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# SINGAPORE FINTECH REPORT 2023







2023 has been a notable year for fintech in Singapore. We've seen an increased emphasis on digital public goods, greater adoption of new technologies, and a rise in real-time cross-border transactions. As technology changes, so does the need for updated regulations. The industry now uses technology to improve risk models and frameworks, ensuring they're relevant and effective.

Consumer security continues to be a top priority. Regulatory changes have been introduced to match the pace of technological growth, keeping transactions secure and maintaining trust.

This Singapore Fintech Report 2023 is a concise look at these developments. It's been carefully put together to give you a clear picture of the latest trends and updates from the region. We hope you find it insightful and useful as you go through it.

Thanks for your continued support. We're here to help you navigate the fintech world this year and in the future.

**Christian König**  
**Founder, Fintech News Network**



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## SINGAPORE AT A GLANCE

## Singapore in Numbers



**+0.5%**  
GDP Growth (2Q 2023)

**0.5 - 1.5%**  
GDP forecast (2023)<sup>1</sup>

**SG\$114,165**  
GDP Per Capita (2022)

**5.5-6.5%**  
Inflation forecast 2023<sup>1</sup>



**22,34 million**  
Total Credit and Charge Card Billings

**310,33 million**  
Commercial Banks: Loans and Advances  
to Residents by Industry (Aug 2023)

**6.89 million**  
Number of credit cardholders

**154**  
Number of banks operating in Singapore



**5.92 million**  
Total population (Q2 2023)

**3.68 million**  
Employed population (Q2 2023)

**42.4**  
Median age (2023)

**585,593**  
Number of enterprises (Q3 2023)



**96.9%**  
Internet users (Jan 2023)

**153.8%**  
Mobile connections as  
% of population (Jan 2023)

**63%**  
Makes online purchases

**81%**  
Of Singaporeans aged 18-39 purchased a  
product online in the past 3 months

Notes: (1) Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS) and The Ministry of Trade and Industry (MTI)'s forecast as of August 2023;

Sources: Singapore Department of Statistics, Infocomm Media Development Authority, Digital 2023: Singapore - We Are Social

## SINGAPORE'S FINTECH LANDSCAPE

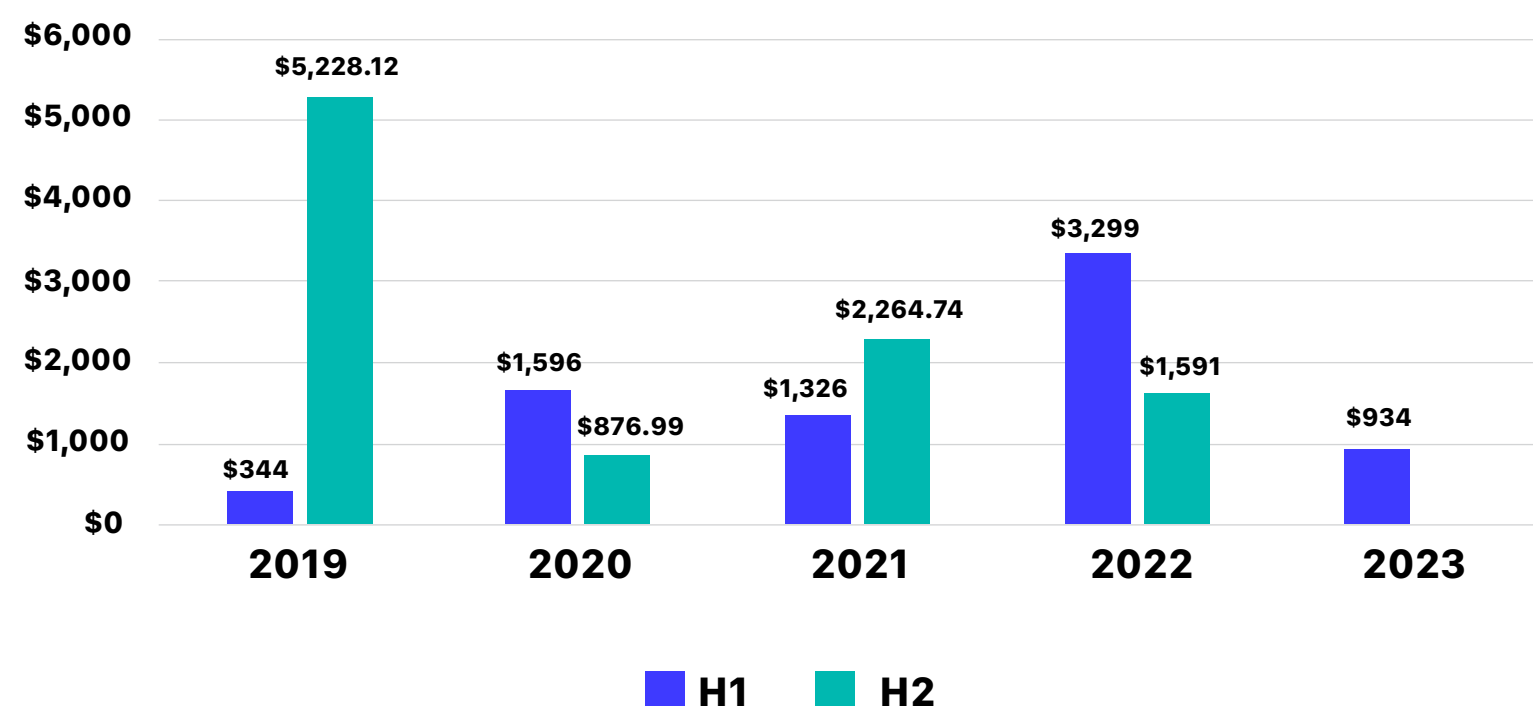
### Fintech Funding in Singapore

- Singapore fintechs raised US\$934 million in H1'23.
- The funding was spread across 84 deals involving mergers & acquisitions (M&A), private equity (PE), and venture capital (VC).

