

## **PACKAGED ELECTRONIC MODULE AND MANUFACTURING METHOD THEREOF**

### **FIELD OF THE INVENTION**

<sup>5</sup> [0001] This invention relates to electronic modules, and more particularly to a packaged electronic module with embedded electronics for use in smart cards.

### **CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS**

[0002] This application is a continuation in part of U.S. Patent Application  
<sup>10</sup> number 15/645,234, filed July 10, 2017, the entire contents of which are hereby fully incorporated herein by reference for all purposes.

### **BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION**

[0003] Semiconductor technology has made tremendous progress in the last few decades. Contactless smart cards are currently used widely in many  
<sup>15</sup> fields like transport sector and banking sector for identifying persons as well as objects. Smart Cards, also known as chip cards and IC cards, are plastic that contain one or more semiconductor chips. In most of the applications, the smart cards are contactless which means that the cards perform data transfer using radio frequency (RF) technology between the card and a receiver/transmitter.  
<sup>20</sup> Additionally, dual interface cards can have both capabilities using a single chip module. In general, many different fields of application arise for smart cards or integrated circuit cards, for example in the field of personal identification (identity cards, access cards, authorization cards), in the field of data encryption (code

cards), for personal use (bank smart cards, payment cards) and in similar fields.

[0004] Along with the progress of electronic industries, electronic products are developed toward the trend of miniaturization and multi-function. Accordingly, various package types have been developed. Electronic packaging  
5 refers to the packaging of the integrated circuit chips or dies. The materials play an important role in electronic packaging, most of the work on electronic packaging is concerned with packaging scheme rather than materials. The conventional approach to electronic packaging and interconnect has been to package individual integrated circuit (IC) chips into a single package and to  
10 attach these packages to a printed circuit board to provide interconnect between the individual IC chips.

[0005] Another approach describes a double-sided electronic module of a hybrid contact-contactless smart card designed to be lodged in a cavity of the card, where the cards are incorporated in a blank with a special manufacturing  
15 format. Said device comprises a unit for depositing and pre-gluing a protective layer on at least one blank, a laminating unit comprising means for pressing, heating and cooling at least one blank and a unit for cutting the blank into a smart card. The pressing, heating and cooling means comprise two supports placed opposite each other and displaceable towards each other in order to  
20 apply pressure on the said blank. Each support comprises at least one ceramic heating and cooling device comprising a stack made up of a ceramic block and a metal laminating plate. However, this method has high chance of damaging the components since there is hot or cold lamination step included. Moreover, additional capital expenditure and special equipment are required for laminating.

[0006] Another approach describes an integrated circuit (IC) film with a conventional packaging step, and, in particular, it need not be covered with any package molding material. The IC chip is directly mounted on a flexible printed circuit (FPC) board. The IC chip is disposed on the FPC board, and is bonded to  
5 leads of the FPC board and thus electrically connected thereto. Also, a flexible plastic substrate is needed to mount the components into the FPC, thus increases the cost of the FPC. Moreover, additional operations such as pre-lamination and lamination operations are required before the IC chip is embedded.

10 [0007] Yet another approach describes a method for producing a smart card module, the arrangement includes arranging a smart card module on a first carrier layer, wherein the first carrier layer is free of a prefabricated smart card module receptacle cutout for receiving the smart card module, wherein the first carrier layer may include plastic (a polymer). The smart card module includes a  
15 substrate, a chip on the substrate, a first mechanical reinforcement structure between the chip and the substrate. The smart card module can be embedded between the first carrier layer and the second carrier layer. The embedding of the smart card module can be carried out, for example, by means of lamination, *e.g.* by means of cold lamination or hot lamination, or by means of lamination  
20 and additional pressing. Additionally, the embedding of the smart card module can be carried out by means of pressing. The substrate (or the carrier) for providing a smart card module can be formed from a flexible material, *e.g.* a plastic or polymer, and/or have a corresponding thickness, with the result that the substrate is flexible. However, this method does not include embedded

electronics. Also, this method of manufacturing cards by laminating is hard to do and only a limited number of card manufacturers are capable of doing it correctly.

[0008] Therefore, there is a need for an efficient electronic packaging  
5 module and a manufacturing method thereof. This method would assemble all the required electronics into a module instead of onto a Flexible Printed Circuit (FPC). The cost of the module would be lower than that of an FPC. Such a method would not need a flexible plastic substrate to mount the components. Further, it would not include any lamination step, thus reducing the risk of  
10 damaging the components. Thus, it would provide a business with the capability to avoid additional capital expenditure required for special equipment. Such a needed method would decrease the unit cost of a packaging chip. This embodiment would enable all existing card manufacturers to manufacture smart cards with embedded electronics. The present embodiment overcomes  
15 shortcomings in this area by accomplishing these critical objectives.

### SUMMARY OF THE DISCLOSURE

[0009] To minimize the limitations found in the prior art, and to minimize other limitations that will be apparent upon the reading of the specification, the present invention is a packaged electronic module with embedded electronics  
20 for use in smart cards. This invention is a new type of packaged electronic module that is used to manufacture value-add smart cards with embedded electronics. The present packaged electronic module packages all the electronics components usually found on a flexible printed circuit (FPC),

together with an integrated circuit chip and a contact plate, into a module. This module can then be embedded into a plastic card, using regular milling techniques, by a card manufacturer.

[00010] The present invention provides an efficient electronic packaging  
5 module and a manufacturing method thereof. This method assembles all required electronics components into a module instead of onto a flexible printed circuit (FPC). The present invention provides a business with the capability to avoid additional capital expenditure required for special equipment. Also, the present invention decreases the unit cost of a packaging chip and enables all  
10 existing card manufacturers to manufacture smart cards with embedded electronics.

[00011] Other features and advantages of the present invention will become apparent from the following more detailed description, taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, which illustrate, by way of  
15 example, the principles of the invention.

#### **BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS**

[00012] Elements in the figures have not necessarily been drawn to scale in order to enhance their clarity and improve understanding of these various elements and embodiments of the invention. Furthermore, elements that are  
20 known to be common and well understood to those in the industry are not depicted in order to provide a clear view of the various embodiments of the invention, thus the drawings are generalized in form in the interest of clarity and conciseness.

