

## weekly news round-up

9 March 2018

### SUMMARY OF TOPICS:

- Mobile/Contactless and omni-Commerce
- Commercial cards
- Digital/Retail Banking
- Acquiring/Processing
- Fintechs/Innovation
- Fraud/Security
- Blockchain/DLT/ Cryptocurrencies
- Corporate Activity
- Regulation

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## MOBILE/CONTACTLESS and omni-COMMERCE

**BRC – KPMG Retail Sales Monitor February 2018.**  
<http://tinyurl.com/y9bor2lp>

Online sales of Non-Food products grew 6.4% in February, versus growth of 8.0% in February 2017.

**Mastercard** is incentivising use of Samsung Pay with Costa offer.

<http://tinyurl.com/y8nmw44q>

Mastercard holders who load their card into Samsung Pay will be rewarded with £6 to spend at Costa Coffee branches in the UK.

**The Co-op Group** is working with MasterCard on ‘no till’ checkout trial.

<http://tinyurl.com/y8fcljnl>

The Co-op has developed an App with Mastercard technology that allows shoppers to use their own phone to scan goods with a single click generating payment when they have finished. Currently trialling in-house, a wider roll-out could begin this summer.

**Vocalink** post – On the ground at Mobile World Congress.

<http://tinyurl.com/ycjo5m5w>

**Worldpay** says that Contactless is at ‘tipping point’.

<http://tinyurl.com/ybk2dw36>

Worldpay has identified a 328% yoy rise in in-store mobile spending with 59% of all in-store mobile transactions taking place at Supermarkets.

**TOTAL** is launching an eWallet in Europe.

<http://tinyurl.com/yct4a57k>

The solution, which will enable customers to fill up and pay through their mobile, will be rolled out first in Germany and Belgium and subsequently across the rest of Europe.

## COMMERCIAL CARDS

**MasterCard** is supporting Vipera in the launch of its SME Pay solution.

<http://tinyurl.com/y6wr6ol3>

SME Pay integrates with the Mastercard Business Card, enabling business owners to set controls on employee use of the card using an app.

## DIGITAL/RETAIL BANKING

**Orange Bank** is introducing a virtual advisor ‘Djingo’.

<http://tinyurl.com/y7uvween>

Powered by IBM Watson Djingo’s AI based technology answers customers’ questions in natural language. Available 24/7, Djingo is the first point of contact for customers and currently has c24,000 conversations per week.

## ACQUIRING/PROCESSING

**ai Corporation** has announced the launch of its next generation fuel card solution, EazyFuel.

<http://tinyurl.com/ybygk7fh>

The new platform amalgamates ai’s global, cloud-based, omni-channel (B2C and B2B) payment processing gateway, fraud and risk management capability, and its rules-based, advanced restrictions, to support fuel payments.

## FINTECH/INNOVATION

**The EC** has released an Action Plan on how to harness the opportunities presented by technology-enabled innovation in financial services.

<http://tinyurl.com/yci7wq8f>

FAQ: <http://tinyurl.com/y7dwe35d>

Fact sheet <http://tinyurl.com/yddqxmsb>

As a first major deliverable, the Commission is also putting forward new rules that will help crowdfunding platforms to grow across the EU’s single market.

## FRAUD/SECURITY

**Ocado Technology** is using Google Cloud and machine learning to improve fraud detection.

<http://tinyurl.com/yawua5bl>

Ocado has leveraged Google Cloud’s data analysis capabilities and TensorFlow (an open source software library for numerical computation) to develop a model that predicts results in real-time and provides the likelihood of fraud as a probability.

**Fiserv** is now offering Mastercard Decision Intelligence to its FI clients.

<http://tinyurl.com/ybdhw2sg>

The solution helps FIs increase the accuracy of real-time approvals of genuine transactions, reduce the number of false declines and improve the overall cardholder experience.

## BLOCKCHAIN/DLT/ CRYPTOCURRENCIES

**DNB Working Paper** - What drives bitcoin adoption by retailers?

<http://tinyurl.com/y8p9bmpj>

The DNB finds that acceptance of crypto payments is currently modest (2%), but there is substantial interest among retailers to adopt crypto payments in the near future. The most serious barrier for crypto acceptance seems to be a lack of consumer demand.

## CORPORATE ACTIVITY

**PeP (Polskie ePłatności)** has acquired PSP PayLane.  
<http://tinyurl.com/ycmofay3>

The aim of the move is to be able to build an omnichannel capability by linking PePs terminals capability with PayLane's online offer.

**Stripe** has purchased payments start-up Index.  
<http://tinyurl.com/ydct6rp7>

Index is a retail software company that provides a semi-integrated payment solution and fully hosted gateway (the prize for Stripe allowing a fuller omnichannel offer).

**SIX Group** now has PostFinance as a shareholder.  
<http://tinyurl.com/ycfy32sq>

This takes the number of shareholders to 127 banks.

**BBVA** is increasing its stake in Atom Bank.  
<http://tinyurl.com/ya3z69ho>

BBVA is to invest a further £85.4m (€96m), increasing its stake to c39% as part of a £149m funding round. The new funds will support Atom's growth and build core capabilities.

**solarisBank** has raised €56.6m in a series B funding round.

<http://tinyurl.com/ya8f26mo>

Included in the strategic investors are BBVA, Visa, Lakestar, Arvato Financial Solutions and ABN AMRO DIF. The newly raised capital will support solarisBank on its path towards further growth, the continued development of its digital platform and product portfolio, as well as further geographic expansion.

**Mastercard** has announced the integration of its physical and digital payments teams.

<http://tinyurl.com/ycgbb5p7>

The new Products and Innovation team will bring core products, digital payments, Mastercard Labs and processing activities under one roof.

The consolidation has been driven by the exit of an Executive who is going to lead a new venture 'Providing Services to Mastercard, Its Customers and Partners'.

## REGULATION

**The Bank of Israel** has published the final timescales for reducing interchange fees.

<http://tinyurl.com/ydakkrch>

After a public consultation and drafting of a 'path' for the reduction of Interchange, the Bank has now come out with its final plan that brings forward the date on which the interchange fee on deferred debit of 0.5% will be reached to 2023. The final fee for debit is also set at 0.25% by 2023.