



Access criteria for the Retail Payment Scheme (RPS) rough concept

1. Introductory remarks

In view of the introduction of instant payment in autumn 2023, the Board of Directors of SIX Interbank Clearing Ltd ("**SIC Ltd**") has initiated a review and commissioned a committee to investigate how the instant payment volume could be increased via SIC IP. The specific question was whether and how instant payment could be used at the point of sale. The Board of Directors subsequently launched a project under the working title "Retail Payment Scheme" (short "**RPS**" or "**RPS project**"), which is separate from the operational business of SIC Ltd. The project team developed key points of an overall RPS concept with four subconcepts (scheme framework, RPS gateway, cost-effectiveness and market development), which examine the context and identify possible solutions ("**RPS rough concept**").

On the one hand, the development process revealed that there is a certain level of market interest in possible **use cases** for instant payments. At the same time, the Board of Directors of SIC Ltd decided not to implement the RPS project independently at this time due to the low chances of success for its own market offering. The Board of Directors of SIC Ltd has therefore decided, together with the SNB, that interested market participants should be given access to the RPS rough concept (consisting of the four subconcepts) against payment of an appropriate fee.

At its meeting of December 11, 2025, the Board of Directors of SIC Ltd completed the RPS project and approved it accordingly. At the same time, it was decided that the RPS rough concept should now be cleared of the business secrets of SIC Ltd and involved third parties and that interested market participants would subsequently be granted access on request, subject to the conditions listed below.

2. Criteria for access to the concept

Due to SIC Ltd's interest in increasing the volume of instant payments, access to the RPS rough concept (consisting of the four subconcepts) should be kept at a low threshold. Access is therefore granted according to the following criteria:

- Presentation and proof of a legitimate interest in access (justified letter of motivation)
- Signing of a license agreement (including confidentiality obligations)
- Payment of a reasonable access fee.

The RPS rough concept itself, the original documents, and all rights thereto remain with SIC Ltd.

3. Reasonable access fee

The fee for the RPS rough concept (consisting of the four subconcepts) was set at CHF 2,000. The reasons for this are as follows:

- The RPS rough concept was developed with considerable financial resources from the Board of Directors of SIC Ltd. There is also a legitimate interest in ensuring that only market participants with a serious project-related interest have access to the RPS rough concept.



- For reasons of know-how and business secret protection and due to assurances given during the creation of the RPS rough concept, third parties are given access to a cleaned or redacted version. The anonymization/redaction affects essential contents of the RPS rough concept and significantly reduces its informative value for persons not involved in the project. This reduces the relevant business value for interested market participants depending on their interests.

If you are interested, please contact the following contact point:

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