[00013] **FIG. 1** represents an exploded perspective view of a smart card in accordance with the preferred embodiment of the present invention;

[00014] **FIG. 2** represents a first assembly of a packaged electronic module in accordance with the preferred embodiment of the present invention;

5 [00015] **FIGS. 2A-2B** are schematic diagrams showing an embedding of the first assembly shown in **FIG. 2** in accordance with the preferred embodiment of the present invention;

[00016] **FIG. 3** represents a second assembly of a packaged electronic module in accordance with the preferred embodiment of the present invention;

10 [00017] **FIG. 3A** is a schematic diagram showing an embedding of the second assembly shown in **FIG. 3** according to the present invention;

[00018] **FIG. 4** represents a third assembly of a packaged electronic module in accordance with the preferred embodiment of the present invention;

[00019] **FIG. 4A** is a schematic diagram showing an embedding of the third  
15 assembly shown in **FIG. 4** according to the present invention;

[00020] **FIG. 5** represents a fourth assembly of a packaged electronic module in accordance with the preferred embodiment of the present invention;

[00021] **FIG. 5A** is a schematic diagram showing an embedding of the fourth assembly shown in **FIG. 5** according to the present invention;

20 [00022] **FIG. 6** represents a fifth assembly of a packaged electronic module in accordance with the preferred embodiment of the present invention;

[00023] **FIG. 6A** is a schematic diagram showing an embedding of the fifth

assembly shown in **FIG. 6** according to the present invention.

[00024] **FIGS. 7A-7C** show aspects of a packaged electronic module according to exemplary embodiments hereof;

[00025] **FIG. 8** show aspects of the embedding of the packaged electronic  
5 module of **FIGS. 7A-7C** into a smart card according to exemplary embodiments hereof;

[00026] **FIGS. 9A-9C** show aspects of a packaged electronic module according to exemplary embodiments hereof;

[00027] **FIG. 10** show aspects of the embedding of the packaged  
10 electronic module of **FIGS. 9A-9C** into a smart card according to exemplary embodiments hereof;

[00028] **FIGS. 11A-11C** show aspects of a packaged electronic module according to exemplary embodiments hereof;

[00029] **FIG. 12** show aspects of the embedding of the packaged  
15 electronic module of **FIGS. 11A-11C** into a smart card according to exemplary embodiments hereof;

[00030] **FIGS. 13A-13C** show aspects of a packaged electronic module according to exemplary embodiments hereof;

[00031] **FIG. 14** show aspects of the embedding of the packaged  
20 electronic module of **FIGS. 13A-13C** into a smart card according to exemplary embodiments hereof; and

[00032] **FIGS. 15A-15C** show aspects of a packaged electronic module

according to exemplary embodiments hereof.

### DETAILED DESCRIPTIONS OF PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

[00033] In the following discussion that addresses a number of embodiments and applications of the present invention, reference is made to the accompanying drawings that form a part hereof, and in which is shown by way of illustrating specific embodiments in which the invention may be practiced. It is to be understood that other embodiments may be utilized and changes may be made without departing from the scope of the present invention.

10 [00034] Various inventive features are described below that can each be used independently of one another or in combination with other features. However, any single inventive feature may not address any of the problems discussed above or only address one of the problems discussed above. Further, one or more of the problems discussed above may not be fully addressed by any of the features described below. The invention will now be described with reference to the accompanying drawing which does not limit the scope and the ambit of the invention. In the following discussion that addresses a number of embodiments and applications of the present invention, reference is made to the accompanying drawings that form a part hereof, and in which is shown by way of illustrating specific embodiments in which the invention may be practiced. It is to be understood that other embodiments may be utilized and changes may be made without departing from the scope of the present invention.

[00035] The term “mechanism,” as used herein, refers to any device(s), process(es), service(s), or combination thereof. A mechanism may be implemented in hardware, software, firmware, using a special-purpose device, or any combination thereof. A mechanism may be mechanical or electrical or a  
5 combination thereof. A mechanism may be integrated into a single device or it may be distributed over multiple devices. The various components of a mechanism may be co-located or distributed. The mechanism may be formed from other mechanisms. In general, as used herein, the term “mechanism” may thus be considered shorthand for the term device(s) and/or process(es) and/or  
10 service(s).

[00036] Referring now to **FIGS. 1-15**, the invention according to exemplary embodiments hereof will be described in further detail.

[00037] **FIG. 1** depicts a general and exploded perspective view of a value-add smart card **100** in accordance with an exemplary embodiment of the  
15 present invention is illustrated. A value-add smart card **100** comprises a card body **105**, a plurality of plastic card layers **115** and a packaged electronic module **120** including and/or coupled to a contact plate **125**. The card **100** may also comprise a card antenna **110**, or an embedded battery (**not shown**).

[00038] According to exemplary embodiments hereof, the packaged  
20 electronic module **120** may generally include a contact plate **142**, one or more electronic readouts **138**, one or more integrated circuit (IC) chips **144**, a plurality of electronic components **146**, and any other components or elements that may be necessary for the packaged electronic module **120** to perform its functionalities. This is shown in **FIGS. 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7A-7C, 9A-9C, 11A-11C**

and **13A-13C**, **14** and **15A-15C** with reference to packaged electronic modules that may correspond to the packaged electronic module **120** of **FIG. 1**. In this way, the packaged electronic module may be a self-contained unit that may include all of the essential components that it may require to perform its

5 functionalities. Because of this, the packaged electronic module **120** may also be referred to as an all-in-one assembly.

[00039] The contact plate **142** may allow the module **120** to make electrical contact with card readers as necessary. The electronic readout **138** may provide real-time information such as the current balance available on the card

10 or in an associated bank account, the number of trips available (*e.g.* on transit cards), dynamic security codes to effectively tokenize CVx2 data to prevent fraud, and other information.

[00040] The packaged electronic module **120** may be embedded in the card body **105**. Note that the smart card **100** and the packaged electronic

15 module **120** of **FIG. 1** are meant for demonstrational and conceptual purposes and that a person of ordinary skill in the art will understand that the packaged electronic module **120** may be configured with the smart card **100** in any way that may allow for the packaged electronic module **120** to perform its functionalities. In addition, while **FIG. 1** shows the module **120** generally

20 configured on the top surface of the smart card **100**, the module **120**, or portions thereof, may be configured on any one or more surfaces of the card, and/or in any one or more intermediary layers of the card, and/or in any combination of surfaces of the card and/or layers of the card. This will be described in later sections.

[00041] The card body **105** may be plain, having different layers of plastic or other materials, of which one or more of the layers may include an antenna (e.g. to be used for contactless card functionalities such as RFID communications) or an embedded battery (not shown), etc. To support cards  
5 **100** that may include one or more antennas **110**, the packaged electronic module **120** may be connected to the antenna **110** using connectors, a micro-antenna or other connection mechanisms. In all of the embodiments described herein, it may be preferable that the embedding of the module **120** not interfere or otherwise obstruct any of the other components and elements of the card  
10 **100** such as the internal antenna **110**.

