

Pilots for rollout of the German health card starting with Sagem Orga

Launch in 2006

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Pilot trials for the rollout of the new electronic health card in Germany are to start this year with up to 10,000 new-generation smart cards. Sagem Orga is equipping test regions with smart cards and card terminals based on the latest gematik specifications and will thus play a crucial role in the future telematics infrastructure of the German healthcare system.

Sagem Orga has already passed key tests for approval of the card for one of the pilot regions. "With the highly secure Micardo Public 3.0 operating system, we offer a platform that has been evaluated in accordance with Common Criteria EAL 4+, and we are excellently prepared to meet the needs of the healthcare sector," said Frank Büttner, head of the company's Health & Identification unit.

Smart cards and card terminals from Sagem Orga will be deployed in initial pilot regions including Schleswig-Holstein, Saxony, Wolfsburg, Trier and Bochum/Essen.

The first test phase is divided into two steps. The tests start with an "MKT+ scenario," in which the card reader in a physician's practice is directly connected to the practice administration system. In the first phase, the insured person's electronic health card will be read using this administration system, just like the medical insurance card is at present. One important point is that card readers in the field must be able to read the new smart card in addition to the medical insurance memory card.

In the next step, the tests in the pilot regions will be extended to cover additional functionalities, such as the electronic prescription on the card or online querying of the holder's insurance status to ensure that misuse is prevented.

The trials involving 10,000 electronic health cards will be followed by tests with larger volumes of up to 100,000 smart cards before the whole of Germany is supplied with a total of 80 million health cards.

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