

PRESS RELEASE



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CB and girocard establish common functional and certification requirements for card payment terminals in Europe

Two of the largest card schemes in Europe, CB in France and girocard in Germany, will have today recognised the new card payment standard OSCar, as well as the underlying EPAS (ISO20022) and SEPA-FAST specifications.

For the very first time, both card schemes are now organising and providing common functional certification requirements for card payment terminals and acquiring systems based on EPAS and SEPA-Fast standards. A consortium agreement has been signed to establish this infrastructure which covers the usage of common certification bodies, including their accreditation as well as common validation requirements across Europe.

This results in the use of the same functional and certification requirements for card payment terminals used by the card acquirers and retailers in both schemes, and constitutes a significant step in the integration of card payments in Europe.

Initial successful implementation of these standards at major European retailers in France, Spain, Portugal and Germany, has confirmed that important benefits emerge for all stakeholders in the card payment value chain from this process. Examples include:

- For terminal vendors, it means a single development process and a one-stop-shopping for certification. They are now able to address for the larger combined French and German markets of more than 2 million terminals. This provides economies of scale at a pan-European level and allows a shorter time-to-market for more innovative terminals.
- For acquirers these common and less fragmented procedures provide both economies of scale and the ability to concentrate on innovation and service level to their retailers.
- Retailers and cardholders benefit from the possibility to use the same card payment terminals in the same way in enlarged markets. Retailers active in both markets gain economies of scale and may also deploy their innovations or new services more effectively.
- For all stakeholders the usage of these common specifications and certification infrastructure is a necessary step to achieve a more integrated card payment market in Europe.

With this initiative CB and girocard, mainly active in France and Germany respectively, have made a significant contribution to making the SEPA Cards project more meaningful for all stakeholders in the European card payment ecosystem. CB and girocard expect to be joined in the near future in this initiative by other card schemes active in the European Union.

About CB

CB, innovation inside. Groupement des Cartes Bancaires CB is a non-profit organization acting as the governing body of the CB payment scheme to provide a universal and interoperable card payment and ATM cash withdrawal scheme in Europe. End 2014, CB has 128 members, comprising both banks and payment institutions worldwide.

CB is responsible for the system's overall architecture, inter-member rules & procedures and risk management. CB also defines technical and security standards, and ensures that manufacturers and vendors whose products and services are used in the CB system comply with these standards. Furthermore, CB operates an information system, providing its members tools and countermeasures in the fight against fraud.

CB is one of the largest card payment schemes in the European Union with 62.8 million cards, 58 500 ATMs, 1.4 million CB merchants and a very significant activity comprising 10.7 billion card transactions for a total of 545 billion euros in 2014.

For more information, visit www.cartes-bancaires.com.

About girocard

girocard is the leading debit POS-system in Germany (also known as electronic cash) operated by the German Banking Industry Committee. It is a pure Chip and PIN based debit system, with the current account of the cardholder being debited immediately after presentment of the transaction by the merchant to its bank. Since its introduction to the market in 1991, the girocard scheme is present on almost all bank issued debit cards in Germany. The huge market coverage (more than 750,000 terminals) and the participating more than 100 million cards generate more than 4.7 billion transactions yearly for a total of 485 billion euros in 2014.

For more information, visit www.girocard.eu.

About EPAS, OSCar and SEPA-FAST

EPAS, OSCar and SEPA-FAST are specifications and standards developed by nexo which is an association gathering major players of the card payment industry, namely: ACI Worldwide, ATMIA, Crédit Agricole Cards & Payments, Crédit Mutuel, Equens, EURO Kartensysteme, First Data, Groupe Auchan, Groupe Desjardins, Groupement des Cartes Bancaires CB, Hitachi, Ingenico, Monext, Lafon Technologies, OKI, PAN Nordic Card Association, Poste Italiane, RedSys, SRC, SIA, SIBS, SIX Group, Sopra Steria, Total, UniCredit, Verifone, Visa Europe, VÖB-ZVD Processing, Wincor-Nixdorf and Worldline.

For more information, visit www.nexo-standards.org.