#### Comparison to Previous Half-Year:

- This is a 41 percent decrease from H2'22, where US\$1.6 billion was raised across 117 deals.

Singapore Deal Value (US\$M)



#### Most Funded Verticals:

- Payments, crypto, artificial intelligence (AI), and machine learning (ML) were the most embraced by investors.
- These areas became the top three most funded fintech sectors in Singapore.

#### Singapore's fintech deal values and volume for H1 2023 to H2 2022

	H1'23		H2'23	
	Deal Size US \$ (Millions)	No. of Deals	Deal Size US \$ (Millions)	No. of Deals
Reg Tech	\$1	3	\$31.60	4
Insur Tech	\$1	1	\$347.40	4
Weath Tech	\$27	1	\$300	1
Proptech	\$4	2	\$12.40	3
Cybersecurity	\$1	2	\$2.20	2
Payments	\$120	8	\$32.70	3
Crypto	\$235	36	\$584.80	23
AI & ML Deals	\$129	6	-	-



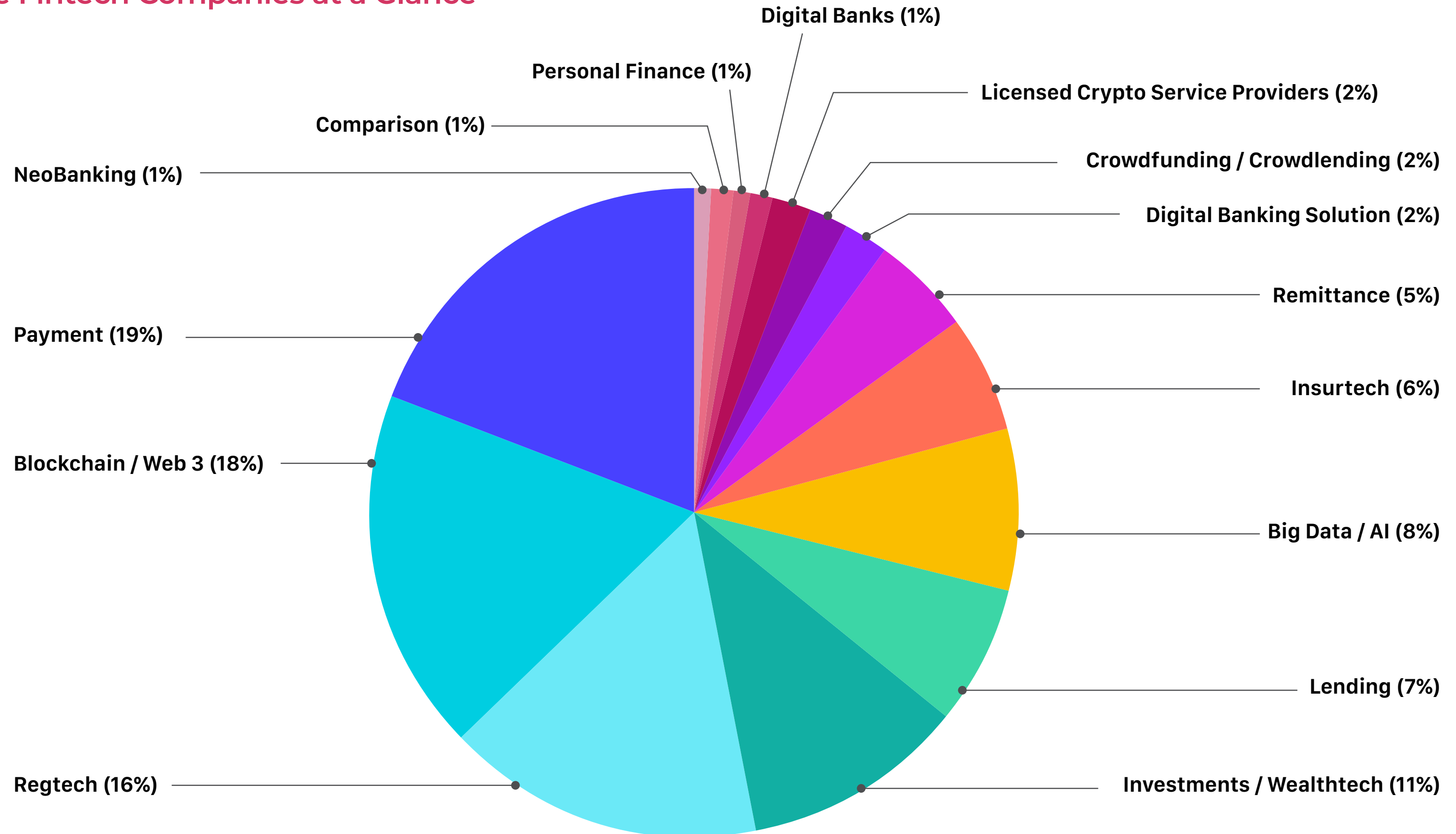


## SINGAPORE'S FINTECH LANDSCAPE

## Singapore Fintech Map 2023 (Total 700 Fintech Companies)





**SINGAPORE'S FINTECH LANDSCAPE****Singapore Fintech Companies at a Glance**

## DIGITAL BANKING

## What have Singapore's Digital Banks been up to?

## Full Bank Licence

**Trust Bank:**

- Trust Bank has expanded its offerings beyond traditional banking services to include insurance, investments, and wealth management.
- This forward-looking institution has broadened its product range and significantly increased its customer base to over 600,000 clients, and has since reached \$1 billion in deposits.
- Trust Bank has deepened its integration into the financial ecosystem by partnering with over 5,000 merchant businesses, enhancing its position as a comprehensive financial services provider.
- Unlike the other digital banks, Trust Bank will have a customer experience centre and Trust-branded ATM at FairPrice Xtra Vivocity.

## Digital Full Bank Licence

**GXS Bank:**

- GXS Bank, backed by Grab and Singtel, has expanded its flagship savings account to new customers.
- Previously, this account was only available to selected Grab and Singtel customers.
- The deposit cap for this account has been increased to \$75,000 per account.
- GXS Bank's savings account offers an attractive interest rate of 3.48% per year on "savings pockets" that can be used for specific purposes.

**MariBank:**

- MariBank has also increased its deposit cap for individual users to \$75,000.
- MariBank has launched its app for the public, offering various banking services for consumers and businesses.
- MariBank users can open a savings account that earns depositors an annual interest rate of 2.88%.
- It has also leveraged its existing ecosystem and customer base to offer innovative and convenient digital banking solutions, such as ShopeePay Later, Garena Cashback, and SeaMoney Rewards.

## Digital Wholesale Bank Licence

**ANEXT Bank:**

- ANEXT Bank partnered with DBS Bank to offer its customers access to DBS's ATM network and other banking products and services.
- It has also introduced new features and benefits for its SME customers, such as ANEXT Business Loan, ANEXT Business Card, and ANEXT Business Rewards.
