

Cassa Centrale Group and Worldline Italia conclude an agreement for a strategic partnership in merchant acquiring

The collaboration concerns the provision of services along the value chain of digital payment acceptance and international acquiring for the 65 affiliated banks of the Cassa Centrale Group.

Rome/Trento, 01.07.2024 - Cassa Centrale Group and Worldline [Euronext: WLN], global leader in payment services, announce that they have concluded a **strategic partnership agreement in merchant acquiring** following the exclusive negotiation that was guaranteed to the Italian subsidiary of the international payment Group.

The collaboration concerns the provision of services along the value chain of digital payment acceptance and international *acquiring* for the **1,480 branches of the 65 affiliated banks** of the Cassa Centrale Group **throughout Italy**.

The project involves the supply and management of POS terminals, and exclusive agreements for international circuits, involving roughly **100,000 terminals**, which generated transaction volumes of **more than Euro 9 billion** in 2023.

For the Cassa Centrale Group, the initiative aims to further improve the quality of services offered, relaunching the offer to customer merchants with **innovative products** that are **more market competitive**.

The agreement also enables the Group to generate medium-term benefits and implement one of the initiatives envisaged in the 2023-2026 Strategic Plan.

As regards Worldline Italia, the transaction helps to consolidate a significant position in the payments market, significantly increasing the **number of merchants served** and **the POS terminals managed**.

The expertise of Worldline in Italy and throughout the world will guarantee advantages in terms of innovation and evolution of the product portfolio for the benefit of the customers of the Group Banks, who will be able to take advantage of the **specialised and innovative solutions** for a better *customer experience*, subsequently positively impacting their own business.

Sandro Bolognesi, Chief Executive Officer of Cassa Centrale Banca comments: "The important agreement signed today with Worldline Italia allows us to strengthen our competitive positioning in e-money. In line with the guidelines of the Strategic Plan, we are taking a concrete step towards the adoption of technologically advanced solutions to improve the customer experience of our affiliated banks".

"This agreement with an important Group such as Cassa Centrale testifies to our ability to provide the Italian market with a complete, competitive and innovative offer. Our offer and assistance

model which is unique on the market combines international experience and local Italian *know-how*, through which we are able to offer a distinctive service that, in turn, banks can offer to business customers, also ensuring a significant increase in revenues from *Acquiring* business. This partnership adds to the numerous partnerships with major banking institutions in the country with which we work with mutual satisfaction", declared **Stefano Calderano, Chief Executive Officer of Worldline Merchant Services Italia.**

The agreement is subject to the authorisation of the competent authorities.

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Worldline [Euronext: WLN] supports companies of all types of activities and sizes to accelerate their growth, quickly, easily and securely. Thanks to advanced payment technologies, local expertise and customised solutions for hundreds of markets and sectors, Worldline fosters the growth of over one million companies worldwide. In 2023, Worldline generated a turnover of € 4.6 billion.

The corporate purpose ("raison d'être") of Worldline is to design and manage leading digital and transactional payment solutions, which promote sustainable economic growth and strengthen trust and security in our companies. Worldline works to ensure that transactions are sustainable, making them widely accessible and supporting social transformation.

Cassa Centrale Group – Credito Cooperativo Italiano includes 66 BCC – Casse Rurali – Raiffeisenkassen and 1,480 branches across Italy, with more than 12,000 employees and over 470,000 cooperative partners. With balance sheet assets of EUR 89.6 billion as of 31 December 2023, the Group ranks among Italy's top 10.