CLAIMS

1. A personal communication device for processing financial information via a payment terminal, the payment terminal being configured to output a wireless signal, wherein the personal communication device is configured to:

receive the wireless signal of a payment terminal;

determine whether the received wireless signal has a strength above a first signal threshold;

and, if the received signal strength is above the first signal strength threshold, emit a wireless request signal to pair with the payment terminal thereby to establish a communication channel with the personal communication device, wherein the request signal is adapted to cause the payment terminal to establish only one communication channel, wherein the communication channel is only between the said personal communication device and the payment terminal, and, wherein, the personal communication device is configured,

when the personal communication device receives notification over the communication channel that a financial transaction is concluded, to close down the communication channel so that the payment terminal can establish another communication channel with another personal communication device.

2. The personal communication device of claim 1, having a user input device for initiating the step of receiving the signal.

3. A personal communication device for processing financial information via a payment terminal, the payment terminal being configured to output a wireless signal; the personal communication device comprising a processor and a memory, the personal communication device being configured, under control of the processor, to execute instructions stored in the memory:

to receive the wireless signal of a payment terminal;

to determine whether the received wireless signal has a strength above a first signal threshold;

if the received signal strength is above the first signal strength threshold,

to emit a wireless request signal adapted to cause the payment terminal to establish a communication channel with the personal communication device, wherein the request signal is adapted to cause the payment terminal to establish only one communication channel, wherein

the communication channel is only between the said personal communication device and the payment terminal, and, wherein, the personal communication device is configured,

when the personal communication device receives notification over the communication channel that a financial transaction is concluded,

to close down the communication channel so that the payment terminal can establish another communication channel with another personal communication device.

4 A payment terminal for processing financial transactions involving a personal communication device, wherein the payment terminal is configured to:

emit a wireless signal advertising its ability to communicate with a said personal communication device, and

in reply to a wireless response signal of the said personal communication device, to cease to emit the data indicative of the ability to communicate with a said personal communication device so that communication with only one personal communication device at a time is possible.

5. The payment terminal of claim 4, further configured to respond to a wireless release signal of said personal communication device by starting emission of the wireless signal advertising its ability to communicate with a said personal communication device, whereby communication with a different personal communication device becomes possible.

6. The payment terminal of claim 5, having a reset device for physically resetting the terminal if the wireless release signal is not received.

7. The payment terminal of claim 4, 5 or 6 further having a connection for connecting to a server.

8. The payment terminal of claim 7, the terminal being configured to: receive data identifying a user attempting to make a payment connected to the transaction, upon establishing the communication channel; and communicate at least the data identifying the user, data identifying a merchant and data identifying payment amount to a said server to process the transaction, thereby enabling the portable communication device to make payment without using the Internet.

9. The payment terminal of claim 7, being configured to receive, from a said server, data corresponding to account balance of a user making a payment using the portable communication device; and communicate the data corresponding to the account balance to the portable communication device via the communication channel.

10. A system for carrying out financial transactions comprising a personal communication device according to any of claims 1 to 3 in combination with a payment terminal according to any of claims 4 to 9.

11. A method of processing financial data in a personal communication device via a payment terminal, the payment terminal being configured to output a wireless signal, the method comprising, at the personal communication device:

receiving the wireless signal of the payment terminal;

determining whether the received wireless signal has a strength above a first signal threshold;

and, if the received signal strength is above the first signal strength threshold, emitting a wireless request signal to pair with the payment terminal thereby to establish a communication channel with the personal communication device, the request signal causing the payment terminal to establish only one communication channel, wherein the communication channel is only between the personal communication device and the payment terminal, and

receiving notification over the communication channel that a financial transaction is concluded, and

responsive thereto, closing down the communication channel so that the payment terminal can establish another communication channel with another personal communication device.

12. A method of processing financial transactions involving a personal communication device, the method comprising, at the payment terminal:

emitting a wireless signal advertising its ability to communicate with the personal communication device, and

responsive to receipt of a wireless response signal of the personal communication device, ceasing to emit the data indicative of the ability to communicate with a said personal

communication device so that communication with only one personal communication device at a time is possible.

13. A method of processing financial data by means of a personal communication device and a payment terminal, the method comprising:

causing the personal communication device to respond to a pair signal of a said payment terminal, wherein the pair signal is a wireless signal and wherein the pair signal advertises an ability to pair with personal communication devices, the response of the personal communication device comprising emitting a wireless request signal to request said payment terminal to initiate a communication channel between the said personal communication device and said payment terminal;

causing said payment terminal to respond to receipt of said wireless request signal by initiating the communication channel and by ceasing to emit the pair signal, whereby only the said personal communication device can communicate with said payment terminal so that financial transactions from the said personal communication device can take place securely over the communication channel.

14. A computer program product comprising instructions for implementing the method of any one of claims 11 to 13.

15. A computer program comprising instructions for implementing the method of any of one of claims 11 to 13.

16. A non-transitory storage medium storing instructions, which, when executed by a processor, cause the processor to perform the method of any one of claims 11 to 13.