement this strong authentication solution which has already met with great success in Europe.” commented Bernard Gouraud, Technology Director at the Banque Populaire Group.

“Today, nearly 20 million users are equipped with strong authentication solutions in Europe. We are particularly happy to announce this, the Banque Populaire Group’s first launch of this equipment. It heralds the arrival of the Vericode in France, which will benefit both consumers and the banking system. Easy to use and acclaimed by consumers throughout Europe, the Vericode allows users to carry out online banking operations and e-commerce payments in complete security.” commented Georges Liberman, CEO of XIRING.

About the Banque Populaire Group:

The Banque Populaire Group is one of France's leading banking networks. With 3,370 branches and 9,400,000 customers, it ranks highly in all its client segments: private banking, tradesmen, shopkeepers, farmers, independent workers and companies. A cooperative group, driven by strong core values - Entrepreneurship, Cooperation and Humanity – it endeavours to create a harmonious blend of solid performance and common interest. With its network of Banques Populaires, strongly committed to the economic and social development of their local areas, the Group provides long-term support to its clients – of whom one in two is a member-stakeholder group of the cooperative.

For further information: www.banquepopulaire.fr

About XIRING:

Created in 1998, XIRING is a security solutions provider and develops security software embedded in smart card readers for strong authentication and digital signature. XIRING equips over 6 million users with remote card authentication solutions based on bank cards and is the leader of the professional solutions market for the SESAM-Vitale French healthcare scheme. XIRING posted revenues of €23.8 million in 2007. XIRING has been listed on Alternext / NYSE-Euronext Paris since Sept. 18th 2006. Code ISIN: FR0004155612, mnemonic ALXIR.

For further information: <http://www.xiring.com>
<http://www.remotecardauthentication.info>
<http://www.homechipandpin.co.uk>

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