NEWS RELEASE

CPI Grows ACE-Accredited Talent, Maintains Industry Lead with a Total of 82 Accreditations from ICMA

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Twenty-Four Employees of Industry-Leading Payment Card Manufacturer Earn ACE-M and ACE-P Accreditations in Q4 2015

LITTLETON, Colo.--(BUSINESS WIRE)-- **CPI Card Group** (Nasdaq:PMTS; TSX:PNT), a global leader in financial and EMV® chip card production and related services, today announced that 24 employees have recently passed the International Card Manufacturers Association's (ICMA) Advanced Card Education Manufacturing (ACE-M) accreditation and/or the Advanced Card Education Personalization (ACE-P) accreditation. Adding to the organization's current roster of ACE-accredited professionals, CPI Card Group remains the most ACE-accredited company in the world with a total of 82 accreditations.

ACE accreditation validates knowledge of credit card manufacturing, design and processes through a demanding test. The ACE designation is available to card manufacturing professionals who have demonstrated abilities and knowledge in technologies and processes in specific card manufacturing or personalization/fulfillment areas. Applicants must be working for an ICMA member and have a minimum of two years experience working in the card industry, along with experience in any of the following areas: card manufacturing, personalization or service bureau, or as a supplier to the card industry.

"Congratulations to the 24 new ACE designees from CPI Card Group. We are proud of these individuals for demonstrating their in-depth knowledge of card manufacturing processes and the value their knowledge and expertise will bring to the industry," said Al Vrancart, ICMA Founder Emeritus and Industry Advisor. "The ICMA ACE

program recognizes the professionalism and dedication these individuals have shown throughout their careers."

ICMA offers two stand-alone accreditations, ACE-M and ACE-P. The ACE-M certifies the skills and knowledge of card manufacturing professionals, which include the areas of PVC/plastics, inks, adhesives, printing, collation, lamination, die-cutting, and standards/testing. The ACE-P designation certifies the skills and knowledge of card personalization and fulfillment processes professionals, which include the areas of printing and barcodes, magnetic stripe encoding, embossing, laser engraving, smart card encoding, financial transaction card data, fulfillment, and standards/testing. CPI Card Group currently possesses 82 ACE accreditations – the most of any ICMA member organization

"We encourage our employees to take part in ICMA's ACE accreditation program, as it is the gold standard for acknowledging talent and expertise in our industry," said Steve Montross, president and CEO of CPI Card Group. "Being the most ACE-accredited company in the world demonstrates our commitment to outstanding client service and payments innovation. We look forward to continuing this tradition for years to come."

CPI Card Group is a sponsor of the ICMA EXPO, taking place April 4-7, 2016, in Orlando, Florida. Come visit CPI at booth #102.

About the International Card Manufacturers Association (ICMA)

Based in Princeton Junction, NJ, ICMA is a non-profit association of card manufacturers, personalizers, suppliers and related industry participants. With more than 240 members globally, ICMA acts as a resource for industry issues, including the production, technology, application, security and environmental issues of cards. More information is available at **www.icma.com**.

About CPI Card Group

CPI Card Group is a leading provider in payment card production and related services, offering a single source for financial and prepaid debit cards including EMV chip, personalization, instant issuance, fulfillment and mobile payment services. With more than 20 years of experience in the payments market and as a trusted partner to financial institutions, CPI's solid reputation of product consistency, quality and outstanding customer service supports our position as a leader in the market. Serving our customers from nine locations throughout the United States, Canada and the United Kingdom, we have the largest network of high security facilities in North America, each of which is certified by one or more of the payment brands: Visa, MasterCard, American Express, Discover and Interac in Canada. Learn more at **www.cpicardgroup.com**.

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