

Announcement



Fortis selects Equens for its SEPA payment clearing activities

Brussels/Utrecht, 2 October 2007 – Equens and Fortis Bank SA today agreed that Equens will process Fortis' SEPA payments. This collaboration, which will be effective as from 2008, shows that the free market dynamics resulting from the implementation of SEPA are indeed becoming reality. Fortis has confirmed the implementation of its strategy by pooling all of its payment volumes and offering its customers centralised connectivity to the most important payment communities.

Marc Aguilar, General Manager, Fortis Payments Services: "Completing our SEPA payment connectivity with Equens represents an important milestone for us. Equens is an important pan-European player and has taken a major step forward in terms of cross-border consolidation of volumes. We look forward to developing value-added services that will benefit all our customers".

Michael Steinbach, Chairman of Equens' Board of Directors: "The collaboration is an important achievement from several points of view. We are proud that Fortis has chosen Equens as a partner in processing. It underlines the trust in our organisation. As a pan-European full-service payment processor, we offer Fortis complete and modular solutions for all its processing needs. We are constantly working on our international growth strategy and this collaboration is proof that we are successfully putting it into practice. By achieving economies of scale we will be able to reduce costs for the benefit of our clients."

The collaboration with Fortis builds on an excellent long-standing relationship between Equens Nederland and Fortis Nederland. However, the collaboration agreement regarding SEPA processing will be in addition to the current

agreement between Equens and Fortis Nederland. The agreement covers the service offering to Fortis Group.

Editorial note

About Fortis

Fortis is an international provider of banking and insurance services to personal, business and institutional customers. The company delivers a total package of financial products and services through its own high-performance channels, and via intermediaries and other partners.

Fortis is the market leader in banking and insurance in the Benelux region – one of Europe’s wealthiest. Building on that leadership, we have developed an extensive European footprint in the retail banking market, operating through a variety of distribution channels. We offer skill-oriented financial services to companies, institutional clients and high net worth individuals and provide integrated solutions to the enterprise and the entrepreneur. Our unique expertise has made us a regional and in some cases global leader in niche markets, such as energy in North America and fund administration, commodities and transportation worldwide. We successfully combine our banking and insurance skills in growth markets in Europe and Asia, and we lead the market in bancassurance in Portugal and Malaysia.

Fortis ranks among Europe’s top 20 financial institutions, with a market capitalisation of EUR 35.1billion (31 Aug 2007). With excellent solvency, a presence in over 50 countries and a dedicated, professional workforce of above 60,000, our company combines global strength with local flexibility.

More information is available on www.fortis.com

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About Equens

Equens is the first truly pan-European full-service payment processor. As one of the largest and most innovative payment processors in Europe, we lead the market for future-proof payments and debit card processing solutions. We offer a complete and highly competitive portfolio, which we can align seamlessly with

the requirements of our clients, thanks to our flexible and client-orientated approach.

At Equens, payments are in good hands. We continue to build on many years of experience and the excellent reputation of our founders, Interpay Nederland and the German Transaktionsinstitut für Zahlungsverkehrsdienstleistungen. With a combined annual volume of 7 billion transactions and 1.9 billion switched POS and ATM transactions, our market share within the euro zone is well over 10%. Our current leading position makes us the obvious payment processor within SEPA. Our integrated, high-performance processing platform is SEPA-ready at this very moment. This means that clients will be able to purchase SEPA services from us from day one. Furthermore, we will provide them with extensive support to ensure a smooth transition to SEPA. It is clear that together with our clients we are facing a challenging future.

For additional information, please visit: www.equens.com.

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