[00042] The packaged electronic module **120** may be used in the manufacturing and/or fabrication and/or assembly processes of value-add smart cards **100** with embedded electronics. The value-add smart card **100** may be contactless-only, contact-only, or may be dual-interface (contact and  
15 contactless). According to exemplary embodiments hereof, the components that may typically be found on a Flexible Printed Circuit (FPC) that may be configured with the smart card **100**, may be combined together to form the all-in-one module **120**. This module **120** may then be embedded into a plastic card by a card manufacturer, using regular milling techniques or other manufacturing  
20 methods. Depending on the relative size of the electronic components and the contact plate, different assemblies are possible. This invention has less risk of damaging the electronic components since there is no hot or cold lamination involved. This invention enables all existing card manufacturers to manufacture these value-add smart cards with embedded electronics.

[00043] In some exemplary embodiments hereof, the visible components of the module **120** may be located and/or visible on opposite sides of the smart card **100**. For example, the contact plate **142** may be located on the top surface of the card **100**, and the electronic readout **138** may be located and/or  
5 visible on the bottom surface of the card **100**, or vice versa. In addition, in some exemplary embodiments hereof, the visible components of the module **120** may be located and/or visible on the same side of the smart card **100**. For example, both the contact plate **142** and the electronic readout **138** may be located and/or visible on the top surface of the card **100**.

#### 10                   **Visible Components on Opposite Sides of the Card**

[00044] **FIG. 2** illustrates a first assembly of the packaged electronic module **140** (that may correspond to the packaged electronic module **120** in **FIG. 1**) in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the present invention. The first assembly **140** comprises an all-in-one assembly where the footprint of  
15 the electronics components (e.g., the electronic readout) is not larger than that of a contact plate **142**. The first assembly of the packaged electronic module **140** comprises the contact plate **142** connected to an integrated circuit chip **144**, a plurality of electronic components **146** connected to the contact plate **142** and the integrated circuit chip **144**, an electronic display **138** connected to  
20 the plurality of electronic components **146** and a plurality of connectors (**not shown**) that may connect the packaged electronic module **140** to the card antenna **110** (shown in **FIG. 1**) or an embedded battery (not shown). The thickness of the packaged electronic module **140** may be equal to or smaller than, but preferably not larger than, that of the plastic card. The packaged

electronic module **140** may include a micro-antenna to connect to an antenna in the card using inductive coupling. Note also that a value-add component, such as a fingerprint sensor, LEDs, and/or an electronic or mechanical button may also be included in addition to or instead of the electronic display **138**.

5 [00045] **FIGS. 2A-2B** are schematic diagrams showing an embedding of the first assembly shown in **FIG. 2** according to the present invention. A method of fabrication of a value-add smart card **100** (shown in **FIG. 1**) comprising the step of embedding the all-in-one assembly of the first assembly **140**, by milling a card **150** from the front of the card all the way through the back of the card  
10 and embedding the packaged electronic module **140** from the front of the card. The method of fabrication of a value-add smart card **100** (shown in **FIG. 1**) further comprising the step of milling a card **150** from the front of the card to the back protective overlay **164**, but leaving the protective overlay **164** intact, which should be transparent if for example **138** is an electronic display, and  
15 embedding the packaged electronic module **140** from the front of the card. In this case the thickness of the packaged electronic module **140** will be equal to that of the card minus the thickness of that back protective layer. The milled area **154** should conform to the shape of the packaged electronic module **140**.

[00046] **FIG. 3** represents the second assembly of the packaged electronic  
20 module in accordance with the preferred embodiment of the present invention. The second assembly **160** (that may correspond to the packaged electronic module **120** in **FIG. 1**) comprises an all-in-one assembly where the footprint of the electronics **158** is larger than that of the contact plate **142**. The second assembly of a packaged electronic module **160** comprises the contact plate

142 connected to the integrated circuit chip 144, the plurality of electronic components 146 connected to the contact plate 142 and the integrated circuit chip 144, an electronic display 138 connected to the plurality of electronic components 146 and the plurality of connectors (**not shown**) that may connect  
5 the packaged electronic module 160 to the card antenna 110 (**shown in FIG. 1**) or an embedded battery (**not shown**). The thickness of the packaged electronic module 160 is equal or smaller to that of the smart card. Depending on the size of the electronic components 146, the module could have an asymmetric shape to avoid that some electronic components would be too  
10 close to the card's border. The packaged electronic module 160 may have a micro-antenna to connect to an antenna in the card using inductive coupling. Note also that a value-add component, such as a fingerprint sensor, LEDs, and/or an electronic or mechanical button may also be included in addition to or instead of the electronic display 138.

15 [00047] **FIG. 3A** is a schematic diagram showing an embedding of the second assembly shown in **FIG. 3** according to the present invention. The method of fabrication of a value-add smart card 100 (shown in **FIG. 1**) comprising the step of embedding the all-in-one assembly of a second assembly 160, by milling the smart card 150 from the back of the card all the  
20 way through the front of the card and embedding the module from the back of the card since the back of the second assembly 160 is larger than the front. The milled area 154 is larger on the back of the card than the front the card to conform to the shape of the packaged electronic module 160.

[00048] **FIG. 4** represents a third assembly of the packaged electronic

module in accordance with the preferred embodiment of the present invention.

The third assembly of the packaged electronic module **170** (that may correspond to the packaged electronic module **120** in **FIG. 1**) comprises the integrated circuit chip **144**, the plurality of electronic components **146**, the

5 electronic display **138** connected to the plurality of electronic components **146** and the plurality of connectors (**not shown**) that may connect the packaged electronic module **170** to the card antenna **110** (shown in **FIG. 1**) or an embedded battery (not shown). The thickness of packaged electronic module **170** is not larger than that of the plastic card. Depending on the size of the

10 electronic components **146**, the module could have an asymmetric shape to avoid that some electronic components would be too close to the card's border. The third assembly does not have a contact plate so it can be used for contactless-only cards, one-time-password cards, or other value-add cards that do not require a contact plate to function. The packaged electronic module may

15 have a micro-antenna to connect to an antenna in the card using inductive coupling. Note also that a value-add component, such as a fingerprint sensor, LEDs, and/or an electronic or mechanical button may also be included in addition to or instead of the electronic display **138**.