- In addition, the bank provides a marketplace that connects SMEs with various partners and providers, such as accounting, legal, tax, insurance, and e-commerce services.

**Green Link Digital Bank:**

- The digital wholesale bank has lined up around \$50m in credit facilities.
- GLDB also offers working capital loans, trade and supply chain financing solutions, and fixed deposits for SMEs.
- Since launching its services in June 2022, it has attracted more than 10,000 customers, mainly SMEs engaged in trade between Singapore and China.





**CROSS-BORDER PAYMENTS IN SINGAPORE****PayNow & SGQR Go Cross-border to Forge Payment Linkages  
Outside of Singapore**

# Singapore - India Real-time Payments

(21 February 2023)

- Linkage between Singapore's PayNow and India's UPI, allowing real-time fund transfers.
- Users can send and receive funds across countries using mobile numbers, UPI identity, or VPA.
- Participants: DBS, Liquid Group (Singapore), Axis Bank, DBS India, ICICI Bank, Indian Bank, Indian Overseas Bank, and SBI (India).
- This linkage is the world's first to use scalable cloud-based infrastructure and includes a non-bank financial institution.

**PAY  
NOW**

**UPI**  
UNIFIED PAYMENTS INTERFACE



Source: Monetary Authority of Singapore



## CROSS-BORDER PAYMENTS IN SINGAPORE

### PayNow & SGQR Go Cross-border to Forge Payment Linkages Outside of Singapore

# BIS Project Nexus

(23 March 2023)



- Developed by BIS Innovation Hub Singapore Centre, Nexus aims to connect multiple domestic instant payment systems (IPS).
- The prototype connected the IPS of the Eurosystem, Malaysia, and Singapore, allowing payments using only mobile numbers.
- BIS and central banks of Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand will work towards more comprehensive payment connectivity through Nexus.
- Nexus supports G20 priorities to improve cross-border payments and will connect IPS across countries while accommodating their differences.





## CROSS-BORDER PAYMENTS IN SINGAPORE

### PayNow & SGQR Go Cross-border to Forge Payment Linkages Outside of Singapore

# Inclusion of State Bank of Vietnam in Regional Payment Connectivity (25 August 2023)

- State Bank of Vietnam (SBV) has joined the Regional Payment Connectivity (RPC) initiative which MOU signed in Bali on 14 November 2022.
- RPC aims to enhance payment connectivity, making cross-border payments in the ASEAN region faster, more affordable, transparent, and inclusive.
- It includes modalities like QR-code and fast-payment systems, facilitating seamless and convenient inter-country transactions.
- With SBV's inclusion, the RPC now comprises six ASEAN central banks.
- This expansion will boost post-pandemic economic activities, promote tourism, and benefit small and medium-sized enterprises.
- Connecting payment systems across member states will likely elevate trade and remittances, promoting financial inclusion and strengthening the ASEAN economic community.
- There's potential for the RPC to extend its reach to neighbouring economies and countries beyond the ASEAN region.

