



PRESS RELEASE

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DAVID HARRISON APPOINTED AS HEAD OF VISA EUROPE'S GOVERNMENT SERVICES TEAM

12th July, London: In a move designed to further consolidate its position as a key payment services provider to Government and Public Sector organisations, Visa Europe has appointed David Harrison as Head of its Government Services Team. He takes over the role as his predecessor Iain Currie moves to a senior position at Visa CEMEA (Central Europe, Middle East, Africa).

David's appointment comes as the UK Government Procurement Card (GPC Visa) programme celebrates its most successful year with £1.3 billion cumulative spend by over 70,000 users in over 450 Public Sector Organisations.

David, who joined Visa in 2001, was part of the successful team that originally secured the exclusive contract to supply GPC Visa. He was also responsible for developing and launching the GPC Visa benchmarking site (www.purchasingcard.info), in conjunction with OGCBuying solutions and PCCL, which enables potential GPC Visa users and their suppliers to enter details of their current purchasing or sales processes and view potential savings available through using GPC Visa.

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He also has considerable experience and expertise following his involvement with a large number of major e-Procurement projects over the last five years that have required the integration of Visa payment solutions.

David, who will be supported by two experienced senior managers, has nearly 20 years experience within the financial sector and prior to joining Visa was responsible for Government and Public Sector at NatWest Commercial Cards and then latterly the Royal Bank of Scotland. He has also spent a period of secondment with OGCBuying solutions where he has gained a valuable insight into a variety of efficiency and e-Government initiatives, including the Efficiency Review.

David Harrison said “This is an exciting time as, in addition to our well documented success in the UK with GPC Visa, we have developed many key contacts across Europe following the unprecedented interest from a large number of Government and Public Sector organisations. In my new role I will be actively seeking opportunities in Europe and we are keen to replicate the success of the UK programme by delivering savings to other Governments and Public Sector organisations throughout the region. I will also be maximising further opportunities to broaden the programme in the UK with a number of initiatives that will bring even more benefits to these organisations.”

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About Visa

In Europe, there are almost 282 million Visa debit, credit and commercial cards. In the 12 months ending March 2005, those cards were used to make purchases and cash withdrawals to the value of over €1 trillion. Visa is one of the world's leading payment brands with over 1.2 billion cards generating €2.8 trillion (\$USD3.4 trillion) in annual card sales volume. Visa has unsurpassed acceptance at approximately 24 million acceptance locations including close to one million ATMs. Visa is a Membership Association that plays a pivotal role in the global payments industry, developing innovative products and technologies to benefit its 21,000 Member financial institutions and their cardholders. For more information, visit www.visaeurope.com.