SIBS to launch new payment system in São Tomé and Príncipe

*SIBS-Partners in Payments introduces new payment services and interoperability teeming up with leading global payment systems*

Lisbon, 28 April 2021 - SIBS actively pursues its contribution to payments digitization on a global scale with the development and operationalization of a new payments platform in the African continent, supporting the national payment system of São Tomé and Principe. The platform will be managed by the national interbank company (SPAUT), with the support of the country’s Central Bank. As a leader in electronic payments, SIBS will contribute with the platform’s technological capacity and know-how, increased levels of performance, resilience and security, and accelerate innovation and digitization in the market.

SIBS was selected to develop and advance São Tome’s payment system by the country’s Central Bank and SPAUT. The company’s platform currently allows interbank and omnichannel processing in an integrated and multi-payment system, processing all operations carried out in local ATMs and Point of Sale (POS) terminals in the country. This guarantees the connection and processing of international systems, such as Visa and Mastecard, in addition to processing the domestic payment system, Dobra24. SIBS is also set to take on a decisive role in issuing and personalizing bank cards in the market.

SIBS platform will allow the introduction of new payment services such as mobile phone top up, payment of taxes and payment for services, in particular water and electricity bills, which are expected to be an important factor in the modernization and digitalization of the country. The system will continue to support the main features available at Rede Dobra24’s ATMs (withdrawals, PIN changes, balance inquiries, NIB inquiries, account movements and transfers).

“In São Tomé and Principe, SIBS solutions will support the country’s payment system on a national scale. We are committed to supporting the local economy and believe our technological capacity and experience will benefit the country. SIBS’s mission is to actively contribute to payments digitalization across all markets, where digitalization can make a visible contribution to inclusion and access to services.”, SIBS’s CEO Madalena Cascais Tome says.
“SIBS solutions serve customers across regions, present in 3 of the 5 top markets in the African continent, in addition to Asia. SIBS has a remarkable domestic track record in payment platforms and systems’ development, integrated and multichannel, with more than 1.5 billion transactions in almost one million payment terminals. SIBS is considered as an innovation benchmark and a reference operator. We are proud to export Portuguese technology to other markets where we will make a difference”, adds Madalena Tomé.

“We now have a New Retail Payment Platform from the Dobra24 Network with a new central transaction processing system, new banking applications, new service ranges from other entities, new customer cards, new ATM and POS terminals, and incorporating acceptance of Visa debit and credit cards already in this first phase that we started today. Mastercard brand will begin to be accepted from the second half of 2021. Thanks to SIBS, it was possible to make this structuring project a reality.”, said Américo Barros, Governor of the Central Bank of São Tomé and Príncipe, adding: “With the launch of this platform, the country is more open to the world, with visitors being able to use Visa international cards. Tourism and services can raise more foreign exchange needed to leverage the archipelago’s economic and social development process.”

About SIBS

With more than three decades of existence, SIBS provides financial, modern, reliable and secure services, namely in the area of payments, to more than 300 million users, on three different continents, processing more than 4 billion transactions annually. In addition to being one of the main payment processors in Europe, SIBS is a reference in Security and Anti-Fraud solutions and services in Business Process Outsourcing and a leader in the Iberian Peninsula in the Production and Personalization of Cards.

SIBS was born and grew to innovate and will continue its mission. It has technology as its driver and through it, has reinvented existing forms of payment and created MB WAY, the most modern and complete national mobile payment service, which has more than 3 million users who make purchases, immediate transfers and withdrawals, all through the use of a mobile phone. SIBS is also responsible for the management of the ATM Express and MULTIBANCO networks, the largest and most universal Portuguese ATM network, to which it added dozens of features, many of them new to the world, making the largest ARM network in Portugal also the most complete in the world. In parallel, SIBS manages multiple digital payment channels, from Automatic Payment Terminals, to online media or mobile phones.

SIBS is also an important international player, present in several markets, namely in Europe, Asia and Africa, where SIBS solutions operate in more than 850 thousand terminals that process around 2 billion transactions. Highlighting the activity in Romania, where it acquired the leading card processing company - Romcard / Supercard, which now operates under the name SIBS Romania, and in Poland, where it owns PAYTEL, one of the operators of payment terminals that has most dynamized the market. SIBS has a relevant position in these important markets in Central and Eastern Europe, contributing Portuguese technology and know-how to the development and digitalization of these countries.

In a committed way, SIBS constantly pursues its mission of being the reference partner of public and private entities, creating value for Society, through the development and management of payment
solutions, processes and related services based on technology that combine safety, convenience and
innovation, respecting good behavioral principles and sustainability conditions.
You can find more information about SIBS at www.sibs.com.

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