Source: Monetary Authority of Singapore



**BANK NEGARA MALAYSIA**  
CENTRAL BANK OF MALAYSIA



ธนาคารแห่งประเทศไทย  
BANK OF THAILAND



Monetary Authority  
of Singapore





**CROSS-BORDER PAYMENTS IN SINGAPORE**

PayNow & SGQR Go Cross-border to Forge Payment Linkages  
Outside of Singapore

# Singapore-Malaysia QR Code Payments Connectivity

(17 November 2023)



- NETS-DuitNow QR connects Singapore and Malaysia, enabling travellers to scan merchant QR codes for cross-border payments.
- Collaboration between NETS, the Association of Banks in Singapore, Payments Network Malaysia (PayNet), and financial institutions from both countries.
- MAS and BNM initiate cross-border account-to-account transfers and remittances linkage enables instant, secure and cost-effective transfers.





**CROSS-BORDER PAYMENTS IN SINGAPORE**

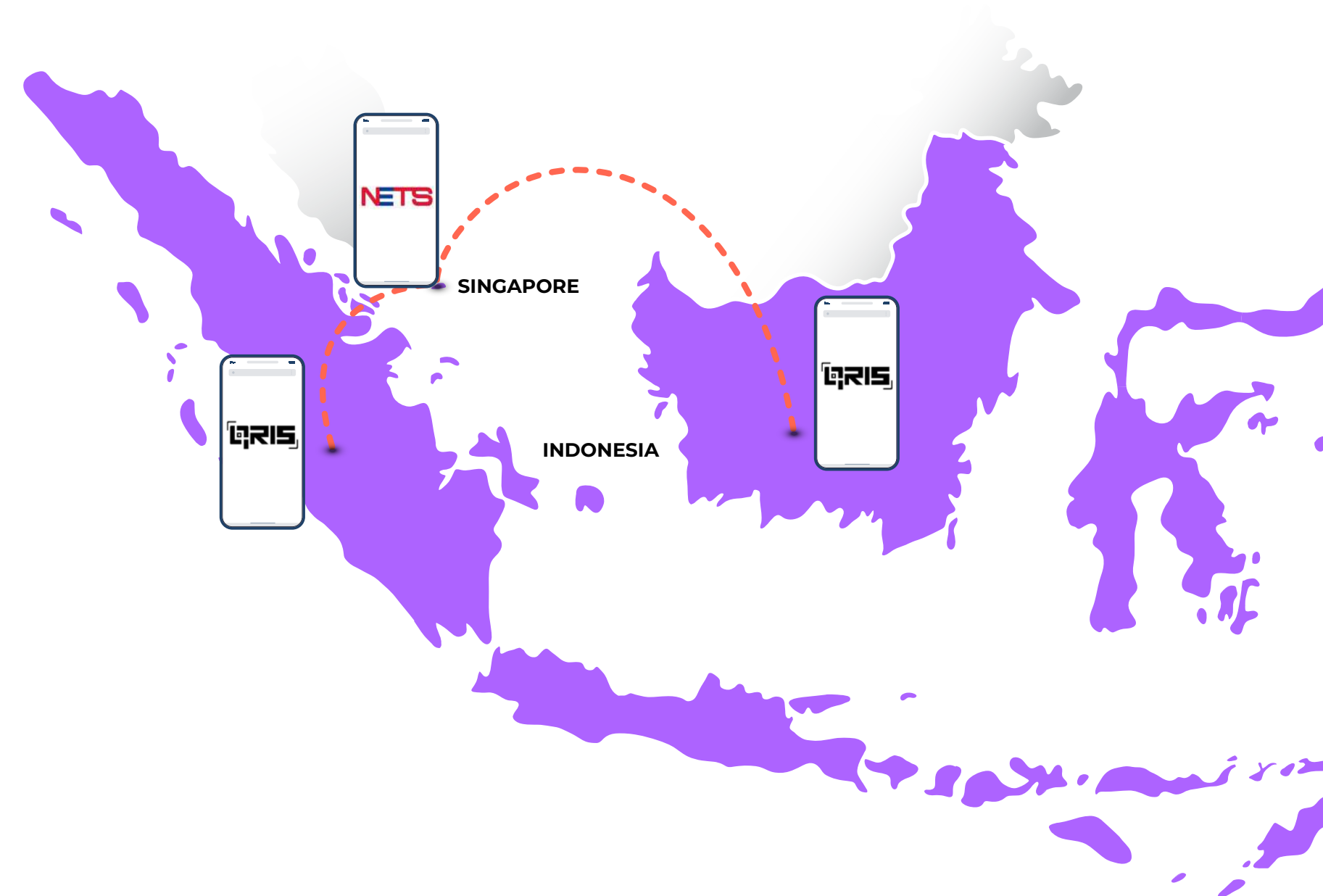
PayNow & SGQR Go Cross-border to Forge Payment Linkages  
Outside of Singapore

# Indonesia-Singapore QR Code Payments Connectivity

(17 November 2023)



- Allows users to make instant payments by scanning QRIS or NETS QR codes, benefiting businesses and tourism.
- Collaboration between the Indonesian Payment System Association, RAJA, and NETS.
- BI and MAS signed an MOU to promote the use of local currencies in bilateral transactions.