[00049] **FIG. 4A** is a schematic diagram showing an embedding of the third assembly shown in **FIG. 4**, according to the present invention. The method of

20 fabrication of a value-add smart card **100** (shown in **FIG. 1**) comprising the step of embedding the third assembly of the packaged electronic module **170**, by milling a card **176** either from the back or the front of the card, and embedding the packaged electronic module **170**. Since the packaged electronic module

**170** does not have the contact plate **142**, it can virtually be embedded anywhere on the card. The milled area **154** should conform to the shape of the packaged electronic module **170**. Note that while **FIG. 4A** may depict a card **176** milled from the top of the card **176** to embed a module **170** from the top, and from the bottom to embed a module **170** from the bottom, this is shown for demonstration and conceptual purposes, and the card **176** may include only a top embedded module **170**, only a bottom embedded module **170**, or any combination thereof.

[00050] **FIG. 5** represents a fourth assembly of a packaged electronic module in accordance with the preferred embodiment of the present invention. The fourth assembly **180** (that may correspond to the packaged electronic module **120** in **FIG. 1**) comprises a two-part assembly where the footprint of all the electronics is not larger than that of the contact plate **142**. The fourth assembly of the packaged electronic module **180** comprises the plurality of electronic components **146** connected to the contact plate **142** and the integrated circuit chip **144**, the electronic display **138** connected to the plurality of electronic components **146** and the plurality of connectors (not shown) that may connect the packaged electronic module **180** to the card antenna **110** (shown in **FIG. 1**) or an embedded battery (not shown). The thickness of the packaged electronic module **180** may be less than, equal to but preferably not larger than that of the plastic card. The fourth assembly **180** may be further defined as an assembly of the top half portion and the bottom half portion of the packaged electronic module. The fourth assembly **180** wherein the top half portion and the bottom half portion is assembled into an asymmetric packaged

electronic module. The packaged electronic module **180** may have a micro-antenna to connect to an antenna in the card using inductive coupling. Note also that a value-add component, such as a fingerprint sensor, LEDs, and/or an electronic or mechanical button may also be included in addition to or instead  
5 of the electronic display **138**.

[00051] **FIG. 5A** is a schematic diagram showing an embedding of the fourth assembly shown in **FIG. 5** according to the present invention. The method of fabrication of a value-add smart card **100** (shown in **FIG. 1**) comprising the step of embedding the fourth assembly **180**, by milling the card  
10 from the front and embedding the top half portion of the module from the front of the card, the bottom half portion from the back of the card and connecting both halves to assemble a full module. The milled area **154** should conform to the shape of the packaged electronic module **180**.

[00052] **FIG. 6** represents a fifth assembly of a packaged electronic  
15 module in accordance with the preferred embodiment of the present invention. The fifth assembly **190** (that may correspond to the packaged electronic module **120** in **FIG. 1**) comprises a two-part assembly where the footprint of the all electronics is larger than that of the contact plate **142**. The fifth assembly of a packaged electronic module **190** comprises the plurality of electronic  
20 component **146** connected to the contact plate **142** and the integrated circuit chip **144**, the electronic display **138** connected to the plurality of electronic components **146** and the plurality of connectors (not shown) that may connect the packaged electronic module **190** to the card antenna **110** (shown in **FIG. 1**) or an embedded battery (not shown). The thickness of the packaged electronic

module **190** may be less than, equal to but preferably not larger than that of the plastic card. The fifth assembly **190** may be further defined as an assembly of the top half portion and the bottom half portion of the packaged electronic module. The fifth assembly **190** wherein the bottom half portion is larger than  
5 the top half portion of the packaged electronic module, wherein the top half portion and the bottom half portion is assembled into an asymmetric packaged electronic module to avoid that some electronic components **146** would be too close to the card's border. The packaged electronic module **190** may have a micro-antenna to connect to an antenna in the card using inductive coupling.  
10 Note also that a value-add component, such as a fingerprint sensor, LEDs, and/or an electronic or mechanical button may also be included in addition to or instead of the electronic display **138**.

[00053] **FIG. 6A** is a schematic diagram showing an embedding of the fifth assembly shown in **FIG. 6** according to the present invention. The method of  
15 fabrication of a value-add smart card **100** (shown in **FIG. 1**) comprising the step of embedding the fifth assembly **190**, by milling the card from the back of the card all the way through the front of the card and embedding the top half portion of the module from the front of the card, the bottom half portion from the back of the card and connecting both halves to assemble a full module. The  
20 milled area **154** should conform to the shape of the packaged electronic module **190**.

### **Visible Components on the Same Side of the Card**

[00054] In some exemplary embodiments hereof, the visible components of the packaged electronic module **120** may be located and/or visible on the

same side of the smart card **100**. For example, portions of the contact plate **142** and/or portions of the electronic readout **138** may both be located and/or visible on the top surface of the card **100**, on the bottom surface of the card **100**, on any other surface of the card **100** and any combination thereof.

<sup>5</sup> [00055] Referring to **FIGS. 7A – 7C**, according to exemplary embodiments hereof, a packaged electronic module **200** (that may correspond to the packaged electronic module **120** in **FIG. 1**) may be an all-in-one assembly that may generally include a contact plate **142**, an electronic readout **138**, an integrated circuit (IC) chip **144**, a plurality of electronic components **146**, and  
<sup>10</sup> other elements and/or components that may be necessary for the module **200** to perform its desired functionalities as described in this specification or otherwise. **FIGS. 7A, 7B** and **7C** may generally show the top view, bottom view and side view, respectively, of the module **200**.

[00056] The components **142, 138, 144, 146** (as well as any other  
<sup>15</sup> components) may be connected together (electrically and/or physically) as required for the module **200** to operate properly. For example, the contact plate **142** may be connected to the IC chip **144**, and the IC chip **144** may be connected to the plurality of electronic components **146** and to the electronic readout **138**. It is understood that any of the elements **138, 142, 144, 146** may  
<sup>20</sup> be connected to any other of the elements **138, 142, 144, 146** in any combination. Any types of connections between any of the components may be employed.

[00057] In one exemplary embodiment hereof, the packaged electronic module **200** and/or the elements **138, 142, 144, 146** may include other

connectors or connecting mechanisms that may be used to connect the module **200** to other components. For example, the module **200** may include a micro-antenna to connect to (and/or communicate with) an internal antenna **110** within the card (best seen in **FIG. 1**) via inductive coupling. Other types of

5 connectors or connection mechanisms may also be used as required. For example, the module **200** and/or the elements **138**, **142**, **144**, **146** may include electrical and/or physical contacts (connectors) that may be positioned and configured to connect (electrically and/or physically) with other elements that may be configured with the card **100** (e.g., other components configured within

10 the card **100** and/or configured external to the card **100**). For example, the module **200** may include other connectors that may be used to connect the module **200** to other components such as an embedded battery. In another example, the module **200** may include connectors that may connect to a value-add component(s), such as a fingerprint sensor, one or more antennas, LEDs,

15 and/or an electronic or mechanical button that may also be included in addition to or instead of the electronic display **138**. In this case, the value-add component(s) may include a portion that may be located on the same side, and/or visible on the same side, of the smart card **100** as the contact plate **142** and/or the electronic readout **138**.

