

**Press Release**  
**January 25, 2019**

## **MILLENNIUM BCP BEGINS ISSUING UNIONPAY CARDS**

### ***First European Bank; Broad Rollout; Targets more than 200,000 new customers***

Millennium bcp, Portugal's largest private bank, has started issuing UnionPay cards to its customers and rolling out the UnionPay QuickPass payment service. The bank aims to issue more than 200,000 UnionPay cards to its customers in Portugal over the next five years.

Millennium bcp is the first European bank that is going to issue UnionPay cards, the result of an agreement signed last year with the world's largest payment card company. Millennium bcp has also started dealing with merchants to accept UnionPay cards in Portugal, with the goal to achieve 10,000 merchants accepting UnionPay cards. The UnionPay branded card that Millennium bcp is issuing will be accepted in 100% of ATMs in Portugal from the outset.

The initial focus for UnionPay International and Millennium bcp has been on serving customers who travel between Portugal and China, either for business or pleasure. With the initiation of local issuance, the target market quickly expands beyond this customer group to include Millennium bcp customers seeking innovative payment options and the best in class user experience.

With over seven billion cards accumulatively issued worldwide, UnionPay is the card payment organisation with the world's largest cardholder base. Its continuously expanding acceptance network laid a solid foundation for local card issuance in Portugal.

In Europe, UnionPay is now accepted by more than 3.3 million merchants in 40 countries and regions, covering more than 60% of all the bankcard-accepting merchants in Europe. Meanwhile, its global network has extended to 174 countries and regions, which covers 52 million merchants and over 2.6 million ATMs worldwide. In Portugal, UnionPay is accepted at all the local ATMs and about 80% of POS terminals that accept international bankcards. And it will reach 100% acceptance soon.

**Cai Jianbo, Chief Executive UnionPay International, said:** "With the continuous expansion of our acceptance network in Europe, UnionPay International has accelerated the localization of our business: First, we are improving our acceptance in sectors related to free-and-independent traveling to enhance our cardholders' payment experience. Second, we are setting our collaboration with our Portuguese partner as a good example to carry out card-issuing collaboration with more institutions to promote the localization of our business in Europe. Third, we are leveraging on our experience in promoting mobile payments in China to accelerate the rollout of our mobile payment solutions in Europe while seeking opportunities for digital card issuance."

**Miguel Maya, Chief Executive of Millennium bcp, said:** "Our issuing of UnionPay cards is an important step for Millennium bcp, allowing us to reach a fast growing market while also providing innovative payment options for our customers. Our initial focus is on Portuguese professionals, entrepreneurs and tourists traveling to China and the more than 170 other countries where UnionPay is present. That will be followed by a broader approach to customers, supported by the increase in the number of merchants accepting UnionPay's cards in Portugal. Millennium bcp stands

out as the first European bank to issue UnionPay's cards, and this is recognition of our franchise value, including our knowledge and experience in the cards business.

### **About UnionPay International**

UnionPay International (UPI) is a subsidiary of China UnionPay focused on the growth and support of UnionPay's global business. In partnership with more than 2,000 institutions worldwide, UnionPay

International has enabled card acceptance in 174 countries and regions with issuance in 51 countries and regions. UnionPay International provides high quality, cost effective and secure cross-border payment services to the world's largest cardholder base and ensures convenient local services to a growing number of global UnionPay cardholders and merchants.

For more information, please visit: [www.unionpayintl.com/en](http://www.unionpayintl.com/en)

### **About Millennium bcp:**

Founded in 1985, Millennium bcp is Portugal's largest listed bank, and is active in Poland, Mozambique, Angola, Switzerland and Macau. Millennium bcp currently serves more than 5 million customers worldwide.

For more information please contact:

#### **UnionPay International Europe**

Mao Kai

Tel. +44 2073973757

[maokai@unionpayintl.com](mailto:maokai@unionpayintl.com)

Matthew Pears/Oliver Parry/ Brandon Stockwell/ Patrick Evans

Citigate Dewe Rogerson

[unionpay@citigatedewerogerson.com](mailto:unionpay@citigatedewerogerson.com)

T: 020 7638 9571

#### **Millennium bcp**

Erik T Burns

Tel. +351 917 265 020

[erik.burns@millenniumbcp.pt](mailto:erik.burns@millenniumbcp.pt)