

Announcement



SECB Swiss Euro Clearing Bank GmbH and Equens SE sign agreement on Interoperability

Hong Kong, 16 September 2009. SECB Swiss Euro Clearing Bank GmbH and Equens SE have signed an agreement on the implementation of a bilateral link for the exchange of SEPA Credit Transfer (SCT) payments. The arrangement supports both companies' SEPA offerings while helping to create a more competitive market by allowing banks to choose the processor that best meets their needs. It is the intention to go-live with SCT in the first quarter of 2010. In a further step it is planned to extend the agreement to the processing of SEPA Direct Debits (SDD).

Roland Böff, Chief Executive Officer of SECB: "The agreement with Equens is a further achievement in our aim to provide efficient and reliable services for our client banks. The customers of Equens and SECB will benefit reciprocally from the alternatives that we will be capable of offering in terms of reach and interoperability".

Michel Stuijt, General Manager of Marketing & Sales: "This connection with SECB is an important step for Equens in expanding its payment network in Switzerland, but also for Switzerland's banks. We are proud of our full reach proposition in Europe, and the various alternatives we are able to offer our clients in terms of interoperability. Our network and services provide our clients with a fast, efficient and reliable way to send and receive their payments throughout Europe. Equens has already bilateral links for SCT with DIAS (Greece), Iberpay (Spain), ICBPI/Banca d'Italia (Italy), OeNB (Austria), VocaLink (UK) and now for SCT with SECB (Switzerland)".

This interoperability agreement is based on Interoperability Framework version 4.1 of the European Automated Clearing House Association (EACHA). Version 4.1 elaborates on the improved process for exchanging and sharing of reach. It also provides details on all the interoperability provisions for SEPA Direct Debit (SDD) messages for both Core and Business-to-Business (B2B).