20 [00058] The module **200** may also include encapsulation **148** materials (e.g., resin) to help secure the components together and to provide protection to the components from moisture, corrosion, and other undesirable elements.

[00059] In one example, the contact plate **142** and the electronic readout **138** may include portions that may be visible on the same side of the card **100**.

As shown in **FIGS. 7A-7C**, these visible components **142**, **138** may be configured with portions of their visible sides (*e.g.* their top surfaces as shown in **FIG. 7A**) both facing in the same direction (*e.g.*, upward). In this way, with the packaged electronic module **200** configured onto a surface of the smart card **100** (*e.g.*, onto the top surface of the card **100**), these portions of the contact plate **142** and of the electronic readout **138** may both be visible on the same surface of the smart card **100**. In one preferred implementation, these portions of the top surfaces of the contact plate **142** and of the electronic readout **138** may be visible on the top surface of the smart card **100**.

<sup>10</sup> [00060] The thickness **D1** (shown in **FIG. 7C**) of the packaged electronic module **200** may preferably be less than the thickness **D** (shown in **FIG. 8**) of the smart card **100**. In this way, the module **200** may be embedded into the top or bottom surface of the smart card without the module **200** passing all the way through the card **100**. Note however that the thickness **D1** may be equal to but  
<sup>15</sup> preferably not greater than the thickness **D**.

[00061] According to an exemplary embodiment hereof, a process and method of fabricating a value-add smart card **100** by embedding the all-in-one packaged electronic module **200** into the smart card **100** is shown in **FIG. 8**. As shown in **STEP 1**, a smart card **100** with a thickness of **D** may be provided. In  
<sup>20</sup> **STEP 2**, a surface (*e.g.*, the top surface **102** or “front” of the card **100**) of the smart card **100** may be milled using a milling bit **152** or any other mechanism that may remove a portion of the card **100** adequate for the insertion of the module **200**. Other techniques such as laser etching or other techniques may also be used. The card may also be formed during its general manufacturing

process to include an open area adequate for the embedding of the module **200**.

[00062] Note that the milled area **154** may extend from the surface of the card **100** (e.g., the top surface **102** or “front” of the card **100**) to an intermediary depth within the card **100**, but preferably, not all the way through the card **100**.  
The all-in-one assembly **200** with a thickness **D1** less than the overall thickness **D** of the card **100** may be received by the milled area **154** and thereby be embedded into the card **100**. In this way, the visible portions of the module **200** (e.g., at least a portion of the top surface of the contact plate **142** and at least a portion of the top surface of the electronic readout **138**) may be visible on the top surface **102** of the card **100** when the components 138, 142, may be embedded into the card 100. This is depicted in **STEP 3** of **FIG. 8**.

[00063] Note however that if the thickness **D1** of the module **200** is equal to the thickness **D** of the card **100**, the milled area **154** may extend from the top surface **102** (front) of the card **100** to the bottom surface **104** (back) of the card **100**, and a portion of the module **200** may be visible on the bottom surface **104** of the card **100**. However, the portions of the module **200** that are meant to be visible on the top of the card **100** (e.g., at least a portion of the top of the contract plate **142** and at least a portion of the top of the electronic readout **138**), may still be so in this scenario. Note that if the card **100** includes a protective overlay on its bottom surface **104**, the protective overlay may be left intact or milled through depending on the thickness **D1** of the module **200** relative to the thickness **D** of the card **100**.

[00064] It may be preferable that the milled area **154** generally correspond

to the size, shape and dimensions of the module **200** so that the milled area **154** may receive the module **200** and that the junction between the milled area **154** and the module **200** may be free of gaps, protrusions or disjoints. It may also be preferable that, once embedded, the top surface of the module **200**  
5 may be generally flush with the top surface of the card **100**. The module **200** may be held within the open area **154** with adhesive, by pressure fit, or by other attachment mechanisms, methods or means.

[00065] As described in relation to other exemplary embodiments herein, the footprint of the electronic readout **138** (including or not including the  
10 integrated circuit (IC) chip **144** and/or the plurality of electronic components **146**) may be generally equal in size, smaller in size, or larger in size than the footprint of the contact plate **142**. In previous embodiments, because the visible portions of the contact plate **142** and the electronic readout **138** may be configured on opposite sides of the card **100** (front and back), the footprint size  
15 of the electronic display **138** relative to the footprint size of the contact plate **142** may influence the method by which the module **200** may be embedded into the card **100**.

[00066] However, with the visible portion of the contact plate **138** and the visible portion of the electronic display **138** configured on the same side of the  
20 card **100**, the footprint size of the electronic readout **138** with respect to the footprint size of the contact plate **142** may not necessarily have the same or similar influence on the method by which the module **200** may be embedded into the card as with the other embodiments.

[00067] For example, according to exemplary embodiments herein, **FIGS.**

**7A – 7C** depict a packaged electronic module **200** that may have an electronic readout **138** with a footprint size generally smaller than or equal to the footprint size of the associated contact plate **142**. On the other hand, **FIGS. 9A, 9B** and **9C** show the top, bottom and side views, respectively, of the all-in-one packaged electronic module **202** that may include a readout **138** that may have a footprint size larger than the footprint size of the associated contact plate **142**. It can be seen however, in **FIG. 10**, that the process to embed the module **202** into the card **100** may be similar to the process shown and described in relation to **FIG. 8**, but with a slightly larger milled area **154** that may accommodate the larger electronic readout **138** footprint. All other aspects of this exemplary embodiment of module **202** may be the same or similar to the aspects of the exemplary embodiment of module **200** described in relation to **FIGS. 7A -- 7C** and **8**.

