

UK, London – August 2011



Payment Card Technologies kicks off the new England Rugby MasterCard® Travel Prepaid Card

Payment Card Technologies (PCT) has today kicked off the brand new England Rugby travel card. Designed to appeal to England Rugby fans throughout the country, this superb new card gives fans the opportunity to show their support for the game by using it to buy match tickets, flights and transport to games and for spending any time, anywhere from a pint in the local to a road trip after the games in Auckland.



PCT are delighted to have had the opportunity to launch such a prestigious card, with enormous brand appeal, which will be ideal for supporters to show their loyalty when travelling to the much anticipated Rugby World Cup 2011 games in New Zealand this season. With fans travelling far and wide, the card gives them the opportunity to load cash onto the card in the UK and use it to spend before, during and after their trip to watch the games. Wherever they may end up in the world after the games, the card can easily be used to pay for travel, bills and events over the course of their trip making it the perfect way for supporters pay for goods whilst showing their loyalty to the England team.

With games in full swing, it was critical that PCT used all the resources at their disposal to bring the project in on time. The tight project schedule meant the PCT team and their partners worked tirelessly to ensure the card was launched without a hitch which was essential for blue chip client, The RFU.

Payment Card Technologies were introduced to the RFU through existing client, GCEN, to manage and deliver the card. PCT were able to showcase their credentials via the successful delivery of other card programmes for the likes of GCEN, Brittany Ferries and World First. Through GCEN, the team at the RFU knew that PCT would use their expert industry knowledge and through working with existing strategic partners such as BancTec and MasterCard, they would be better placed than others in the industry to get the project off the ground.

Sophie Goldschmidt, RFU Chief Commercial Officer, said: “We want to provide commercial products which enable our fans to enjoy the game even more; this product has the capability to do that. PCT has delivered to a tight brief and timescale and we are delighted to be working with them.”

With early sales indicating the success of the card, PCT will be introducing a Euro card and a Dollar card to enable fans to continue to benefit from highly competitive exchange rates whilst supporting the team when travelling overseas.

PCT Managing Director, Ian Clowes commented that “PCT is very pleased and honoured to launch the first Rugby World Cup card with England Rugby through its partnership with GCEN, which has been done in record time, it has been a great team effort and the card will give supporters great benefits throughout this global tournament and beyond “

The card is available to purchase at <http://rfu.gcencurrencycards.com/>

MasterCard is a registered trademark of MasterCard International Incorporated. The Card is issued by Newcastle Building Society ("NBS") pursuant to licence by MasterCard International Inc. NBS is authorised and regulated by the Financial Services Authority as an issuer of e-money (registration no. 156058)

Editors notes

About Payment Card Technologies

Payment Card Technologies Limited (PCT) is an international prepaid and debit card programme manager with offices in London and Dublin. Formed in 2007 and co founded by Frank Lambe (Chairman) and Ian Clowes (MD), PCT acquired Chester based First Prepaid and Affinity Cards in 2008. PCT now delivers some 14 card schemes with clients including Brittany Ferries and World First, along with a number of consumer schemes including MeCard and their own managed cards The First Premier MasterCard Prepaid Card and the First Premier Travel MasterCard Prepaid Card. PCT also provides consultancy services on an international basis to programme managers, card service providers and financial institutions.

For further information, please

Visit www.paymentct.com.

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About RFU

The Rugby Football Union is the National Governing Body for rugby union in England and supports participants and fans from the grassroots to the national team.

About Frank Lambe

Frank Lambe, Executive Chairman, is a co-founder of Payment Card Technologies. Frank was formerly Head of Cash Development at Alliance & Leicester, Director of Alliance & Leicester Cash Solutions and has some 38 years banking experience with a particular focus on the payments market. At Alliance & Leicester, he was responsible for establishing and successfully growing the Bank's prepaid card business. In other roles, he was responsible for managing major banking outsourcing relationships including partnerships with Group 4 Securitas, Nationwide Building Society and Lloyds Banking Group. Frank has also been a member of a number of senior APACS committees and Bank of England committees.

About Ian Clowes

Ian Clowes, Managing Director, is a co-founder of PCT and a former Director of Abbey National and Unisys. As a key player in the Payments industry, sitting on main industry boards (APACS council, BACS, Cheque and Credit clearing Ltd etc) he was responsible for setting up Abbey National's payment business (cards, cash, cheques, electronic, international) winning prestigious contract including the Bank of England's clearing.

About Newcastle Building Society

About Newcastle Building Society's Card Solutions Division www.nssl.info
Card Solutions offers BIN sponsorship, card issuance, settlement services and complete regulatory compliance. It is currently ranked as the largest provider in UK and Europe by MasterCard on monies settled, and seventh globally on MasterCard prepaid network, with over 300 live schemes. It has over 1.25 million of its issued cards active month on month carrying out over 1,700,000 transactions.

- Card Solutions issues a range of card programmes including:
- Debit cards Retail gift cards – replacement of paper gift token
- Teen cards – 13-plus age introduced to card holding
- General spend cards for adults without access to banking facilities.
- Travel cards – Safe convenient alternative to travellers cheques.
- Corporate incentive cards – cards issued direct to employees as reward payments.
- Payroll and Payroll Plus cards – salary payments for employees.

The Society is a MasterCard® Principal Member, with the most MasterCard approved prepaid programmes in the UK. Card Solutions holds a SEPA licence and have live programmes in the UK, Ireland, Germany, Belgium, Poland, Spain, Italy, Portugal and Hungary.