The Claims Defining the Invention are as Follows

1. A financial transaction system for preparing parties for a financial transaction to be processed by a financial service provider, including:

a governing host having a database for registering the parties wishing to perform a financial transaction between them using the financial service provider to ultimately process the financial transaction;

a discrete terminal independently accessible by one party of the parties wishing to initiate a financial transaction with another party of the parties and for communicating with the governing host to prepare for the transaction, the discrete terminal having a local transaction process providing for the initial validating and enforcing of business rules governing the transaction with the one of the parties and to generate a transaction key confirming that the initial validating and enforcing has been successful to complete a first preparatory stage of the financial transaction and that a second preparatory stage of the transaction is authorised by the governing host to proceed;

a facilitator device for completing the second preparatory stage of the financial transaction at a point-of-sale terminal of the other of the parties, the facilitator device having a reader to read the transaction key on being supplied with same from the one of the parties and communicate with the governing host to complete the second preparatory stage of the transaction using the facilitator device;

the discrete terminal being located separately of the point-of-sale terminal and capable of being accessed and operated independently by the one of the parties, offline of any point-of-sale activity involving the point-of-sale terminal and the facilitator device;

the facilitator device including a facilitator process to instruct the other of the parties on those steps required to complete the second preparatory stage of the transaction in a manner that facilitates final compliance with the business rules governing the transaction and other requirements of the other of the parties;

wherein the discrete terminal and facilitator device are able to validate or reject the transaction having regard to compliance with the business rules governing the transaction that are required to be performed by the other of the parties during the first or second preparatory stages of the financial transaction respectively.

2. A financial transaction system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the facilitator device is integrated into the point-of-sale terminal.

3. A financial transaction system as claimed in claim 1 or 2, wherein the local transaction process includes a customer registration process, a send money transaction process, a receive money transaction process, or a foreign exchange enquiry process.

4. A financial transaction system as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein the facilitator process includes prompting the other of the parties to conduct an identity check of the one of the parties and validating the transaction for submitting to the financial service provider only after the other of the parties has verified completion of the identity check.

5. A financial transaction system as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein the discrete terminal and governing host provide for the operation of supplemental transaction processes, including a reconciliation transaction process, a problem resolution transaction process, a network management transaction process and a network upgrade transaction process to facilitate and support the operation of the financial transaction system.

6. A financial transaction system as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein the governing host includes fraud detection means including a fraud checking process to analyse patterns of transactions that may be fraudulent or non-compliant and to alert when detecting same.

7. A financial transaction system as claimed in claim 6, wherein the discrete terminal includes a fraud detection client application responsive to said fraud detection means to validate the initial transaction before authorising the transaction to proceed to the next stage.

8. A financial transaction system as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein the governing host includes a compliance report process for automatically generating reports for submission to a compliance officer or regulator as part of the compliance program of the other of the parties.

9. A financial transaction system as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein the facilitator process creates a record of the financial transaction for submitting to the financial service provider only after the other of the parties has verified the conduct of the identity checks and the financial transaction has been further validated by the governing host.

10. A financial transaction system as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein the facilitator device, at the end of some transactions loads a banking card for the one of the parties with sums of money that the one of the parties can then use to withdraw at an automatic teller or other money dispensing machine.

11. A financial transaction system as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein the governing host includes a compliance framework to enforce compliance requirements with the one party dependent on the business rules that need to be complied with by the other of the parties during the first and second preparatory stages of the transaction, before submitting the financial transaction for processing by the financial service provider, in response to communication with the discrete terminal as part of the local transaction process.

12. A financial transaction system as claimed in claim 11, wherein the governing host includes a compliance monitoring process including a trigger setting process for setting compliance trigger limits that define the compliance framework of a merchant and a transaction examining process to ensure compliance with the business rules of the merchant.

13. A financial transaction system as claimed in claim 12 as dependent on claim 6 or 7, wherein the transaction examining process further ascertains whether a compliance trigger limit has been breached suggesting a money laundering,

terrorist financing or fraudulent activity and invoking a prescribed contingency process.

14. A financial transaction system as claimed in claim 13, wherein the prescribed contingency process includes a stop process to stop any further transacting occurring after a set limit of a compliance trigger is reached, an alert process to launch an investigation process when a particular predefined compliance trigger has stopped a transaction, and a compliance report process to compile and send a compliance report.

15. A financial transaction system as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, including a products and services handling infrastructure to allow third party products and services to be supplied to a customer on the discrete terminal and constitute a financial transaction prepared by the financial transaction system by way of the discrete terminal and facilitator device for compliance and validation in accordance with the business rules of the merchant before being submitted to the third party products and services provider for processing.