[00068] In another exemplary embodiment hereof, an all-in-on electronic packaged assembly **204** may include two or more sub-assemblies that when combined may form the packaged assembly **204**. In one example as shown in **FIGS. 11A – 11C** (depicting the top, bottom and side views of the assembly respectively), the module **204** may include a first sub-assembly **204-1** and a second sub-assembly **204-2** (best seen in **FIG. 11C**). In this example, the first sub-assembly **204-1** may generally include a contact plate **142** and electronic components **146**, and the second sub-assembly **204-2** may generally include an electronic readout **138** and an IC **144**. Note however, that each and/or either of the first and second sub-assemblies **204-1, 204-2** may include any of the elements **138, 142, 144, 146** or any other elements as required by the

module **200**. As shown, the footprint size of the electronic readout **138** of the module **204** may be equal to or smaller than the footprint size of the associated contact plate **142** so that when the sub-assemblies are combined the resulting module **204** may resemble the module **200** of **FIGS. 7A – 7C** and **8**. All  
5 aspects of module **200** as described above with relation to **FIGS. 7A – 7C** and **8** may also apply to the combined module **204**.

[00069] The packaged module **204** may be configured with the card **100** in a similar manner as described above with relation to module **200** in **FIG. 8**, however, with the added step(s) of combining the sub-assemblies **204-1** and  
10 **204-2** together to form the assembly **204**.

[00070] The sub-assemblies **204-1**, **204-2** may be combined prior to or during the configuration of the module **204** with the card **100**. In one example, the sub-module **204-1** may be placed in its respective position within the milled area **154** of **FIG. 12** first, and the sub-module **204-2** may be placed in its  
15 respective position within the milled area **154** second (shown in **STEP 3**). Note that the order of insertion may be reversed or performed in any order. For example, that the sub-assembly **204-2** may be embedded into the card **100** first and the sub-assembly **204-1** may be embedded into the card **100** second.

[00071] In one exemplary embodiment hereof, the sub-assemblies **204-1**,  
20 **204-2** may each include corresponding electrical and/or physical contacts or other connection mechanisms configured to mate with one another respectively. That is, the sub-assembly **204-1** may include connection mechanisms and the sub-assembly **204-2** may include connection mechanisms, and the connection mechanisms of **204-1** and the connection

mechanisms of **204-2** may be configured to connect with one another respectively. In this way, when the sub-assemblies **204-1**, **204-2** are embedded into the open area **154** of the card **100** (together, separately, one-by-one or in any combination), their corresponding electrical and/or physical  
5 contacts may contact one another to properly connect (both electrically and physically) the sub-assemblies **204-1**, **204-2** together. This may result in the combined assembly **204** that may thereby function properly. It is understood that the electrical and/or physical connections between the sub-assemblies **204-1**, **204-2** may be configured and may make contact within the card **100**  
10 (e.g., within the open area **154**), outside the card **100** (e.g., on the top or bottom surface(s) of the card **100**) and in any combination thereof.

[00072] The example described above is meant for demonstrational purposes, and a person of ordinary skill in the art will understand, upon reading this specification, that the all-in-one assembly **204** may comprise any number  
15 of sub-assemblies **204-n**, where **n** is any number, and that the sub-assemblies **204-1**, **204-2**, **204-n** may be configured within the open area **154** of the card **100** in any order and/or in any position with respect to one another. In addition, not all of the sub-assemblies **204-n** may be visible from the surface of the card **100** and some of the sub-assemblies **204-n** may reside in inner layers of the  
20 card **100**. However, it may be preferable that the sub-assemblies **204-n** that may include the contact plate **142** and the electronic readout **138** may reside in areas of the open area **154** such that the desired visible portions of the contact plate **142** and the desired visible portions of the electronic display **138** may be visible from the same surface of the card **100**.

[00073] The sub-assemblies **204-1**, **204-2**, **204-n** may also be combined prior to the embedding of the combined module **204** into the card **100**. In addition, some of the sub-assemblies **204-n** may be combined prior to being embedded into the card **100**, and other sub-assemblies **204-n** may be  
5 combined during the embedding of the sub-assemblies **204-n** into the card **100**. It is clear that any combination of sub-assemblies **204-n** may be combined prior to or during the embedding of the sub-assemblies **204-n** into the card **100**, and in any combination thereof. It is also understood that any and/or all of the sub-assemblies **204-n** may include corresponding electrical and/or physical  
10 contacts that may be configured to make electrical and/or physical contact with the corresponding contacts on any other sub-assembly **204-n** during the embedding of the sub-assemblies **204-n** into the card **100** as required by the smart card **100** and/or the module **200**.

[00074] While **FIGS. 11A – 11C** and **12** depict an all-in-one assembly **204**  
15 formed of sub-assemblies **204-1**, **204-2** that when combined may have an electronic readout **138** with a footprint size that may be the same size or smaller than the footprint of the associated contact plate **142**, **FIGS. 13A, 13B** and **13C** show the top, bottom and side views, respectively, of a packaged electronic module **206** formed of sub-assemblies **206-1** and **206-2** that when  
20 combined may have an electronic readout **138** with a footprint size that may be larger than the footprint size of its associated contact plate **142**.

[00075] It is understood that all aspects of module **204** described above also apply to the module **206**, but that the process of embedding the module **206** into the card **100** may require a larger open area **154** to accommodate the

larger footprint size of the electronic readout. This is shown in **FIG. 14**.

[00076] It is understood by a person of ordinary skill in the art, upon reading this specification, that in any of the embodiments described above with relation to **FIGS. 7A – 7C, 8, 9A – 9C, 10, 11A – 11C, 12, 13A – 13C** and **14**,  
5 that at least a portion of the electronic readout **138** may be positioned and/or visible in any position on the same surface of the card with respect to at least a portion of the contact plate **142**. That is, while the **FIGS. 7A – 7C, 8, 9A – 9C, 10, 11A – 11C, 12, 13A – 13C** and **14** may generally depict the electronic readout **138** as positioned next to or generally adjacent to the contact plate  
10 **142**, the electronic readout **138** may be positioned in any position with respect to the contact plate **142** such as to the right of the contact plate **142**, to the left, above, below, diagonal in any direction, offset by any distance in any direction, or otherwise in any position on the same side of the card **100** as the contact plate **142** so that the electronic readout **138** and the module **200, 202, 204, 206**  
15 and all of the components associated therewith may each perform their desired functionalities.