## PAYMENT DEVELOPMENTS IN SINGAPORE

### Singapore Blazes Trail in Cashless e-Payments Adoption

- According to KPMG research commissioned by MAS, Singapore has a strong regulatory framework, creating a safe, sound, and secure payment landscape.
- The launch of FAST\* supports 24/7 payments in real-time and was amongst the first of its kind in the world.
- The underlying infrastructure is world-class and provides the backbone to develop effective solutions.

(\*FAST = Fast And Secure Transactions 24/7 real-time payments network)

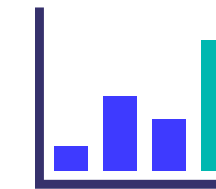
With e-payments taking off in recent years amidst the COVID-19 pandemic and an ongoing national drive for a less-cash society, many opt to use cards or phones to pay for goods and services.

Singapore's adoption rate of cashless payments is the highest in Southeast Asia at 97 per cent, based on payment methods at Singapore retail points-of-sale in the 2022 - 2023 survey published by German statistics company Statista.

Cashless payment consists of credit and debit cards and electronic wallets such as Apple Pay and Samsung Pay, DBS PayLah! and GrabPay.

As of 2022, more than 210,000 merchants operating across various service industries, including retail stores in shopping malls and food stalls at hawker centres, offer SGQR as a means of payment acceptance – accounting for over 90% of merchants in Singapore, says MAS.

#### Singapore's Cashless Payments



Highest in  
Southeast Asia at

**97%**



More than

**210,000**

merchants offer SGQR  
as of 2022



Payment acceptance

**>90%**

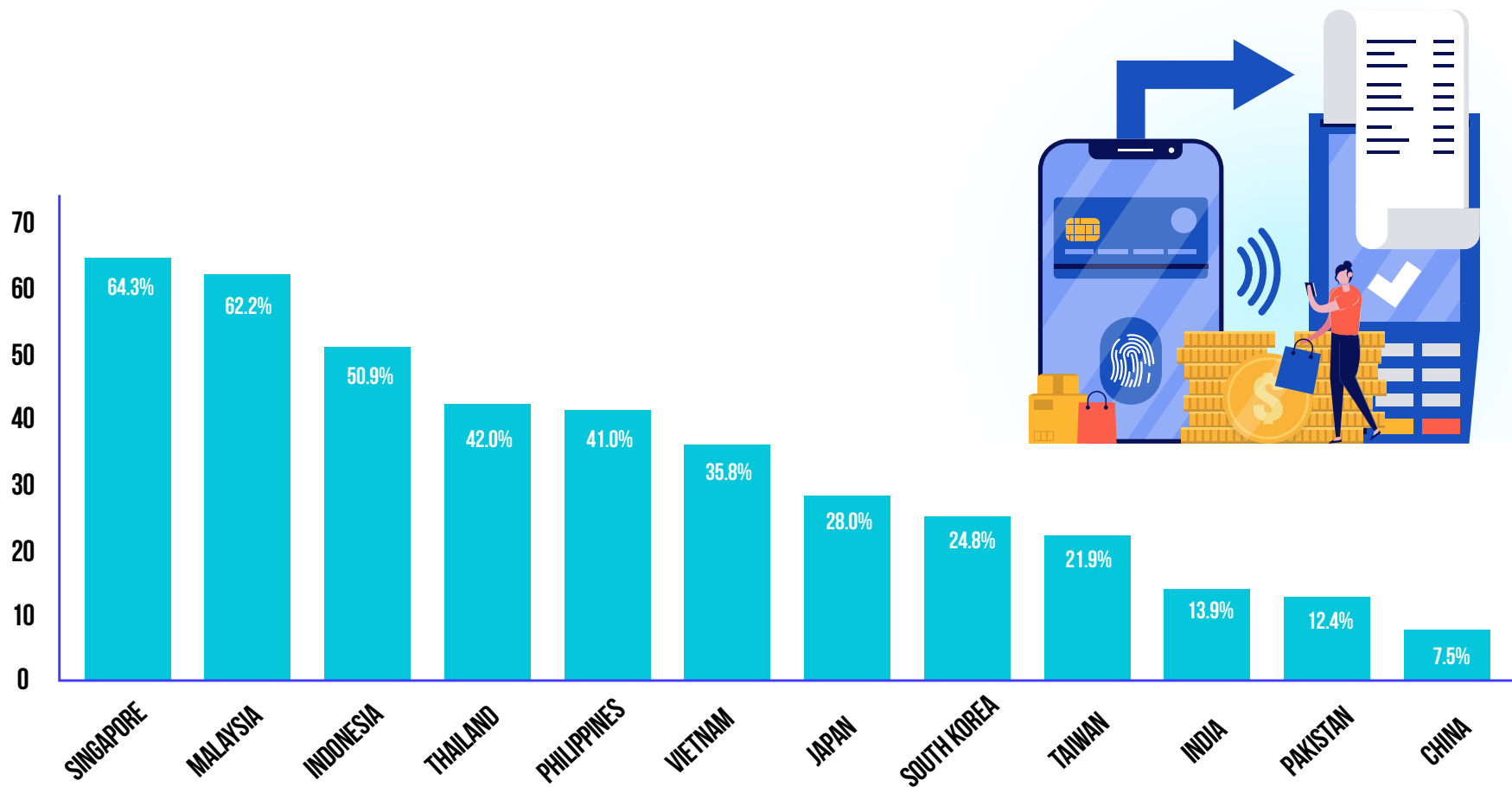
merchants in Singapore





**PAYMENT DEVELOPMENTS IN SINGAPORE**  
**Digital Wallets Rising Threat to Cards in Singapore**

Digital wallets are expected to overtake credit cards as Singapore's most popular online payment method by 2026, according to FIS's 2023 Global Payments report.



