



**SIA-SSB WINS THE TENDER TO MANAGE BANK OF ITALY'S
INTERBANK COMPUTERISED ARCHIVE OF BAD CHEQUES AND
PAYMENT CARDS**

The value of the contract is over €23 million and it will have a five-year duration with the possibility of a further three-year extension

Bank of Italy's interbank computerised archive of bad cheques and payment cards (CAI) contains data on irregular bank and postal cheques and payment cards

The Italian Interbank Network will guarantee the interconnection between CAI headquarters and the remote sites at the notifying bodies (banks, Poste Italiane, supervised financial intermediaries issuing payment cards, Prefectures, Judicial Authorities)

Milan, 10 March 2010 – SIA-SSB has won the tender called by the Bank of Italy for the management of the Interbank Computerised Archive of bad cheques and payment cards (CAI - Centrale di Allarme Interbancaria).

The total value of the five-year contract with a possible further three-year extension, is €23,174,800.

SIA-SSB's proposal was selected thanks to its high technical-qualitative features and its better economic conditions compared with the competition.

SIA-SSB will manage the **entire IT system at CAI headquarters**, controlled by the Bank of Italy, as well as the **interconnections with the remote sites (local archives)** located at the notifying bodies' premises (banks, Poste Italiane, supervised financial intermediaries issuing payment cards, prefectures through the Interior Ministry, Judicial Authorities through the Ministry of Justice).

Also planned are additional new functions, among which the link to already available network infrastructures participating in SITRAD, the system for electronic data transmission, and the strengthening of "disaster recovery" procedures.

The CAI will exchange data with the remote sites through the **Italian Interbank Network (RNI)** according to current standards.

The notifying bodies must send SIA-SSB the information related to the various irregular payment tools on a daily basis and in return will receive confirmations and aggregated reporting results.

Bank of Italy's interbank computerised archive of bad cheques and payment cards, established according to law following the decriminalisation of a series of minor offences including the drawing of uncovered or unauthorized cheques, provides a



service in the public interest aimed at ensuring the correct operation of the payments system.

It contains the personal details of subjects who:

- Have drawn bank and postal cheques without authorization or funds, meaning that they did not have sufficient funds to pay the cheques themselves;
- are no longer authorized to use credit and debit cards due to the non-payment of sums related to transactions or withdrawals made with said cards.

The entry in the archive of those subjects who have drawn unauthorized or uncovered cheques involves the application of the so-called “system revocation”, which implies a six-month ban from drawing cheques and entering new agreements with banking or postal systems in relation to the drawing of cheques.

The entry in the archive of subjects who have had their authorization to use credit and debit cards revoked has a duration of two years but does not imply the impossibility to obtain other cards: this choice is left to the discretion of individual issuers.

The CAI also gathers the information related to administrative and penal sanctions applied by Prefects and the Judicial Authority respectively following the drawing of unauthorized or uncovered postal and bank cheques.

The CAI also contains anonymous identification of “high risk” bank and postal cheques and payment cards (for example cheques or cards that have been stolen, lost or blocked for other reasons).



SIA-SSB, European leader in Information & Communication Technology, provides services and solutions to the international financial community in the areas of credit and debit card processing, payment systems, capital markets and network services for connectivity and messaging.

Created from the merger between SIA (*Società Interbancaria per l'Automazione*) and SSB (*Società per i Servizi Bancari*), SIA-SSB Group currently operates in 30 countries and has subsidiaries in Belgium, Hungary and South Africa.

With 7.2 billion transactions annually – relating to cards, collections and payments – over 61 million cards managed and 2.5 billion deals processed on financial markets, SIA-SSB carries more than 9.9 thousand billion bytes of data on the network.

SIA-SSB Group is made up of seven companies: the parent company **SIA-SSB**, the Italian subsidiaries **Kedrios** (back-office and reporting services), **RA Computer** (solutions and applications for banks, businesses and P.A.) and **TSP** (systems and services for companies and P.A.), **SiNSYS** (card processing) in Belgium, **Perago** (infrastructures for central banks) in Switzerland and South Africa, and **GBC** (card processing and ATM/POS terminal management) in Hungary.

For more information, go to: www.siassb.eu

Contacts:

SIA-SSB

Filippo Fantasia
Media Coordination Manager
T. +39 02.6084.2833
M. +39 335.1202713
filippo.fantasia@siassb.eu

MS&L Group

Emanuela Locci / Greta Bonsignore / Sergio Pisano
Tel. +39 02 77336.248 / 416
emanuela.locci@mslworldwide.com
greta.bonsignore@mslworldwide.com