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**Heartland Payment Systems Accelerates Development of End-to-End Encryption
Payments Processor Forms Dedicated Department and Names Executive Director**

Princeton, NJ – January 27, 2009 – Payments processor Heartland Payment Systems today announced it has formed an internal department dedicated exclusively to the development of end-to-end encryption to protect merchant and consumer data used in financial transactions.

For the past year, Robert O. Carr, Heartland's chairman and chief executive officer, has been advocating for payments industry adoption of this technology – which will protect data at rest as well as data in motion – as an improvement for payment transaction security.

Carr stated, "PCI is a good and effective standard, but the bad guys have become more sophisticated to the point where encryption of data in motion appears to be one of the next required steps. There is no single silver bullet that will secure payment systems, and constant vigilance and monitoring of the infrastructure will always be required. Nevertheless, I believe the development and deployment of end-to-end encryption will provide us the ability to implement increasing levels of security protection as they become needed.

"Heartland has been working on the development of end-to-end encryption, but in light of our recent data breach and the impact cyber fraud has had on the public and processors nationwide, we are ramping up our efforts," Carr continued. "To do this, we are forming a dedicated internal department and have named Steven M. Elefant, a well-known expert in point-of-sale payments, executive director."

Elefant is a member of the US Secret Service Electronic Crimes Task Force and Infragard, a public/private partnership of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. He is the co-founder and former chief executive officer of ICVerify Inc. ICVerify became the leader in payment processing integration of PC-based point-of-sale software. In 1998, Elefant merged ICVerify with CyberCash Inc. to form an Internet service provider for electronic commerce.

Recently, Elefant has been involved in numerous technical ventures in the payments and venture capital industries. His breadth of experience spans a wide spectrum including merchant and consumer services for online consumer auctions and ASP services for merchandise and payments management.

"Late last year, Steve began a consulting project to help us define a business model for bringing Software as a Service (SaaS) applications to our merchant base," Carr noted. "Now, as a Heartland employee, he will focus on the first leg of end-to-end encryption – getting encrypted data from the point of swipe/entry at the merchant to our switch so malware cannot steal data in motion. The internal network encryption infrastructure will be handled by a combination of new and existing IT professionals under Steve's direction."

Elefant said, "I have known Bob Carr for more than 20 years. We gained respect for one another as competitors in the late '80s and '90s, and I believe Heartland's desire to bring end-to-end encryption to market and work with other processors to share information about cyber crime incidents are significant steps for our industry."

About Heartland Payment Systems

Heartland Payment Systems, Inc., a NYSE company trading under the symbol HPY, delivers credit/debit/prepaid card processing, payroll, check management and payments solutions to more than 250,000 business locations nationwide. Heartland is the founding supporter of The Merchant Bill of Rights, a public advocacy initiative that educates merchants about fair credit and debit card processing practices. For more information, please visit www.heartlandpaymentsystems.com and www.MerchantBillOfRights.com.

Forward Looking Statements

This press release may contain statements of a forward-looking nature which represent our management's beliefs and assumptions concerning future events. Forward-looking statements involve risks, uncertainties and assumptions and are based on information currently available to us. Actual results may differ materially from those expressed in the forward-looking statements due to many factors. Information concerning these factors is contained in the Company's Securities and Exchange Commission filings, including but not limited to, the Company's annual report on Form 10-K, or Form 10-Q as applicable. We undertake no obligation to update any forward-looking statements to reflect events or circumstances that may arise after the date of this release.

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