

Paragon Gains MVP Status with MasterCard Vendor Program

(Holly Springs, NC-January 28, 2004) - Paragon Application Systems, a premier provider of testing and configuration tools to the Automatic Teller Machine (ATM) industry and testing tools to the Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) industry, achieved MVP (MasterCard Vendor Program) status in December. Headquartered in Holly Springs, NC, Paragon joins this global network of vendors supplying products and services to support the MasterCard and Europay intelligent chip card (also known as "smart card"). The MasterCard Vendor Program is designed to enhance the business relationship between MasterCard International and vendors who are supplying solutions to MasterCard member financial institutions around the world.

Paragon customers are accustomed to using the same FASTest tool to simulate multiple EFT networks, including MasterCard. MVP status allows Paragon to stay current with MasterCard specifications and thus keep its FASTest simulator customers up-to-date with MasterCard mandates.

MVP status for Paragon is the latest in a series of notable business partnerships and initiatives. Recently the NYCE network has started to recommend Paragon simulators to its members for pre-certification testing. Paragon also has referral agreements with ACI Worldwide, S2 Systems, CSFi, and XP Systems in which these partners promote Paragon products to their clients.

In addition, Paragon maintains a close working relationship with many ATM manufacturers. Since 1998, Paragon has been a member of the Diebold Partner Information Xchange and an NCR Strategic Business Partner, and counts both Diebold and NCR among its customers. In 2002, Paragon was also named a Fujitsu Strategic Alliance Partner.

Paragon is also a member in both the IBM S/390 Developers Association and the Microsoft Developers Association, as well as a Bank Administration Institute (BAI) Corporate Partner Sponsor. Paragon has been a member of the Interactive Financial eXchange (IFX) Forum since 2002. Visit Paragon Application Systems at www.parappsys.com.