

TCT to supply EMV cards to Ghana Commercial Bank

One of the United Kingdom's largest manufacturers of secure and non-secure plastic cards, Thames Card Technology (TCT), has been awarded a tender to be the sole supplier for the production, personalisation and distribution of one million Europay, MasterCard and Visa (EMV) chip payment cards for Ghana Commercial Bank (GCB).



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TCT will also act as consultant to support GCB in its transfer to EMV over the next three years, in addition to working close with the bank and its processor, International Card Processing Services (ICPS), to streamline integration with international payment systems.

Following consultation with Thames, GCB is deploying its first commercial EMV products in anticipation of an October 2011 mandate from MasterCard and Visa requiring all Ghanaian banks to migrate to dynamic data authentication (DDA) capable cards. DDA provides protection against the modification of data and card cloning and is the most sophisticated EMV authentication protocol available today.

Fighting fraud

"As the bank with the largest branch and ATM network in Ghana, we are working hard to stay ahead of the curve in the fight against payment fraud in Africa," comments Samuel Sarpong, CTO at Ghana Commercial Bank. "EMV migration DDA mandates have been set for 2015 and Thames Card Technology will be central to our success in meeting these deadlines.

"It was of paramount importance that we found a partner with the ability to manage every stage of the card production process. Thames' full service offering, technical expertise and international experience of taking customers through EMV migration made it the ideal partner to help us deliver added payment security to our two million account holders."

"We have a proven track record in supporting EMV implementations and look forward to guiding GCB Ltd. through this process," says Paul Underwood, managing director of Thames Card Technology. "GCB Ltd. is at the forefront of the Ghanaian banking market, and with their plans to migrate all card holders onto EMV technology by the end of 2015 I am sure other financial institutions in Ghana and surrounding countries will be looking to follow suit."

Future business

As part of the migration process Thames has established a secure connection to GCB's payments processor, ICPS, which handles the payments processing for numerous banks across East and West Africa. "This initial collaboration with Thames Card Technology provides a strong basis for future business initiatives on the continent," comments Roshan Kulpoo, GM ICPS.

EMV is a global standard for credit and debit payment cards based on secure chip technology. More than eighty countries worldwide have adopted, or are adopting, EMV, in order to increase transaction security, reduce fraud, enable cardholders to execute payments worldwide and take advantage of a payments infrastructure capable of supporting a variety of new value-added applications.

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