

PERAGO (SIA GROUP) WINS THE "PAYMENTS AND MARKET INFRASTRUCTURE PROVIDER OF THE YEAR" AWARD

*The prize, part of the "Central Banking Awards 2018",
relates to excellence in the Central Banks sector*

*Perago was awarded for "having increased its customer base
by offering real-time gross settlement systems capable of fulfilling
the specific needs of some of the most advanced central banks in the world"*

Milan, 24th January 2018 – **Perago**, the South African company 100% owned by SIA specializing in the design and development of infrastructures for central banks, has won the "**Payments and Market Infrastructure Provider of the Year**" award, presented by **Central Banking**, a news site for central banks all over the world.

The award, part of the "**Central Banking Awards 2018**", relates to excellence in the Central Banks sector, a sector that operates in an ever-more interconnected global economy, and was given to Perago by an independent advisory board and by Central Banking's editorial staff for "*having increased its customer base in 2017 by offering standard yet flexible real-time gross settlement (RTGS) systems, capable of fulfilling the specific needs of some of the most advanced central banks in the world.*"

There are currently **20 central institutions in Europe, Africa, the Middle East and Oceania** that have decided to use SIA's technologies to develop their payment infrastructures.

Christopher Jeffery, Chairman of the Central Banking Awards Committee and Editor-in-chief of Central Banking, said: "*Perago has had particular success in the Nordic countries where electronic payments are quickly displacing the use of cash. Its hybrid RTGS system is arguably the most sophisticated as it presents central banks with not only a funds transfer system, but also business process. The judges also noted Perago's support for lower-value payments in countries such as Iceland.*"

Commenting on the award, **Perago's Chief Executive Officer Claudio Ceresani** said: "*The payment industry is living in a new era of exciting transformations and the ability of central banks to lead these modernisation projects is crucial. Our strategy to create and foster a strong community of central banking customers collaborating with us and one another to build a continuously evolving ecosystem of products, has lead Perago to develop the most sophisticated and future looking solutions available on the market today. This award recognises our efforts to support central banks in their strategic endeavours.*"

The "**Central Banking Awards 2018**" prize-giving ceremony will take place in London on 1st March.

SIA is European leader in the design, creation and management of technology infrastructures and services for Financial Institutions, Central Banks, Corporates and the Public Sector, in the areas of payments, cards, network services and capital markets. SIA Group provides its services in 46 countries, and also operates through its subsidiaries in Austria, Germany, Romania, Hungary and South Africa. The company also has branches in Belgium and the Netherlands, and representation offices in the UK and Poland.

In 2016, SIA managed 12.2 billion clearing transactions, 4.3 billion card transactions, 2.8 billion payments, 47.4 billion financial transactions and carried 654.3 terabytes of data on the network.


The Group is made up of eight companies: the parent **SIA**, the Italian companies **Emmecom** (innovative network applications), **P4cards** (card processing), **SIAPay** (advanced collection and payment services), and **Ubiq** (innovative technology solutions for marketing), **Perago** in South Africa, **PforCards** in Austria and **SIA Central Europe** in Hungary. The Group, which currently has over 2,000 employees, closed 2016 with revenues of €468.2 million.

For more information: www.sia.eu

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