



## **€50 million Investment in Clear2Pay Marks Largest Growth Capital Investment Round of 2009 in European Technology Sector**

*Clear2Pay Positioned to Expand its Global Payment Services Business Through Strategic Acquisitions*

ANTWERP, December 7, 2009 – Big Bang Ventures, founding investor of Clear2pay NV will participate in an investment round in Clear2pay NV (“Clear2pay”) led by Aquiline Capital Partners LLC (“Aquiline”), a New York-based private equity firm investing in the financial services sector. Clear2Pay NV is a financial services technology company that delivers global solutions for secure and timely electronic payments. The investment will provide the company with €50 million to fund its next stage of growth and potential strategic acquisitions.

Clear2pay is addressing the large and growing payments technology industry with a multi billion dollar revenue opportunity. Many banks, processors and clearing houses are currently working with legacy payment silos that are proving inefficient and outdated in the face of shifting industry dynamics such as globalization, consolidation, regulatory change and Eurozone harmonization. In the wake of the financial crisis, many financial institutions are streamlining operations and focus on payments again as one of the core businesses.

Clear2Pay is a unique, one-stop-shop for flexible, scalable and cost-efficient global payment solutions. The company offers its clients the modern architecture and software necessary to accommodate all of their payment systems and modify their market propositions efficiently.

"Clear2pay is one of Europe's frontrunners in technology and is further proof of a growing and healthy ecosystem that's producing global technology leaders of tomorrow. It's encouraging to see more and more American investors recognizing Europe's potential," said Barend Van den Brande, Managing Partner of Big Bang Ventures. "As, Clear2pay founding seed investor, we're proud to have brought together a world-class management team which went on to build a profitable company, ready to lead further change in the payments technology landscape. We welcome Aquiline's financial services expertise as Clear2pay evaluates the next stage of growth and potential strategic acquisitions. "

### **About Big Bang Ventures**

Big Bang Ventures is a seed and early-stage venture capital fund for high-growth digital media and software companies. In addition to funding, Big Bang Ventures leverages its extensive operational experience and worldwide network to actively help startups accelerate their growth. Formed in 2000, Big Bang Ventures' investments include Avinity (acquired by ActiveVideo Networks); DataCenterTechnologies (acquired by Symantec); Clear2Pay, a leading payments technology company; Dedigate (acquired by Terremark); Q-layer (acquired by Sun Microsystems).



### **About Aquiline Capital Partners LLC**

Aquiline is a private equity firm based in New York investing in financial services enterprises in industries such as property and casualty insurance and reinsurance, banking and specialty finance, securities, asset management, life insurance and reinsurance, and operations and financial technology. Aquiline seeks to add value to its portfolio companies through strategic, operational, and financial guidance.

### **About Clear2Pay NV**

Clear2Pay is an innovative financial technology company focused on delivering globally applicable solutions for secure, timely electronic payments. Headquartered in Brussels, Belgium, the company facilitates banks and financial organizations in their provision of payments services. Clear2Pay's technology helps to reduce transactions processing costs, and to deliver new, compelling payment services in a competitive way. Clear2Pay's payment solutions offer organisations easy, branded ways for their customers to pay online: from complex trade-supporting business-to-business environments, through e-commerce applications, to retail payments and remittance services. Functions embrace payments origination, reporting, linkage with back-office processing systems, clearing, netting and settlement. Clients include global and major regional financial institutions such as ING, Banco Santander, Crédit Agricole, VISA, MasterCard, BNP Paribas, The Federal Reserve, PBS (Denmark), The People Bank of China (PBOC), Bank of East Asia, ANZ and Commonwealth Bank. Clear2Pay operates out of Belgium, France, the Netherlands, Poland, Spain, United Kingdom, United States, Australia, China, Malaysia and Singapore and currently employs over 450 staff. For more information, please visit [www.clear2pay.com](http://www.clear2pay.com).

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