16. A financial transaction system as claimed in any one of the preceding claims including a training setting process for defining counter operators of the merchant and to set counter operator training status for use in enabling operation of the facilitator device so that only trained operators are able to use the facilitator device.

17. A method for preparing for preparing parties for a financial transaction to be processed by a financial service provider including:

registering one of the parties for performing a financial transaction offline from any point-of-sale activity;

receiving a request from a registered party wishing to initiate a particular type of financial transaction with another of the parties offline of any point-of-sale activity involving the other of the parties;

communicating with a governing host to prepare for the transaction during a first preparatory stage for providing for the initial validating and enforcing of

business rules that need to be complied with by the other of the parties governing the transaction, involving interaction with the one of the parties;

generating a transaction key for the one of the parties and storing the transaction key on the governing host on validating the first preparatory stage of the transaction;

completing a second preparatory stage of the financial transaction at the point-of-sale on the other of the parties being provided with the transaction key by the one of the parties, including:

(i) communicating with the governing host and prompting the other of the parties to further validate the transaction in accordance with the compliance requirements of the other of the parties as determined by the governing host, and

(ii) submitting the financial transaction with the financial service provider at point-of-sale for processing after communicating with the governing host as appropriate to further validate the transaction.

18. A method for preparing parties for a financial transaction as claimed in claim 17, wherein the step of receiving a request from a registered party occurs locally of the other of the parties but offline of any point-of sale activity involving the parties.

19. A method for preparing parties for a financial transaction as claimed in claim 17 or 18, including delivering point-of-sale material and displaying instructions, terms and conditions to the one of the parties in their own language, prior to completing the transaction.

20. A method for preparing parties for a financial transaction as claimed in any one of claims 17 to 19, including submitting the financial transaction for processing by the financial service provider only after prompting the other of the parties to conduct identity checks of the one of the parties based on the electronic delivery of instructions to the other of the parties by the governing host.

21. A method for preparing parties for a financial transaction as claimed in any one of claims 17 to 20, including applying the business rules of the other of the

parties as part of the initial validating and enforcing performed during the first preparatory stage.

22. A method for preparing parties for a financial transaction as claimed in any one of claims 17 to 21, including the local transaction process receiving alerts of fraudulent or non-compliant transactions from the governing host, analysing the request having regard to same, and alerting when detecting same.

23. A method for preparing parties for a financial transaction as claimed in any one of claims 17 to 22, including automatically generating reports for submission to the regulator as part of the compliance analysis requirements of the other of the parties.

24. A method for preparing parties for a financial transaction as claimed in any one of claims 17 to 23, including creating a record of the financial transaction for submitting to the financial service provider only after the other of the parties has verified the conducting of the identity checks

25. A method for preparing parties for a financial transaction as claimed in any one of claims 17 to 24, including at the end of some transactions loading a banking card with sums of money that the one of the parties can then use to withdraw at an automatic teller or other money dispensing machine.

CLAIMS

1. A financial transaction system for preparing parties for a financial transaction to be processed by a financial service provider, including:

a governing host having a database for registering the parties wishing to perform a financial transaction between them using the financial service transfer provider to ultimately process the financial transaction;

a discrete terminal independently accessible by one party of the parties wishing to initiate a financial transaction with another party of the parties and for communicating with the governing host to prepare for the transaction, the discrete terminal having a local transaction process providing for the initial validating and enforcing of business rules governing the transaction with the one of the parties and to generate a transaction key confirming that the initial validating and enforcing has been successful to complete a first stage of the financial transaction and that a second stage of the transaction is authorised by the governing host to proceed;

a facilitator device for completing the second stage of the financial transaction at a point-of-sale terminal of the other of the parties, the facilitator device having a reader to read the transaction key on being supplied with same from the one of the parties and communicating with the governing host to complete the transaction using the facilitator device;

the discrete terminal being located separately and capable of being accessed and operated independently by the one of the parties, offline of any point-of-sale activity involving the point-of-sale terminal and the facilitator device;

the facilitator device including a facilitator process to instruct the other of the parties on those steps required to complete a transaction in a manner that complies with the rules of a regulator of the provision of the financial transaction as well as the business rules of the other of the parties;

wherein the governing host includes a process to enforce compliance requirements dependent on the business rules that need to be complied with by the other of the parties, before submitting the financial transaction for

processing by the financial service provider, in response to communication with the discrete terminal as part of the local transaction process;

and wherein the discrete terminal includes a process to validate or reject the transaction having regard to compliance with the business rules governing the transaction that are required to be performed by the other of the parties in response to being provided with the transaction key.

