CLAIMS

1. A payment terminal (20) for a vending machine (10), the payment terminal (20) comprising:

a touch surface (24) configured to receive a touch input from a user;

wherein the payment terminal (20) is configured to be wholly located within a housing (12) of the vending machine (10), wherein the housing (12) comprises an at least partially transparent outer panel (16), and wherein the touch surface (24) is configured to receive a touch input by the user touching an outer surface (30) of the at least partially transparent outer panel (16)~~.~~; and

wherein the touch surface is in direct abutting engagement with an inside surface (28) of the at least partially transparent outer panel (16).

2. The payment terminal (20) of claim 1, wherein the touch surface (24) is affixed to ~~an~~the inside surface (28) of the at least partially transparent outer panel (16).

~~3. The payment terminal (20) of claim 2, wherein the touch surface (24) is in direct abutting engagement with the inside surface (28) of the at least partially transparent outer panel (16).~~

34. The payment terminal (20) of ~~any one of~~ claim~~s~~ 1 ~~to 3~~, wherein the payment terminal (20) comprises a payment terminal housing (22) and wherein the touch surface (24) forms part of the payment terminal housing (22).

45. The payment terminal (20) of ~~any one of~~ claim~~s~~ 1 ~~to 4~~, further comprising a payment terminal controller (50).

56. The payment terminal (20) of claim ~~5~~4, wherein the payment terminal (20) is configured to perform any one or more of the following: identify false and/or unintended touches on the touch surface (24) of the payment terminal (20) caused by touching the outer surface (30) of the at least partially transparent outer panel (16); and identify and/or disregard false or unintended touches on the touch surface (24) of the payment terminal (20) caused by vibrations.

67. The payment terminal (20) of claim 5 ~~or 6~~, wherein the payment terminal (20) is further configured to identify true and/or intended touches on the touch surface (24) of the payment terminal (20) caused by touching the outer surface (30) of the at least partially transparent outer panel (16).

78. The payment terminal (20) of claim 67, wherein the payment terminal (20) is configured to identify a true and/or intended touch on the touch surface (24) of the payment terminal (20) according to a threshold amount of time that a touch is applied to the touch surface (24).

89. The payment terminal (20) of claim 78, wherein the threshold amount of time is at least 10 milliseconds.

910. The payment terminal (20) of ~~any one of~~ claim~~s 1 to 9~~3, further comprising a display (32).

1011. The payment terminal (20) of claim 910, wherein the display (32) is configured to display any one or more of: one or more touch elements associated with a payment to be made by the user; and one or more touch elements associated with a quantity of one or more vendible products (14) of the vending machine (10).

1112. The payment terminal (20) of claim 10 ~~or 11~~, wherein the payment terminal (20) further comprises a QR code scanner and/or a barcode scanner for respectively scanning a QR code and a barcode in order to facilitate a payment.

12. The payment terminal (20) of claim 3, wherein the payment terminal housing (22) comprises one or more recessed surfaces (27, 29) configured to respectively receive one or more double-sided adhesive elements in order to affix the payment terminal housing (22) to the inside surface (28) of the at least partially transparent outer panel (16) such that the touch surface (24) is in direct abutting engagement with the inside surface (28) of the at least partially transparent outer panel (16).

13. A vending machine (10) comprising the payment terminal (20) ~~of any one~~ of claim~~s~~ 1 ~~to 12~~.

14. The vending machine (10) of claim 13, wherein a thickness of the at least partially transparent outer panel (16) is less than or equal to 5 mm.

15. The vending machine (10) of claim 14, wherein the at least partially transparent outer panel (16) comprises poly(methyl methacrylate) (PMMA) or acrylic.

16. The vending machine (10) of ~~any one of~~ claim~~s~~ 13~~ to 15~~, further comprising any one or more of: a vending machine controller (51); a dispensing portion (18) configured to dispense one or more vendible products from the vending machine (10); a network device (52) configured to communicate with a wired or wireless communication network; a bill acceptor (54) for accepting bills in order to make a payment; and a coin acceptor (56) for accepting coins in order to make a payment.

17. The vending machine (10) of claim 16, wherein the vending machine controller (51) is configured to communicate with any one or more of the dispensing portion (18), the bill acceptor (54), and the coin acceptor (56).

18. The vending machine (10) of claim 17, wherein the payment terminal controller (51) is configured to communicate with any one or more of the bill acceptor (54), the coin acceptor (56), and the payment terminal (20).

19. The vending machine (10) of claim 18, wherein whereupon a successful payment has been made via the payment terminal (20), the payment terminal (20) emulates responses from the bill acceptor (54) and/or the coin acceptor (56) to indicate that the successful payment was made, and wherein the bill acceptor (54) and/or the coin acceptor (56) thereafter communicate with the vending machine controller (51), which in turn communicates with the dispensing portion (18) to thereby dispense the one or more vendible products (14).

20. A vending machine (10) comprising:

a housing (12) including an at least partially transparent outer panel (16); and

a payment terminal (20) comprising a touch surface (24) configured to receive a touch input from a user;

wherein the payment terminal (20) is wholly located within the housing (12) such that the touch surface (24) is ~~adjacent~~in direct abutting engagement with an inside surface (28) of the at least partially transparent outer panel (16), and wherein the touch surface (24) is configured to receive a touch input by the user touching an outer surface (30) of the at least partially transparent outer panel (16).