



*Press release*

## THE SECOND PHASE OF THE INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE ICBPI GROUP AND EQUENS SE HAS STARTED

### EQUENS S.p.A. HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED

*EQUENS SE WILL HOLD 100% OF EQUENS ITALIA, WHICH WILL BE RENAMED EQUENS S.p.A.*

*CONTEXTUALLY, ICBPI WILL HOLD 20% OF EQUENS SE. IT WILL BECOME SECOND PARTNER, FOLLOWING DZ BANK.*

*MANAGING DIRECTOR OF ICBPI GIUSEPPE CAPPONCELLI JOINS THE EQUENS SE SUPERVISORY BOARD.*

**Milan, 3<sup>RD</sup> January 2011** – the **ICBPI** Board of Directors has approved the launch of the second phase of the partnership project, which started in 2008, with **Equens SE**, one of the largest full service payment processors in Europe with an annual processing volume of 9.4 billion payments and 3.4 billion POS and ATM transactions.

The second phase provides for Equens SE to acquire 50% of **Equens Italia**'s share capital, currently held by ICBPI, so that it will ultimately hold 100% of the company. Contextually, ICBPI will become Equens SE's second shareholder after **DZ Bank** by increasing its share from 10% to 20%.

**Equens Italia S.p.A.** will be renamed **Equens S.p.A.**; it will maintain its status as Italian legal entity and will become part of the Equens SE Group.

For the ICBPI Group, the shift to the second phase on 31 December 2010, is part of the consolidation process of the new company structure and governance following a series of acquisitions. By means of growth – also achieved thanks to external lines – and an accurate partnership policy, the ICBPI Group is able to perform a unique role as a partner for banks, financial and insurance institutions, enterprises and public administration in strategic sectors. These sectors include payment systems, security services, payment cards, IT outsourcing and specialised consulting services (anti-money laundering and compliance).

**Equens Italia** has achieved important results in the first two years of activity from an economic, project and operating point of view; it has obtained synergies and exceeded the expected goals.

**Giuseppe Capponcelli**, ICBPI Managing Director, says: "Today's positive progress is the most genuine demonstration of the good choice we made three years ago. The partnership between our Group and Equens SE was backed by shared ideals and growth goals. Our main and common objective, now as then, remains being a leader in the payment industry in Europe through excellent service, compliance with new standards and attention to innovation. The final target is to ensure that Italian banks have an increasingly competitive approach to the market. We cannot be anything but proud of the results achieved by the joint venture and of now being Equens SE's second shareholder."

While the governance structure of Equens SE and Equens Italia will be modified with effect from 31 January 2011, ICBPI will increase its representation in Equens SE's Supervisory Board from one to two members. In fact, ICBPI's Deputy Chairman **Roberto Romanin Jacur** will work together with ICBPI Managing Director **Giuseppe Capponcelli**, who will maintain his role as Board member of Equens S.p.A.

In addition, **Alessandro Baroni** will become member of the Equens SE Board of Directors from January 2011 and CEO of Equens S.p.A.



*ICBPI GROUP is composed of highly experienced companies specialising in the design, planning and management of services for banks, financial institutions and insurance companies. In their respective areas of operation, the companies in the Group are able to support clients in achieving growth and a competitive market approach.*

*The main company of the group, ICBPI, is a "bank for banks" offering to the banking system both domestic and international, SEPA compliant payment services and systems, and accounting and financial services under a business processing outsourcing model. Through other ICBPI Group companies, ICBPI is a market leader in a score of sectors: monetics, payments, bank-to-corporate services, financial dashboard and data synthesis systems, monitor and alert systems to supervision authorities, anti-money laundering, pension funds managing, and compliance systems. ICBPI holds, together with its strategic partner ICCREA Banca, 45% of the domestic market in the Automated Clearing House services, is part of EACHA (interoperable ACH at EU level) and supplies 33 direct and 428 indirect partners with the SCT service.*

*For further information:*

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