E-WALLET	ISSUES OWN DEBIT CARD	HAS PHYSICAL DEBIT CARD	AFFILIATED WITH A BANK	ABLE TO TOP-UP BY PAYNOW	ABLE TO TOP-UP BY CREDIT CARD	OFFERS CASHBACK AND REWARDS
DBS PAYLAH!	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
OCBC PAY ANYONE	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
UOB MIGHTY	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
APPLE WALLET	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
GOOGLE WALLET	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
EZ-LINK WALLET	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
GRABPAY	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
FAVEPAY	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
SHOPBACK PAY	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
GOVWALLET	No	No	No	Yes	No	Yes
SAMSUNGPAY	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
SHOPEEPAY	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
SINGTEL DASH	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
YOUTRIP	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No
CRYPTO.COM APP	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes





# Project Mariana

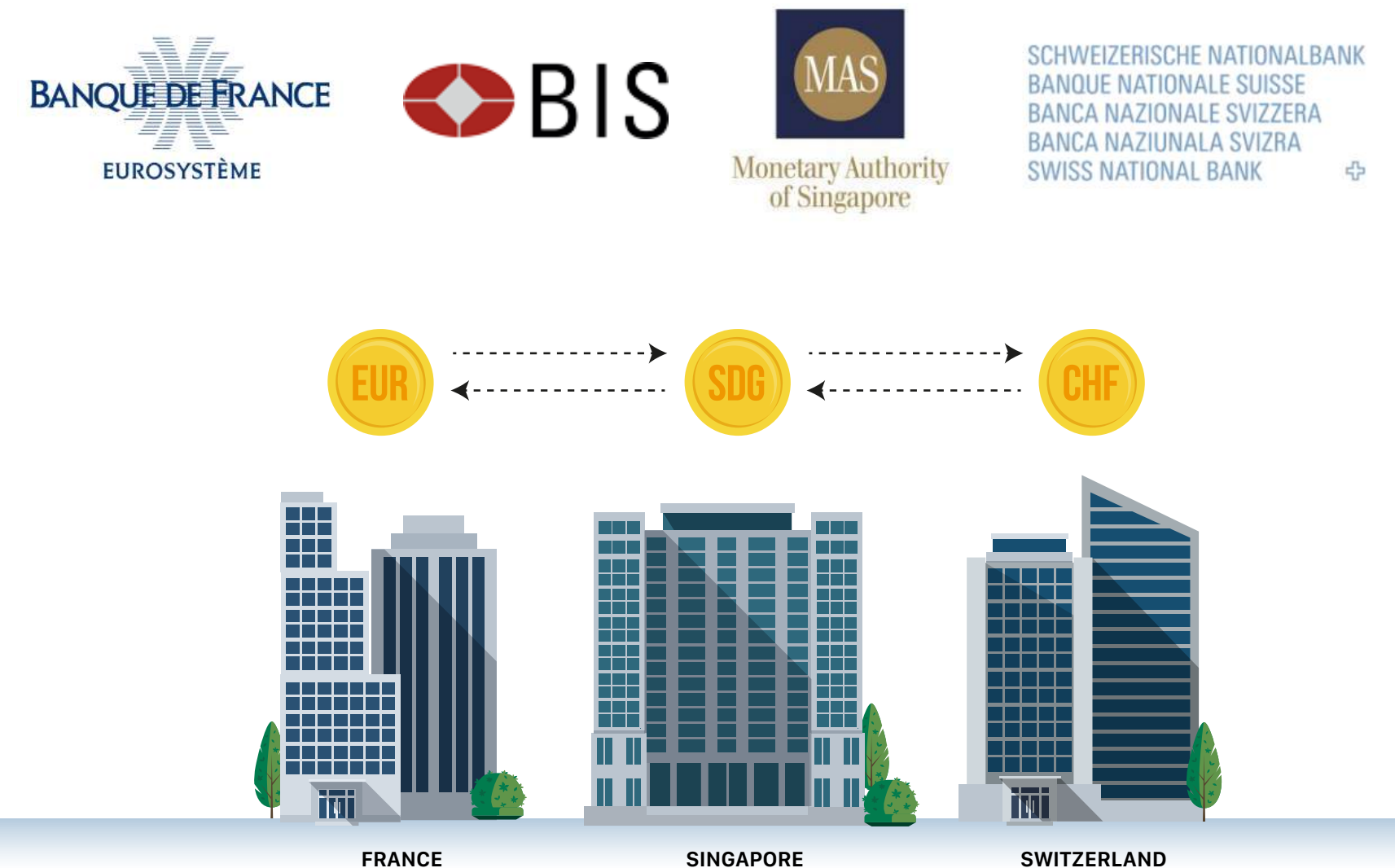
(28 September 2023)

BIS and the central banks of France, Singapore and Switzerland have successfully concluded Project Mariana. The project tested the cross-border trading and settlement of wholesale central bank digital currencies (wCBDCs) between financial institutions, using new decentralised finance (DeFi) technology concepts on a public blockchain.

