The Claims Defining the Invention are as Follows:

1. A system for facilitating payment to a party not having an account that can be used to hold a monetary value equivalent, including:

   a payments facilitator; and

   at least one account established by the payments facilitator operable to hold a monetary value equivalent on trust for its customers,

   where, when a payer sends a communication message to the payments facilitator to make a payment to the party, the payments facilitator allocates one of the at least one accounts to the party and links the allocated account with a unique identifier assigned to the party, the payment thereafter being made by the payer to the allocated account. Preferably, the payment is an electronic payment.

2. A system for facilitating payment according to claim 1, where the at least one account is established with at least one financial institution.

3. A system for facilitating payment according to claim 1 or claim 2, the payments facilitator being, or being associated with, a telecommunications carrier.

4. A system for facilitating payment according to any preceding claim, where the unique identifier assigned to the party being one of the following: the party's mobile phone number; the party's fixed telephone number; the party's e-mail address.

5. A system for facilitating payment according to any preceding claim, where the unique identifier of the party is included in, or can be attained from, the communication message or the destination address to which the communication message is sent.

6. A system for facilitating payment according to any preceding claim, where the unique identifier of the payer is included in, or can be attained from, the communication message or the destination address to which the communication message is sent.

7. A system for facilitating payment according to any preceding claim, where the amount to be paid is included in, or can be attained from, the communication message or the destination address to which the communication message is sent.

8. A system for facilitating payment according to any preceding claim, where the payments facilitator includes a client database, the primary key of records stored in the client database being the unique identifier of the party.

9. A system for facilitating payment according to claim 8, where each record in the client database includes financial account details of the party to which the record relates.

10. A system for facilitating payment according to any preceding claim, where the payments facilitator sends a first additional communication message to the payer requesting confirmation of the transfer and receives a second additional communication message from the payer confirming the transfer.

11. A system for facilitating payment according to claim 10, where the second additional communication message includes a PIN or password, the transfer proceeding if the communicated PIN or password matches a pre-stored PIN or password recorded for the payer.

12. A system for facilitating payment according to claim 10 or claim 11, where the payer is required to send the second additional communication message within a predetermined time period for the transfer to proceed.

13. A system for facilitating payment according to any preceding claim, where the payments facilitator sends a third additional communication message to the party informing them of the transfer.

14. A system for facilitating payment according to any preceding claim, where the payments facilitator sends a fourth additional communication message to the payer confirming the transfer has taken place.

15. A system for facilitating payment according to any one of claims 2 to 14, as dependent on claim 2, where the fourth additional communication message includes text informing the party that the money can be claimed by establishing a bank account with the at least one financial institution.

16. A system for facilitating payment according to claim 15, where, when the party establishes an account with the at least one financial institution, the payments facilitator operates to transfer the money stored in the associated account to the established account.

17. A system for facilitating payment according to claim 16, where the associated account is rendered inactive for a predetermined period after transferring the money to the established account, the associated account being available for association with a further party after the predetermined period.

18. A payments facilitator for use in a system for facilitating payment to a party not having an account that can be used to hold a monetary value equivalent, the payments facilitator having established at least one account operable to hold a monetary value equivalent on trust for its customers where, upon receipt of a communications message from a payer to make payment to the party, operates to allocate one of the at least one account to the party and link the allocated account to a unique identifier assigned to the party, the payments facilitator thereafter operating to direct payment to the allocated account.

19. A payments facilitator according to claim 18, where the payments facilitator establishes the at least one account with at least one financial institution.

20. A payments facilitator according to claim 18 or claim 19, operable to assign the party's phone number as the unique identifier.

21. A payments facilitator according to any one of claims 18 to 20, operable to extract the unique identifier of the party from the communication message and/or the destination address to which the communication message is sent.

22. A payments facilitator according to any one of claims 18 to 21, operable to extract the unique identifier of the payer from the communication message and/or the destination address to which the communication message is sent.

