

## Media Release

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### **SIX sells Commercial Issuing Business in Austria to *easybank***

**SIX and *easybank* announce that SIX will sell its Commercial Issuing business (the Issuing of credit and prepaid cards) in Austria together with the Issuing Support for Austrian banks to *easybank*. A corresponding agreement was successfully concluded by both parties on February 28, 2017. The Issuing of credit and prepaid cards is operated under the well-recognized national brand “PayLife”. SIX will focus on its B2B business and plans to further strengthen its merchant business (Acquiring) and the transaction processing (Acquiring and Issuing Processing).**

SIX, one of the market leaders in card processing in Switzerland, Austria and Luxembourg, has decided to sell the Issuing of credit and prepaid cards (commercial issuing) together with the Issuing Support for Austrian Banks to *easybank* as of February 28, 2017. Commercial Issuing is a profitable business segment which has been acquired by SIX as part of the acquisition of the then PayLife Bank. Commercial Issuing is the only B2C business of SIX. According to its global corporate strategy, SIX will exclusively focus on its role as a B2B service provider for banks, financial institutions and in payment transactions for merchants, especially on acquiring and on processing Acquiring and Issuing transactions. Issuing cards directly to consumers does not fit in the strategic orientation of SIX.

In contrary to this, credit card issuing is one of *easybank*'s core businesses and fits with *easybank*'s growth strategy. In addition, the acquisition will provide *easybank* with a world class credit card team as well as additional product offerings and features for our existing customer base. *easybank* will not only continue offering services to the “PayLife” customers, but plans on further investing into the business to ensure that customers continue to benefit from the latest technology and innovations. The acquisition is another important step for *easybank* continuing to be leading direct bank in Austria and will thus make a significant contribution to the expansion of its core business. The acquisition is value accretive day 1.

The Acquiring business of SIX in Austria and the Processing business for Austrian banks will remain unaffected by this transaction and will be further expanded as a core business of SIX.

About 150 employees will move to *easybank* due to this transaction. The transaction is still subject to the customary closing conditions and regulatory approvals. The transaction is expected to close in the second half of 2017. Both parties have agreed not to disclose any economics of the transaction.



Payment Services



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**SIX Payment Services**

SIX Payment Services offers financial institutions and merchants secure, innovative services along the entire value chain of cashless payments. Our tailor-made solutions include settlement of domestic and international payments by credit, debit and prepaid card. One of Europe's largest card transaction processors and market leader in Switzerland, Austria and Luxembourg, SIX Payment Services ensures that card-based payments in Switzerland and abroad are both accepted and processed. With around 1,100 employees and 10 locations worldwide, SIX Payment Services supports clients in 33 different countries. In Austria, the portfolio currently includes approx. 1.7 million credit and prepaid cards that are marketed to consumers under the PayLife brand as well as card issuing services for several Austrian banks. [www.six-payment-services.com](http://www.six-payment-services.com)

**SIX**

SIX operates the infrastructure underpinning the Swiss financial sector and offers a comprehensive range of services around the world in the fields of securities trading and settlement, financial information and payment transactions. The company is owned by its users (approximately 140 banks of various orientation and size). Its workforce of over 4,000 employees and presence in 25 countries throughout the world generated operating income of CHF 1.8 billion and adjusted Group net profit of CHF 713.7 million in 2015. [www.six-group.com](http://www.six-group.com)

**easybank**

Founded in 1997, easybank is Austria's first direct bank offering a full product suite, ranging from current accounts and savings products to credit cards, consumer and housing loans, auto leases and investment products. Our business model is based on simple and transparent products, state of the art technologies, a lean operating model and best-in-class customer service. Today, easybank is Austria's largest and most profitable direct bank, with a well-recognized brand with over 700,000 customer accounts. In 2016, the bank reported a profit before tax of EUR 53.5 million and has consistently been the #1 direct bank in Austria. easybank is a wholly-owned subsidiary of BAWAG P.S.K. [www.easybank.at](http://www.easybank.at)