2. A financial transaction system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the facilitator device is integrated into the point-of-sale terminal.

3. A financial transaction system as claimed in claim 1 or 2, wherein the local transaction process includes a customer registration process, a send money transaction process, a receive money transaction process, or a foreign exchange enquiry process.

4. A financial transaction system as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein the facilitator process includes a discrete facilitator process for prompting the other of the parties to conduct an identity check of the one of the parties and validating the transaction for submitting to the financial service provider only after the other of the parties has verified completion of the identity check.

5. A financial transaction system as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein the discrete terminal and governing host provide for the operation of supplemental transaction processes, including a reconciliation transaction process, a problem resolution transaction process, a network management transaction process and a network upgrade transaction process to facilitate and support the operation of the financial transaction system.

6. A financial transaction system as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein the governing host system includes fraud detection means to analyse patterns of transactions that may be fraudulent or non-compliant and to alert when detecting same.

7. A financial transaction system as claimed in claim 6, wherein the discrete terminal includes a fraud detection process responsive to said fraud detection

means to validate the initial transaction before authorising the transaction to proceed to the next stage.

8. A financial transaction system as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein the governing host includes a report process for automatically generating reports for submission to the regulator as part of the compliance program of the other of the parties.

9. A financial transaction system as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein the facilitator device includes a discrete facilitator process for creating a record of the financial transaction for submitting to the financial service provider only created after the other of the parties has verified the conduct of the identity checks.

10. A financial transaction system as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein the facilitator device, at the end of some transactions loads a banking card for the one of the parties with sums of money that the one of the parties can then use to withdraw at an automatic teller or other money dispensing machine.

11. A method for preparing for preparing parties for a financial transaction to be processed by a financial service provider including:

registering one of the parties for performing a financial transaction offline from any point-of-sale activity;

receiving a request from a registered party wishing to initiate a particular type of financial transaction with another of the parties offline of any point-of-sale activity involving the other of the parties;

communicating with a governing host to prepare for the transaction using a local transaction process providing for the initial validating and enforcing of business rules that need to be complied with by the other of the parties governing the transaction with the one of the parties;

generating a transaction key on the governing host and the local transaction process validating the transaction;

completing the next stage of the financial transaction by prompting the other of the parties to further validate the transaction in accordance with compliance requirements of the other of the parties on being provided with the transaction key, and submitting the financial transaction with the financial service provider at point-of-sale for processing after communicating with the governing host as appropriate to further validate the transaction.

12. A method for preparing parties for a financial transaction as claimed in claim 11, wherein the step of receiving a request from a registered party occurs locally of the other of the parties but offline of any point-of sale activity involving the parties.

13. A method for preparing parties for a financial transaction as claimed in claim 11 or 12, including delivering point-of-sale material and displaying instructions, terms and conditions to the one of the parties in the their own language, prior to completing the transaction.

14. A method for preparing parties for a financial transaction as claimed in any one of claims 11 to 13, including submitting the financial transaction for processing by the financial service provider only after prompting the other of the parties to conduct identity checks of the one of the parties based on the electronic delivery of instructions to the other of the parties by the governing host.

15. A method for preparing parties for a financial transaction as claimed in any one of claims 11 to 14, including applying the risk and fraud rules of the other of the parties as part of the initial validating and enforcing performed by the local transaction process.

16. A method for preparing parties for a financial transaction as claimed in any one of claims 11 to 15, including the local transaction process receiving alerts of fraudulent or non-compliant transactions from the governing host, analysing the request having regard to same, and alerting when detecting same.

17. A method for preparing parties for a financial transaction as claimed in any one of claims 11 to 16, including automatically generating reports for submission to the regulator as part of the compliance analysis requirements of the other of the parties.

18. A method for preparing parties for a financial transaction as claimed in any one of claims 11 to 17, including creating a record of the financial transaction for submitting to the financial service provider only after the other of the parties has verified the conducting of the identity checks

19. A method for preparing parties for a financial transaction as claimed in any one of claims 11 to 18, including at the end of some transactions loading a banking card with sums of money that the one of the parties can then use to withdraw at an automatic teller or other money dispensing machine.

20. A financial transaction system for preparing parties for a financial transaction substantially as described herein with reference to the accompanying drawings as appropriate.

21. A method for preparing parties for a financial transaction substantially as described herein with reference to the accompanying drawings as appropriate.