

## **SIX Card Solutions Acquires Parts of First Data Business in Austria**

### **Media Relations**

#### **SIX Card Solutions AG**

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Zurich/Vienna, 13 May 2009

**SIX Card Solutions, the leading Swiss processor of card-based payments, and First Data, a global leader in electronic commerce and payment services, today announced an agreement under which First Data will transfer parts of its Austrian processing business to SIX Card Solutions. Through this agreement, the two contracting parties enable the secure and smooth migration of the portfolio of PayLife Bank GmbH onto SIX Card Solutions' systems in 2010/2011.**

Close to 130 former First Data employees will transfer to SIX Card Solutions, along with those parts of the Austrian business relating to the processing of card transactions for PayLife Bank and other customers currently serviced out of First Data's Austrian data centre.

Last year, following an international tender, SIX Card Solutions signed an agreement with PayLife to provide processing for its entire acquiring and debit card issuing business from 2011. Through the transfer of business announced today, SIX Card Solutions will benefit from First Data's extensive know-how of the Austrian cards business, accumulated by the company and its predecessors over three decades, and this will help to ensure the successful migration of the PayLife portfolio.

For SIX Card Solutions, the cooperation with PayLife opens up new opportunities in Austria. "Our processing offering covers the entire payments and clearing value chain and delivers significant added value to our customers," said Felix Aeschlimann, chief executive officer of SIX Card Solutions. "With the comprehensive expertise and experience of our new employees from First Data we will be able to capture new market opportunities and enhance existing customer relationships in Austria."

In transferring this part of its business to SIX Card Solutions, First Data is focusing its efforts on driving innovation in the Austrian payments market. In the past two years, the company has significantly developed its acquiring business and now has a strong presence in the Austrian retail space with FirstPOS terminals and ATM locations.

“We introduced the concept of bank branch-independent ‘offsite’ ATMs to the Austrian market last year and this has already had a considerable impact,” said Vincent Roland, senior vice president and head of First Data’s business in Europe, Middle East & Africa. “In the future, we will focus even more intensively on expanding our strategic business areas in Austria and on driving new trends through innovative solutions and business models.”

The transaction is expected to close in a few months, subject to regulatory approvals. The financial terms of the agreement were not disclosed.

### **About SIX Card Solutions**

*SIX Card Solutions is the leading Swiss processor of credit, debit and customer cards. It develops and operates an open platform for card-based payment transactions. Together with five branch offices outside Switzerland, SIX Card Solutions provides services in the field of payment & clearing in 27 countries. Among its customers are all partners involved in cashless payment traffic: merchants, acquirers, card issuers and financial institutions. SIX Card Solutions is part of SIX Group, which belongs to the Swiss banks. SIX Group operates Switzerland’s financial market infrastructure and offers on a global scale comprehensive services in the areas of securities trading, clearing and settlement, as well as financial information and payment transactions. The company, which emanated from the merger of the SWX Group, Telekurs Group and SIS Group at the start of 2008, is owned by its users (160 banks of various size and orientation) and, with its workforce of approximately 3,500 employees and presence in 23 countries, generates annual revenues in excess of 1.6 billion Swiss francs.*

**[www.six-card-solutions.com](http://www.six-card-solutions.com) and [www.six-group.com](http://www.six-group.com)**

### **About First Data**

*First Data powers the global economy by making it easy, fast and secure for people and businesses to buy goods and services using virtually any form of electronic payment. Whether the choice of payment is a gift card, a credit or debit card or a check, First Data securely processes the transaction and harnesses the power of the data to deliver intelligence and insight for millions of merchant locations and thousands of card issuers in 37 countries. For more information, visit [www.firstdata.com](http://www.firstdata.com).*

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