[00077] It is also appreciated that for all of the embodiments herein, the contact plate **142** and the electronic readout **138** may also be generally configured and generally visible on opposite sides of the card **100**. For  
20 example, the contact plate **142** may be generally configured and visible on the top surface (front) of the card **100**, and the electronic display **138** may be generally configured and visible on the bottom side (back) of the card **100**, or vice versa. It is also appreciated that the contact plate **142** and the electronic readout, when generally configured and visible on opposite sides of the card

**100**, may be in any orientation and/or location with respect to one another. For example, a portion or all of the electronic readout **138** may be generally beneath the contact plate **142** (but located on the opposite side of the card **100**), or a portion or all of the electronic display **138** may be laterally offset from  
5 the contact plate **142** (but located on the opposite side of the card **100**) in any lateral position with respect to the contact plate **142**. The IC chip **144** and/or the electronic components **146** may be located anywhere that may allow for the components **144**, **146** to make adequate electrical connection with the contact plate **142** and/or the electronic display **138** and/or each other as required to  
10 fulfill their respective functionalities. It may also be preferable that an electrical connection may be made between the contact plate **142** and/or the electronic display **138** and/or the IC chip **144** and/or the electronic components **146** and between any combination thereof as required for the various components individually and in combination to fulfill their respective and combined  
15 functionalities. It is also understood that these electrical connections may be configured prior to or during the embedding of any of the components **138**, **142**, **144**, **146** into the card **100**. It can be seen in this embodiment that the contact plate **142** may be embedded into the card **100** on one surface of the card **100** (e.g. the front or top of the card **100**) and the electronic readout **138** may be  
20 embedded into the card **100** on the surface of the card that may be opposite the surface that may include the contact plate **142**.

[00078] In all of the embodiments described herein or otherwise, the integrated circuit chip **144** may include a microprocessor, a microcontroller, a CPU, memory as well as any other components and elements to perform its

functionalities. In all of the embodiments described herein, the plurality of electronic components may include resistors, capacitors, inductors, matching networks as well as any other components and elements necessary for the modules **120**, **140**, **160**, **170**, **180**, **190**, **200**, **202**, **204**, **206** to perform their  
5 desired functionalities.

[00079] In all of the embodiments described herein or otherwise, the modules **120**, **140**, **160**, **170**, **180**, **190**, **200**, **202**, **204**, **206** and/or any sub-assemblies thereof (*e.g.*, sub-assemblies **204-1**, **204-2**, **204-n**) may include elements other than or in addition to the described elements. For example, in  
10 one exemplary embodiment hereof as shown in **FIGS. 15A**, **15B** and **15C**, in addition to the contact plate **142**, the electronic readout **138**, the electronic components **146** and/or the IC **144**, the module **208** and/or any sub-assemblies (*e.g.*, sub-assemblies **208-1**, **208-2**, **208-n**) may include one or more antennas **166**. In one exemplary embodiment hereof, the one or more antennas **166** may  
15 be configured with the sub-assembly **208-1** as shown, and/or with the sub-assembly **208-2**, with both sub-assemblies **208-1**, **208-2**, and any combination thereof. In one exemplary embodiment hereof, the sub-assemblies **208-1**, **208-2** may be configured within the card **100** using the methodology as described in relation to the embodiment of **FIG. 12** or as with any other embodiment  
20 described herein. While **FIG. 15C** shows one antenna **166** configured with the sub-assembly **208-1**, any number of antennas **166** may be configured with any sub-assembly **208-n** or any combinations of sub-assemblies **208-n**. It is also understood that if the module **208** may not include sub-assemblies **204-n** (*e.g.*, similar to module **200**), that the one or more antennas **166** may be configured

with the module **208** in any way. In this case, the module **208** may be configured within the card **100** as described in relation to the embodiment of **FIG. 8** or as with any other embodiment described herein. It is also understood that the one or more antennas **166** may be configured with any modules **200**,  
5 **202, 204, 206, 208** in any way as required.

[00080] In addition, it is understood by a person of ordinary skill in the art, upon reading this specification, that the various aspects of the embodiments described herein may be combined in any way and in any combination. For example, one exemplary embodiment may include an all-in-one module that  
10 may include a visible portion of a contact plate **142** and a visible portion of an electronic readout **138** on the top surface of the smart card **100**, and in addition, a visible portion of an additional electronic readout visible **138** on the bottom surface of the smart card **100**. Another exemplary embodiment may include an all-in-one module that may include a visible portion of a contact plate  
15 **142** on the top of the smart card **100**, and a visible portion of one or more electronic readouts on either the same surface as the contact plate **142**, on different surfaces as the contact plate **142**, or in any combination of surfaces as the contact plate **142**. In this embodiment, the electronic readout(s) may be located on the surfaces in any position and location with respect to the contact  
20 plate **142**. In another example, another exemplary embodiment may include the IC chip **146** positioned generally beneath, below or behind the contact plate **142**, and the electronic components **146** positioned generally beneath, below or behind the electronic display **138**. In another exemplary embodiment, the IC chip **146** and the electronic components **146** may be positioned generally

beneath, below or behind the electronic display **138**. In another exemplary embodiment, the IC chip **146** may be positioned generally beneath, below, or below the electronic display **138**, and the electronic components **146** may be positioned generally beneath, below or behind the contact plate **142**. In  
5 addition, any portion of the IC chip **146** and/or any portion of the electronic components **146** may be positioned beneath the contact plate **142** and/or the electronic readout **138**, or any combination thereof. Any and all combinations of any or all of the aspects of any or all of the exemplary embodiments described herein are all contemplated by this specification.

10 [00081] As will be appreciated by one skilled in the art, a software embodiment may include firmware, resident software, micro-code, etc. Certain components including software or hardware or combining software and hardware aspects may generally be referred to herein as a "circuit," "module" or "system." Furthermore, the subject matter disclosed may be implemented as a  
15 computer program product embodied in one or more computer readable storage medium(s) having computer readable program code embodied thereon. Any combination of one or more computer readable storage medium(s) may be utilized. The computer readable storage medium may be a computer readable signal medium or a computer readable storage medium. A  
20 computer readable storage medium may be, for example, but not limited to, an electronic, magnetic, optical, electromagnetic, infrared, or semiconductor system, apparatus, or device, or any suitable combination of the foregoing.

[00082] In the context of this document, a computer readable storage medium may be any tangible medium that may contain, or store a program for

use by or in connection with an instruction execution system, apparatus, or device. A computer readable signal medium may include a propagated data signal with computer readable program code embodied therein, for example, in baseband or as part of a carrier wave. Such a propagated signal may take any  
5 of a variety of forms, including, but not limited to, electro-magnetic, optical, or any suitable combination thereof. A computer readable signal medium may be any computer readable medium that is not a computer readable storage medium and that may communicate, propagate, or transport a program for use by or in connection with an instruction execution system, apparatus, or device.

10 [00083] Program code embodied on a computer readable storage medium may be transmitted using any appropriate medium, including but not limited to wireless, wire line, optical fiber cable, RF, etc., or any suitable combination of the foregoing. Computer program code for carrying out the disclosed operations may be written in any combination of one or more programming  
15 languages, including an object oriented programming language such as Java, Smalltalk, C++ or the like and conventional procedural programming languages, such as the "C" programming language or similar programming languages.