23. A payments facilitator according to any one of claims 18 to 22, operable to extract the amount to be transferred from the communication message and/or the destination address to which the communication message is sent.

24. A payments facilitator according to any one of claims 18 to 23, including a client database, the payments facilitator operable to obtain financial account details of a payer from the client database.

25. A payments facilitator according to any one of claims 18 to 24, operable to send a first additional communication message to the payer requesting confirmation that the payment is to be paid and operable to proceed with the payment on receiving a second additional communication message from the payer providing such confirmation.

26. A payments facilitator according to claim 25, operable to extract a PIN or password from the second additional communication message and, where the communicated PIN or password matches a pre-stored PIN or password fro the payer, proceeding with the payment.

27. A payments facilitator according to any one of claims 18 to 26, operable to send a third additional communication message to the payer confirming payment on effecting payment.

28. A payments facilitator according to any one of claims 18 to 27, operable to send a third additional communication message to the party confirming payment on effecting payment.

29. A payments facilitator according to any one of claims 19 to 28, as dependent on claim 19, operable to transfer money from the allocated account to an account established by the party with the at least one financial institution upon receiving details of the established account.

30. A payments facilitator according to any one of claims 18 to 29, operable to render an associated account inactive for a predetermined period after transferring the money to the established account, the associated account being available for assigning to a further party after the predetermined period.

31. A method for facilitating payment to a party not having an account that can be used to hold a monetary value equivalent including the steps of:

receiving a communication message from a payer representing a request to make a payment to a party;

allocating an account operable to hold a monetary value to the party, said account not already being in the name of the party;

directing the payment to be made from the payer to the party to be made to the allocated account.

32. A method for facilitating payment according to claim 31, including the step of establishing the account with a financial institution.

33. A method for facilitating payment according to claim 31 or claim 32, including the additional step of identifying the unique identifier of the party from either the communication message and/or a destination address to which the communication message is sent.

34. A method for facilitating payment according to any one of claims 31 or claim 33, including the additional step of identifying the unique identifier of the payer from either the communication message and/or a destination address to which the communication message is sent.

35. A method for facilitating payment according to any one of claims 31 to 34, including the additional step of identifying the amount to be paid from either the communication message and/or a destination address to which the communication message is sent.

36. A method for facilitating payment according to any one of claims 31 to 35, including the additional step of identifying from the communication message the account the payer wishes the payment to be made from.

37. A method for facilitating payment according to any one of claims 31 to 36, including the step of checking the amount available to be transferred in the payer's account, the method continuing if the payer has sufficient amount to make payment.

38. A method for facilitating payment according to any one of claims 31 to 37, including the step of requesting confirmation from the payer that the transfer is to proceed.

39. A method for facilitating payment according to claim 38, including the step of verifying confirmation by comparing a PIN or password provided by the payer as part of confirmation with a previously recorded PIN or password provided by the payer.

40. A method for facilitating payment according to any one of claims 31 to 39, including the step of communicating with the party who has been paid to inform them that money has been transferred to them by the payer and/or the amount transferred.

41. A method for facilitating payment according to any one of claims 31 to 40, including the step of communicating with the payer to inform them that the money has been transferred.

42. A method for facilitating payment according to any one of claims 32 to 41, as dependent on claim 32, including the additional steps of:

receiving details of an account established by the party with the financial institution; and

transferring money held in the allocated account to the established account.

43. A method for facilitating payment according to any one of claims 31 to 42, including the step of rendering a previously allocated account inactive for a predetermined period of time before allowing said account to be allocated to another party.

44. A system for facilitating payment to a party not having an account that can be used to hold a monetary value equivalent substantially as described herein with reference to Figure 1.

45. A payments facilitator for use in a system for facilitating payment to a party not having an account that can be used to hold a monetary value equivalent substantially as described herein with reference to Figure 1.

46. A method for facilitating payment to a party not having an account that can be used to hold a monetary value equivalent substantially as described herein with reference to Figure 1.