## The process relied on three elements:

- A public blockchain provides a common technical token standard to facilitate exchange and interoperability between the different currencies.
- Bridges for the seamless transfer of wCBDCs between different networks.
- An Automated Market Maker (AMM) is a specific type of decentralised exchange that trades and settles spot FX transactions automatically.

For Project Mariana, the AMM pooled the liquidity of the hypothetical euro, Singapore dollar and Swiss franc wCBDCs, with innovative algorithms enabling spot FX transactions to be priced and executed automatically and settled immediately. These protocols could be used by the next generation of financial market infrastructures, facilitating cross-border trading and settlement between financial institutions.





# Project Mandala

(5 October 2023)



The Bank for International Settlements (BIS) and central bank partners explore embedding policy and regulatory compliance for cross-border transactions in a unified protocol.

- Project Mandala looks to automate compliance procedures, provide real-time transaction monitoring and increase transparency and visibility around country-specific policies.
- The project explores the feasibility of encoding policy and regulatory requirements into a common protocol.
- The envisioned compliance-by-design architecture could enable a more efficient cross-border transfer of digital assets, including CBDCs and tokenised deposits. It could also be the foundational compliance layer for legacy and nascent wholesale or retail payment systems.
- It is a collaboration between the BIS Innovation Hub (BISIH) Singapore Centre, the Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA), the Bank of Korea (BOK), Bank Negara Malaysia (BNM), and the Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS), with the financial institutions.



# MAS Orchid Blueprint

(16 November 2023)

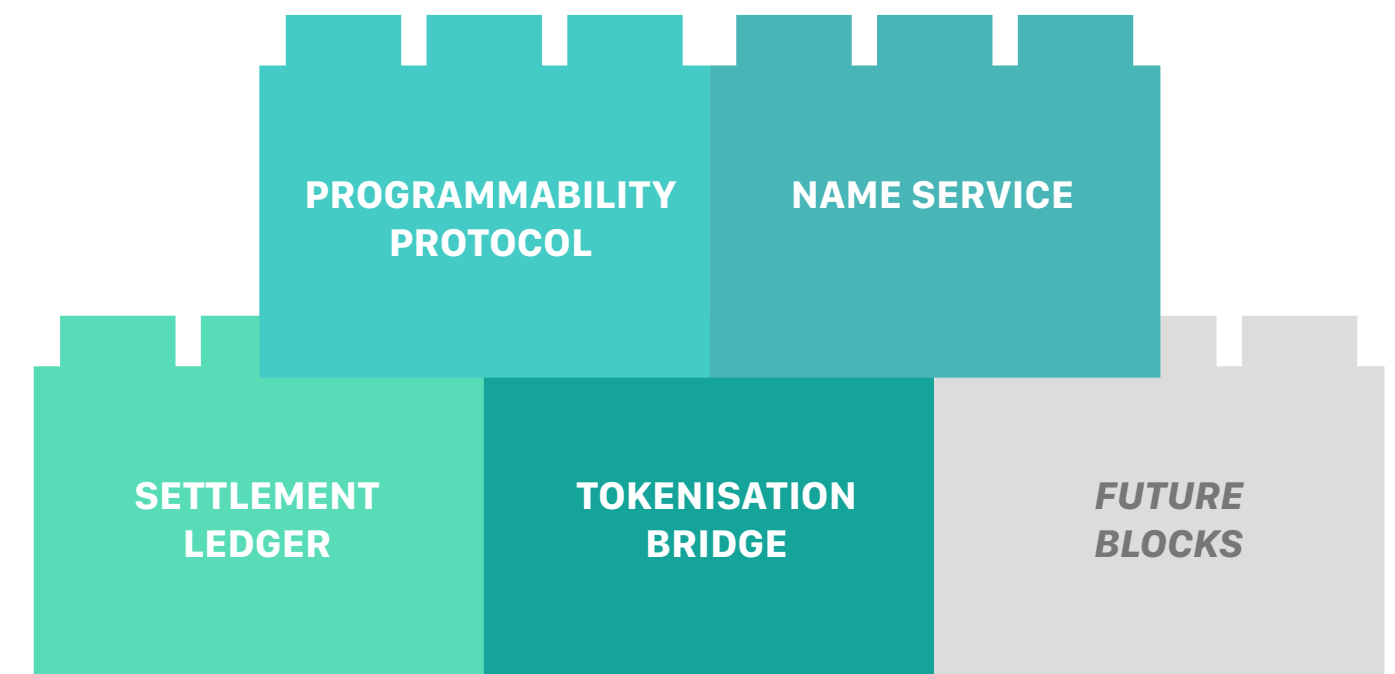
The blueprint builds on learnings from the Project Orchid industry trials and identifies the following infrastructure building blocks for the sound use of digital money in Singapore: the Settlement Ledger, Tokenisation Bridge, Programmability Protocol, and Name Service.

