smart card is actually analogous to EFTPOS. It remains to be seen what legal infrastructure will be put into place to govern smart card transactions, but as suggested above in relation to electronic cash, a sensible approach would be to vary the Electronic Funds Code of Practice and merchant/bank and bank/consumer EFTPOS agreements to cater for smart cards.

A problem at the moment with the use of smart cards is that there are many legal uncertainties which arise, mainly due to the fact that smart cards do not presently have a defined legal status. Probably by the time that smart card trials are complete in Australia, their function will b e absorbed into a multi purpose card such as the Multos system which encompasses a debit card, credit card, stored money, telephone and other facilities. This makes it all the more important to clearly identify all of the issues relating to the various facilities so that a workable set of protocols and legal infrastructure can be adopted for the use of the relevant card.

John Lambricke, The Manager of

Legal Services, RMIT University and a Consult to Molomby & Molomby, Solicitors, Melbourne.

1 For a detailed description of this process, see Alan Tyres "Virtual Cash — Payments on the internet;", Part 1 March 1996, Banking Law Journal, p35.
2 For a good summary of the development of smart cards and the resulting legal issues, see "Robin Edwards: "Questions on Stored — Value Cards (Smart Cards) that you were too scared to ask" Sept '96 Current Commercial Law, Vol 4. No. 2.

Press Release

AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT AWARDS EICON ENDORSED SUPPLIER STATUS

The Australian Government has awarded Eicon Technology the status of Government Endorsed Supplier, which formalises the company's reputation as a supplier-of-choice for government projects and includes all Eicon products in PE 64 and PE 65[1] government contracts. Eicon is one of only 400 organisations to have achieved Endorsed Supplier status since the program commenced in late 1994.

According to the Competitive Tendering and Contracting Group, which is part of the Government's Department of Finance and Administration, the Endorsed Supplier status gives recognition to companies operating on a world class level. The inclusion of a company's products in PE 64/65 contracts provides Australian government departments and agencies with greater access to such world class connectivity resources as those offered by Eicon.

To achieve the Endorsed Supplier status, Eicon Technology was required to demonstrate its long-term value-added activities in Australia as well as its financial viability and commitment to standards, quality and customer service.

Steve Jones, Territory Manager Australia/NZ for Eicon believes that, since the company established its regional headquarters in Australia earlier this year, its commitment to long-term activities in the Asia-Pacific region has been unwavering.

"With the support of the Federal Government's Regional Headquarters Program earlier this year, Eicon laid a strong foundation to pursue its regional investment strategies. The pursuit of Government Endorsed Supplier status was the next step in ensuring the quality and reputation of our products was recognised in a competitive market."

"The Government Endorsed Supplier status is further testament to our commitment to this region, and highlights the quality and reputation of our products, and the organisation."

Eicon's connectivity solutions have already been demonstrated in such Government departments as: the Department of Defence and Training, DEETYA (Department of Employment, Education, Training and Youth Affairs), the Australian Army, DTR (Department of Training and Industrial Relations) and the DSS (Department of Social Security), where a range of Eicon products have already been implemented.

About Eicon Technology

Eicon Technology is a worldwide provider of connectivity solutions for personal computers. The company develops, markets and supports hardware and software products for connecting PC-based servers, desktop PCs and notebook PCs to corporate networks, IBM host computers and the Internet. The products are sold in more than 70 countries through an extensive distribution network. For more information, visit Eicon Technology on the World Wide Web at http://www.eicon.com

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1 *PE64 contract* relates to **connectivity hardware;** and the *PE65 contract* relates to **software.**