



Clarity in Payments

Press Release

Santander signs up for Clear2Pay's Open Payment Framework New Interchange Service Centre aims to streamline group bank payments processing

Brussels, 6 November 2008 – Clear2Pay, the international technology provider of next generation payment solutions for financial institutions has signed a contract with Santander for the implementation of the Open Payment Framework to enable group bank payments processing.

Michel Akkermans, Chairman and CEO at Clear2Pay comments: "We are absolutely delighted that the 'Best Bank in the World', as Euromoney proclaimed in July of this year, found that our standards match theirs. This is a project of vital importance to both of us, and we are delighted to work with a team which has a vast experience through their years of building in-house applications. Now that we have successfully passed the proof-of-concept phase, we are working side by side to reach the end goal: the implementation of the Open Payment Framework and a number of underlying solutions such as SEPA Direct Debit and SEPA Credit Transfer."

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About Santander

Santander (SAN.MC, STD.N) is the largest bank in the euro zone and seventh in the world by market capitalization. Santander engages primarily in commercial banking with complementary activities in global wholesale banking, cards, asset management and insurance. Founded in 1857, Santander has EUR 918,332 million in assets and EUR 1,050,928 million in managed funds, more than 65 million customers, 11,216 branches and a presence in some 40 countries. It is the largest financial group in Spain and Latin America. Through its Abbey subsidiary, Santander is the sixth largest bank in the United Kingdom, and is the third largest banking group in Portugal. Through Santander Consumer Finance, it also operates a leading franchise in 20 countries, with its principal focus in Europe (Germany, Italy and Spain, among others) and the U.S. In the first half of 2008, Santander registered €4,730 million in net attributable profit, an increase of 22% from the previous year, excluding capital gains. For more information, see www.santander.com.

About Clear2Pay

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 organisations 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, United Arab Bank, VISA, MasterCard, ABN AMRO, Nordea, Abbey National, Fortis Bank, 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 400 staff. More information is available on www.clear2pay.com

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