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VISA ANNOUNCES 24% GROWTH IN GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT CARD (GPC) PROGRAMMES

5th January 2004: Following the success of Visa and a group of its member banks in securing the UK Government Procurement Card (GPC) contract for a further 5 years from February 2003, Visa has announced growth of 24% in the number of live programmes. The new contract has been extended to include all public sector organisations and there are now 262 live GPC programmes in the UK. This takes the total to over 650 live Visa programmes across the UK public sector to date.

Cumulative savings for the taxpayer as a result of the GPC scheme are in excess of £117million since the UK government began its Visa GPC programme in 1997 (savings calculated using agreed figures from the National Audit Office). The scheme is beating all targets with spend in 2003 alone expected to exceed the total achieved during the first five years of the programme.

Andrew Watson, Senior Manager – Government Services at Visa comments:
“Visa GPC is a proven product which is seen as an integral part of the e-government agenda as it has been selected and endorsed by the UK government and market tested on two occasions by them against Visa’s main competitors. GPC increases efficiency and plays a vital role in assisting public sector organisations to meet prompt payment legislation. It is also considered an integral component in the UK government’s drive to meet electronic targets.”

Ends

Note to Editors:

The Visa GPC programme is the first choice for UK government. It provides tailored public sector payment and data delivery systems that offer proven savings in time, money and paperwork.