

# **Hogan Lovells Global Payments Newsletter**

4 September 2013

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#### 1. REGULATORY DEVELOPMENTS

- 1.1 **United Kingdom**: Regulator publishes interim report on mobile payments and banking
  - The Financial Conduct Authority ("FCA") has published an interim report on its thematic review of mobile payments and banking. It flags a number of potential risks for further assessment, including:
    - > security risks associated with the downloading of banking apps which mean that customers may inadvertently download malware or viruses, and other fraud risks;
    - reliance on third parties for technical services, which increases the chain of companies involved in processing a customer's transaction, and so may increase the likelihood of problems occurring;
    - firms rushing services to market without having put robust systems and technology in place;
    - > small screens and limited keypads on mobile devices may increase the risk of customer error; and
    - ➤ inadequate anti-money laundering ("AML") controls, particularly for higher risk services such as overseas transfers and payments not linked to a customer's current account.
  - The next stage of the FCA's work will involve continued engagement with industry and consumer groups, and the testing of a sample of mobile banking services to determine whether firms are meeting the FCA's expectations and treating customers fairly. The FCA aims to complete its assessment work later this year and to report again in the first half of 2014.

See the report here

### 1.2 **United States:** New York regulator inquiry into virtual currencies

- The New York State Department of Financial Services (the "DFS") has issued a
  notice announcing an inquiry into whether new regulation is needed for virtual
  currencies. They have also sent subpoenas to 22 virtual currency companies to
  obtain evidence.
- Currently, virtual currency exchangers may be engaging in money transmission under New York law, entailing supervision for "safety and soundness", safeguarding of customer funds and AML compliance.

 The DFS is considering tailored regulatory guidelines for the virtual currency industry, which could include requirements on safety and soundness; requirements to ensure prompt processing of virtual currency transactions (especially redemption); to combat illegal activity; and to improve transparency and accountability (in order to attract investment in virtual currency providers).

See the notice **here** and a report **here** 

### 2. PAYMENTS MARKET DEVELOPMENTS

- 2.1 **United Kingdom**: Supermarket chain installs near-field communications ("**NFC**") payments
  - Following a pilot earlier this year, supermarket chain, Lidl, has rolled-out NFC 'contactless' payments to all 600 of its UK stores. Lidl hopes to speed up payments and reduce queuing times as well as meet consumer demand for alternative methods of payment. In the first two weeks, a reported 65,000 NFC transactions were carried out.
  - With an increasing number of major high street retailers now offering NFC technology, consumer awareness and use is growing. Figures from Visa show that in the last 12 months, UK consumers have made 51 million purchases using NFC and monthly contactless spend has increased five-fold to £45.2 million in June 2013 compared to the same period last year.

See a report here

- 2.2 **United Kingdom:** No more cash fares for London bus?
  - Following the introduction of the radio-frequency identification ("RFID") Oyster card in 2003 and NFC debit, credit and charge card payments on its bus fleet at the end of last year, Transport for London ("TfL") are now considering whether to stop accepting cash payment for fares on their bus network.
  - According to TfL, cash fares now make up less than one per cent of bus journeys. In addition, TfL would save £24 million a year, while customers would benefit from reduced queuing times and lower fares. A public consultation is open until 11 October 2013.
  - TfL also plan to introduce NFC payments across other parts of London's transport network, including the Tube, Docklands Light Railway, London Overground and trams by the end of this year.

See a report here

- 2.3 **United States**: Mobile payment solution for the rental market
  - Mobile payments company, Propay, has launched a service to facilitate rental payments via mobile devices, without requiring users to download an app. The service, accessed via the web browser of the device, also allows users to communicate with their property managers and report maintenance problems.
  - This service could be a useful tool for property managers, particularly for the 18-34 age group. There are approximately 50 million 18-34 year olds in the rental market, of whom around 80% own a smartphone.

See a report here

### 2.4 Czech Republic: NFC payment system trialled

- Mobile network operator ("MNO"), Telefonica, is piloting an app and card reader based mobile point of sale ("mPOS") system that will also support NFC payments. The service, targeted at small merchants, will use a card reader that connects to a mobile device. The app will be supported on iOS, Android and Windows operating systems.
- Merchants enter the amount to be paid into the app and the customer either swipes or inserts their card into the reader or, if it is NFC-enabled, taps their card against the reader and, if prompted, enters their personal identification number ("PIN").
- Local bank, CSOB, will clear payments and merchants will pay a 2.79% transaction fee. If the trial is successful, a full launch could begin early next year and move beyond the Czech Republic to Slovakia and Germany.

See a report here

- 2.5 Canada: PayPal's Toronto pilot lets diners pay by mobile over the cloud
  - PayPal is working with Toronto-based, TouchBistro, on a pilot in selected restaurants and coffee shops around the city. The pilot will allow customers to pay using their mobile devices over the cloud. TouchBistro operates iPad-based point-of-sale ("POS") terminals, connected to cash drawers and printers using the cloud.
  - Customers of participating outlets will be able to check-in on their smartphone with PayPal when they arrive. When a customer comes to pay, the member of staff sees the customer's image and name on the iPad for easy identification and confirms payment from the customer's PayPal account or linked debit or credit card. The aim is to speed up transactions and allow a more personal service.

See a report here

#### 2.6 **Brazil**: iZettle mPOS service launched

- mPOS provider, iZettle and Banco Santander, who invested in the firm earlier this
  year, are launching iZettle's card reader and accompanying app in Brazil. The service
  will allow merchants to take card payments using their mobile device.
- With 99.7% of businesses in Brazil being micro-merchants, iZettle's service could help these merchants gain access to Brazil's vast card payment market. It's the latest in a series of Brazil oriented announcements from providers, and highlights the interest which Brazil holds for payments innovation launches.

See a report here

### 2.7 **India:** Trial brings NFC to basic phones

- Software start-up, iKaaz Software, is trialling a NFC solution in India. Consumers can
  purchase a small, low cost NFC tag to convert their phone into an NFC-enabled one.
  The retailer of the tag links it to the customer's mobile number so the customer can
  then link mobile wallets or bank account details with the tag.
- Separately, merchants are able to purchase a reader which is plugged into their phone, and download the iKaaz app. The merchant can then accept payments by the customer tapping their phone against the reader. The customer will receive a text message confirming the transaction.

• Currently India has a low payment card penetration, so this solution, which doesn't require a significant investment by either the consumer or merchant, could help move the country away from cash based transactions.

See a report here

### 3. SURVEYS AND REPORTS

- 3.1 **United States**: Consumers gaining trust in online and mobile banking
  - A report by Pew Research Center shows that 51% of American adults (or 61% of internet users) now bank online. This is up from 46% in 2010. The report also shows significant growth in mobile banking with 32% of US adults (or 35% of mobile phone owners) using their device for banking, up from 18% in 2010.
  - The research also shows a marked increase in the use of online banking among young adults (i.e. 18-29 year-olds), growing from 55% in 2010 to 66% in 2013.

See the report here

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