

Capgemini press contacts:

Nishma Shah / Hannah Mercer
Tel: +44 (0) 20 7331 2362 /2359
nishma.shah@cohnwolfe.com

Marion Lecorbeiller
Tel: +33 6 12 73 03 44
marion.lecorbeiller@capgemini.com

RBS press contact:

Shamira Alidina
Tel: + 44 20 7672 2190
shamira.alidina@rbs.co.uk

Efma press contact:

Jean-Guillaume Desprès
Tel: + 33 1 47 42 67 71
jean-guillaume@efma.com

**2008 World Payments Report:
Cards are driving payments growth in a globalised economy;
further standardization of euro card payments required
as Single Euro Payments Area (SEPA) ramps up**

Paris, 9th September 2008 - Cards are the fastest growing means of non-cash payments, accounting for 54% of payment volumes worldwide, and demonstrating the importance of non-cash payment mechanisms to trade and consumer spending in our globalised economy, new research into the global payments market has found. Between 2001 and 2006, card transactions increased 16% worldwide and 11% in Europe annually, according to The World Payments Report 2008 from Capgemini, The Royal Bank of Scotland (RBS) and The European Financial Management and Marketing Association (EFMA). The finding lends a further urgency to work underway in Europe to ensure standardization of euro cards payments across Europe's diverse card networks and to make SEPA for cards achievable, according to the report's authors.

According to Bertrand Lavayssière, Managing Director Global Financial Services, Capgemini: *“Banks have until 2010 to move from their existing domestic schemes to SEPA card schemes, but clearly some core issues (such as common technical standards, interchange fees regulation and scheme governance) must be resolved in order for SEPA cards to become a reality under one option or another. With cards driving worldwide growth in non-cash payments volumes, the focus on this work is intensified.”*

China could take Eurozone's position as second largest payments market – but mature economies will dominate up to 2013

Overall non-cash payments reached 233 billion worldwide in 2006. Mature economies accounted for 80% of these payments, with Europe on its own accounting for a third, and these economies should maintain their dominance up to 2013, the research found. But China accounted for 7% of the global volume of non-cash payments in 2006, with a growth rate of 46% annually from 2001 to 2006, so China could potentially overtake the Eurozone as the second largest payments market by 2013.

Brian Stevenson, Chief Executive, Global Transaction Services, RBS said: *“Where trade goes, payments follow and this research flags up clearly that China’s huge potential as an engine for growth is being realized.”*

Initial SEPA milestones achieved; challenges remain on path to European payment integration

Over the four years of its publication, The World Payments Report has charted progress towards SEPA, the most ambitious regional payments integration plan to date. This year’s report recognizes a number of significant achievements, including the launch of SEPA Credit Transfers in January 2008, and charts progress on remaining challenges.

Brian Stevenson, Chief Executive, Global Transaction Services, RBS says: *“Corporations are under no legal obligation to participate in SEPA and will only adopt the new payment instruments at a time and pace that suits their business needs. Yet SEPA offers worthwhile cash management benefits to corporations with pan-European business. Banks have an important role to play in helping their corporate clients to identify those benefits, which in turn will help to achieve the critical mass vital to the success of SEPA. And SEPA should also help banks themselves to operate more efficiently.”*

In addition, Bertrand Lavayssière, Managing Director, Global Financial Services, Capgemini commented that: *“SEPA presents banks with the opportunity to develop a number of new products and services that will benefit companies doing business in Europe. At the same time, the banks that prosper in a post-SEPA Europe will also be well-equipped to do so in the global payments arena.”*

The report raises the question as to whether end-dates for decommissioning legacy instruments will be needed to stimulate and accelerate the migration process.

About the World Payments Report 2008

This year's World Payments Report 2008 has a broader global perspective than in previous editions, but with its usual, in-depth focus on regional initiatives and potential payments growth areas. It reflects on several European developments that are playing out in other markets around the world and finds that many key trends are universal. It also features in depth analysis on the global cards market and spotlights on remittances, trade finance and mobile payments.

The World Payments Report 2008 is available for download at www.capgemini.com/wpr08 and www.wpr08.com

About Capgemini

Capgemini, one of the world's foremost providers of consulting, technology and outsourcing services, enables its clients to transform and perform through technologies. Capgemini provides its clients with insights and capabilities that boost their freedom to achieve superior results through a unique way of working - the Collaborative Business Experience - and through a global delivery model called Rightshore®, which aims to offer the right resources in the right location at competitive cost. Present in 36 countries, Capgemini reported 2007 global revenues of EUR 8.7 billion and employs over 86,000 people worldwide.

More information is available at www.capgemini.com

Leveraging deep industry expertise, Capgemini can meet the increasingly sophisticated needs of the financial services sector. With a network of 15,000 professionals working for more than 900 clients worldwide, Capgemini's **Financial Services SBU** provides transformation solutions in Banking, Insurance and Capital Markets, and provides industry recognized thought leadership.

For more information: www.capgemini.com/financialservices

About the Royal Bank of Scotland

The Royal Bank of Scotland Group plc is one of the world's largest financial services companies, delivering world class banking and financial services in more than 50 countries, across a global network. Operating profit in 2007 was £10.3 billion and RBS has 170,000 employees. RBS's business divisions provide a range of retail and corporate banking, financial markets, insurance and wealth management services. The Group's brands include RBS, NatWest, Ulster Bank, Coutts, Citizens and many other "household name" financial services companies. In 2007, RBS Group formed a consortium with Fortis Bank and Banco Santander to acquire ABN AMRO.

The RBS's Global Markets division is a leading banking partner to major corporations, financial institutions and public sector clients around the world. Global Markets provides an extensive range of debt markets, treasury and investor products, asset and portfolio management and transaction banking services. The division focuses on long-term customer relationships and excellence in global product execution.

Visit www.rbs.com



About the European Financial Management & Marketing Association

EFMA is the leading association of banks, insurance companies and financial institutions throughout Europe. On a non-for-profit basis, EFMA promotes innovation and best practices in retail finance by fostering debate and discussion among peers supported by a robust array of information services and numerous opportunities for direct encounters. EFMA was formed in 1971 and gathers today more than 2,100 different brands in financial services worldwide, including 80% of the largest European banking groups.

Visit www.efma.com for more information.