[00084] The program code may execute entirely on the user's computer,  
20 partly on the user's computer, as a stand-alone software package, partly on the user's computer and partly on a remote computer or entirely on the remote computer or server. In the latter scenario, the remote computer may be connected to the user's computer through any type of network, including a local area network (LAN) or a wide area network (WAN), or the connection may be

made to an external computer (for example, through the Internet using an Internet Service Provider).

[00085] As used herein, including in the claims, the phrase “at least some” means “one or more,” and includes the case of only one. Thus, *e.g.*, the  
5 phrase “at least some ABCs” means “one or more ABCs,” and includes the case of only one ABC.

[00086] As used in this description, the term “portion” means some or all. So, for example, “A portion of X” may include some of “X” or all of “X”. In the context of a conversation, the term “portion” means some or all of the  
10 conversation.

[00087] As used herein, including in the claims, the phrase “based on” means “based in part on” or “based, at least in part, on,” and is not exclusive. Thus, *e.g.*, the phrase “based on factor X” means “based in part on factor X” or “based, at least in part, on factor X.” Unless specifically stated by use of the  
15 word “only”, the phrase “based on X” does not mean “based only on X.”

[00088] As used herein, including in the claims, the phrase “using” means “using at least,” and is not exclusive. Thus, *e.g.*, the phrase “using X” means “using at least X.” Unless specifically stated by use of the word “only”, the phrase “using X” does not mean “using only X.”

20 [00089] In general, as used herein, including in the claims, unless the word “only” is specifically used in a phrase, it should not be read into that phrase.

[00090] As used herein, including in the claims, the phrase “distinct” means “at least partially distinct.” Unless specifically stated, distinct does not

mean fully distinct. Thus, *e.g.*, the phrase, "X is distinct from Y" means that "X is at least partially distinct from Y," and does not mean that "X is fully distinct from Y." Thus, as used herein, including in the claims, the phrase "X is distinct from Y" means that X differs from Y in at least some way.

5 [00091] It should be appreciated that the words "first" and "second" in the description and claims are used to distinguish or identify, and not to show a serial or numerical limitation. Similarly, the use of letter or numerical labels (such as "(a)", "(b)", and the like) are used to help distinguish and / or identify, and not to show any serial or numerical limitation or ordering.

10 [00092] While the invention has been described in connection with what is presently considered to be the most practical and preferred embodiments, it is to be understood that the invention is not to be limited to the disclosed embodiment, but on the contrary, is intended to cover various modifications and equivalent arrangements included within the spirit and scope of the appended  
15 claims.

[00093] Although certain presently preferred embodiments of the invention have been described herein, it will be apparent to those skilled in the art to which the invention pertains that variations and modifications of the described embodiments may be made without departing from the spirit and scope of the  
20 invention.

[00094] The foregoing description of the preferred embodiment of the present invention has been presented for the purpose of illustration and description. It is not intended to be exhaustive or to limit the invention to the

precise form disclosed. Many modifications and variations are possible in light of the above teachings. It is intended that the scope of the present invention not be limited by this detailed description, but by the claims and the equivalents to the claims appended hereto.

**CLAIMS**

What is claimed is:

1. An electronic module for use with a card, comprising:  
at least one integrated circuit chip;  
5 a contact plate configured with the at least one integrated circuit chip;  
a plurality of electronic components connected to the at least one  
integrated circuit chip; and  
at least one electronic display connected to the plurality of electronics  
components and/or the at least one integrated circuit chip;  
10 wherein the electronic module is configured with the card, and at least a  
portion of the contact plate and at least a portion of the at least one electronic  
display are visible on a first surface of the card.
2. The electronic module of claim 1 wherein a first portion of the  
15 electronic module is embedded into the first surface of the card from the front of  
the first surface, and a second portion of the electronic module is embedded into  
the first surface of the card separately from the first portion and from the front of  
the first surface, and the portions are connected to form a value-add smart card.
- 20 3. The electronic module of claim 1 wherein the first surface of the  
card is the front of the card or the back of the card.
4. The electronic module of claim 1 further comprising at least one  
antenna configured with the integrated circuit chip.

5. The electronic module of claim 1 further comprising electrical connectors configured to connect with other electrical components within the card.

5

6. The electronic module of claim 1 wherein the packaged electronic module is connected to one or more card antennas within the card.

7. The electronic module of claim 1 wherein the packaged electronic  
10 module-is connected to an embedded battery within the card.

8. The electronic module of claim 1, wherein the electronic display or the contact plate of a packaged electronic module is replaced by at least one value-add component selected from the group: a fingerprint sensor, LEDs, an  
15 electronic button and a mechanical button.

9. An electronic module for use with a card, comprising:  
at least one integrated circuit chip;  
a plurality of electronic components connected to the at least one  
20 integrated circuit chip; and  
at least one electronic display connected to the plurality of electronics components and/or the at least one integrated circuit chip;  
wherein a first portion of the electronic module is embedded into a first surface of the card from the front of the first surface, and a second portion of the

electronic module is embedded into the first surface of the card separately from the first portion and from the front of the first surface, and the portions are connected to form a value-add smart card..

5           10.    The electronic module of claim 9 further comprising a contact plate configured with the at least one integrated circuit chip.

11.    The electronic module of claim 10 wherein the contact plate is embedded into the first surface of the card from the front of the first surface.

10

12.    The electronic module of claim 9 wherein the first surface of the card is the front of the card or the back of the card.

13.    The electronic module of claim 9 further comprising at least one  
15   antenna configured with the integrated circuit chip.

14.    The electronic module of claim 9 further comprising electrical connectors configured to connect with other electrical components within the card.

20

15.    A method of assembling an electronic module within a card, the method comprising:

- (A)   providing a card;
- (B)   creating an open area in a first surface of the card;

(C) embedding a first portion of the electronic module into a first portion of the open area; and

(D) embedding a second portion of the electronic module into a second portion of the open area;

5 wherein the first portion of the electronic module and the second portion of the electronic module are connected together by the embedding of the first portion of the electronic module and the second portion of the electronic module into the open area.

10 16. The method of claim 15 wherein the first portion of the electronic module includes a contact plate and the second portion of the electronic module includes an electronic display.

15 17. The method of claim 15 wherein the first surface is the front of the card or the back of the card.

18. The method of claim 15 wherein the first portion of the electronic module and the second portion of the electronic module are electrically connected together by the embedding of the first portion of the electronic  
20 module and the second portion of the electronic module into the open area.

19. The method of claim 15 wherein the first portion of the electronic module and/or the second portion of the electronic module includes an antenna.