



## **ECB CHOOSES SIA AND COLT FOR THE ACCESS NETWORK TO THE EUROSISTEM'S PAYMENTS, SECURITIES AND COLLATERAL INFRASTRUCTURES**

*The two companies have been awarded a 10-year concession*

***SIA and Colt will provide all European financial institutions with connectivity services to TARGET2, TIPS, TARGET2-Securities and to the ECMS through the Eurosystem Single Market Infrastructure Gateway (ESMIG) starting November 2021***

***The ESMIG is a fundamental step in the realization of the Eurosystem's "Vision 2020" strategic plan***

*Milan and London, 17 June 2019 – SIA, in partnership with Colt Technology Services, has won a tender commissioned by the European Central Bank for the provisioning of connectivity services allowing European central and commercial banks, central depositories, automated clearing houses and other payment service providers to connect directly to Eurosystem market infrastructures through a single access interface (Eurosystem Single Market Infrastructure Gateway - ESMIG).*

Thanks to the concession granted to SIA and Colt as Network Service Providers for the ESMIG, **starting from November 2021**, all the key organisations in the European financial system will be able to access the platform for the settlement of large-value payments **TARGET2**, the instant payments settlement service **TIPS**, the securities settlement platform **TARGET2-Securities** (T2S), the Eurosystem Collateral Management System (**ECMS**) and possibly other new services and applications.

ESMIG is a fundamental component **in the implementation of the TARGET2 and TARGET2-Securities consolidation project**, which was one of the key proposals of Eurosystem's "2020 Vision" strategic plan for the evolution of market infrastructures. This project will entail savings for both financial institutions, who require more secure and reliable functionalities to be made available, and for the Eurosystem itself through a reduction in operating costs.

The partnership between SIA and Colt, signed originally in 2012 on the occasion of the TARGET2-Securities call for tenders, has led to the successful attainment of one of the two ten-year licenses for ESMIG. It was due to the organisations **high technological profile and strong international presence**, which saw the two companies being awarded this business.

*"We're particularly proud to have been chosen, in partnership with Colt, as one of the two Network Service Providers for Eurosystem market infrastructures. It represents a prestigious result for technology 'Made in Italy' and confirms SIA's significant ability to compete at international level, also strengthening our role as an innovative partner of central and commercial banks. This award for ESMIG is very important because, for the first time in Europe, all financial institutions have the chance to select the best technological solution in a framework of free competition with considerable benefits in terms of costs and efficiency, and contributes*



to strengthening cybersecurity and the resilience of strategically important systems", commented **Nicola Cordone, SIA's Chief Executive Officer**.

**Paula Cogan, VP of Enterprise and Capital Markets at Colt**, comments: "*The awarding of the ESMIG tender, seven years after the establishment of the partnership between Colt and SIA, represents a really important milestone for both companies. We are pleased to underpin the infrastructure evolution envisaged by the "Vision 2020" program by providing connectivity and messaging solutions for the fully managed T2S platform. Colt's network offers high levels of performance, scalability and guaranteed service levels which is why we are the chosen provider for over 650 financial institutions globally, including 18 of the 25 largest banks, more than 50 stock exchanges and 13 European central banks*".

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**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 50 countries, and also operates through its subsidiaries in Austria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia and South Africa. The company also has branches in Belgium and the Netherlands, and representation offices in the UK and Poland.

In 2018, SIA managed 14 billion institutional services transactions, 7.2 billion card transactions, 3 billion payments, 51.7 billion financial transactions and carried 1,204 terabytes of data on the network.

The Group, which currently has over 3,400 employees, closed 2018 with revenues of €614.8 million.

For more information: [www.sia.eu/en](http://www.sia.eu/en)

**Colt** aims to be the leader in enabling customers' digital transformation through agile and on-demand, high bandwidth solutions. The Colt IQ Network connects 900+ data centers across Europe, Asia and North America's largest business hubs, with over 27,500+ on net buildings and growing.

Colt has built its reputation on putting customers first. Customers include data intensive organizations spanning over 212 cities in nearly 32 countries. Colt is a recognised innovator and pioneer in Software Defined Networks (SDN) and Network Function Virtualisation (NFV). Privately owned, Colt is one of the most financially sound companies in its industry and able to provide the best customer experience at a competitive price.

For more information, please visit [www.colt.net](http://www.colt.net)

Contacts:

**SIA**

Filippo Fantasia  
Head of Media Coordination  
Tel. +39 02.6084.2833  
Mob. +39 335.1202713  
Email: [filippo.fantasia@sia.eu](mailto:filippo.fantasia@sia.eu)

Valentina Piana  
Media Coordination  
Tel. +39 02.6084.2334  
Mob. +39 342.0467761  
Email: [valentina.piana@sia.eu](mailto:valentina.piana@sia.eu)

**COLT**

Nola Pocock  
Director - Global Communications, PR & AR  
Tel. +44 7917714377  
Email: [nola.pocock@colt.net](mailto:nola.pocock@colt.net)

 [@SIA\\_pressoffice](https://twitter.com/SIA_pressoffice)