**Four new trials will be undertaken with industry players to examine relevant infrastructure components and commercial models**

- Tokenised Bank Liabilities: OCBC and UOB testing bank-issued tokens for retail payments, first trial at Singapore FinTech Festival 2023.
- Wallet Interoperability: Ant International, Fazz, and Grab will launch a pilot for Alipay to GrabPay payments using PBM, with transaction limits for fraud prevention.
- Supplier Financing: Amazon and HSBC are exploring PBM in tokenising Amazon's payables to merchants, aiding liquidity and financing access.
- Institutional Payment Controls: J.P. Morgan is testing payment controls for deposit token transfer among banks in an agreed trust ecosystem, ensuring adherence to issuing and receiving banks' controls.

## MAS's Future Initiatives

Development of CBDC for Wholesale Interbank Settlement: Commencing next year, involving "live" issuance of wholesale CBDCs for retail payment settlement between commercial banks and potentially for cross-border securities trade settlement. Previously simulated in test environments.



Building Blocks of the Orchid Blueprint





## SGFINDEX DIGITALLY TRANSFORMING DATA-DRIVEN FINANCIAL PLANNING IN SINGAPORE

Developed by the Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS) and the Smart Nation and Digital Government Group (SNDGG), with support from the Ministry of Manpower, the Singapore Financial Data Exchange (SGFinDEx) is the world's first public digital infrastructure that enables individuals to securely access their financial information held across government agencies, banks, insurers, and the central securities depository.



**Centralised gateway for efficient and secure data sharing based on common data standards**



**A government-owned and operated infrastructure that uses Singpass authentication and consent framework**



**Enable data-driven innovations and integrated digital financial services**

Currently, more than 30,000 monthly active users of SGFinDex, with nearly 1.2 million data retrievals. SGFinDex is designed with data protection and privacy controls. Financial data can be retrieved and updated only through the individual's explicit consent through Singpass. The consent will last one year from the first time an individual links an account to SGFinDex.

### SAFEGUARDS TO ENSURE DATA PROTECTION AND PRIVACY OF PERSONAL FINANCIAL INFORMATION



**User identity is verified via Singpass, before any personal financial data is retrieved**



**Explicit user consent is required for each data retrieval**



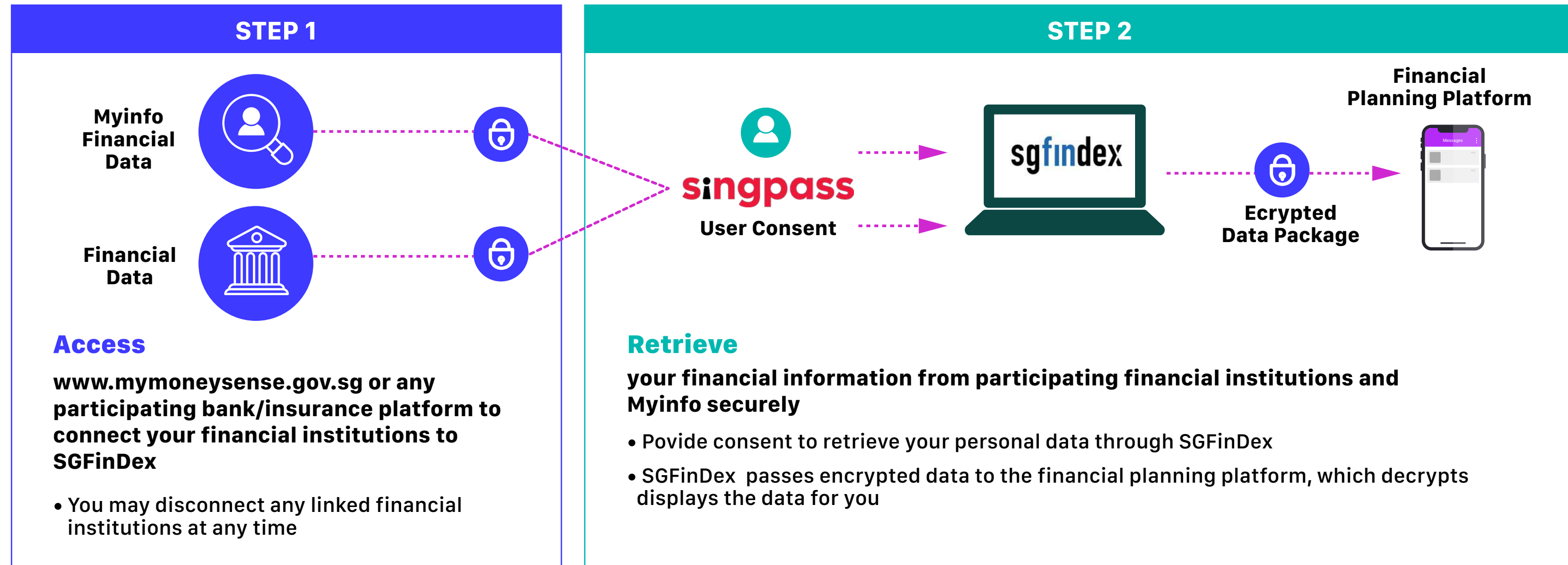
**SGFinDex only transmits; does not read and store any data**



## SGFINDEX DIGITALLY TRANSFORMING DATA-DRIVEN FINANCIAL PLANNING IN SINGAPORE

The inclusion of insurance data in November 2022 added to existing banking and investment data that individuals can retrieve via SGFinDex, making it easier to identify insurance protection gaps. They will thus have a more comprehensive view of their financial status and be able to make more informed financial planning decisions.

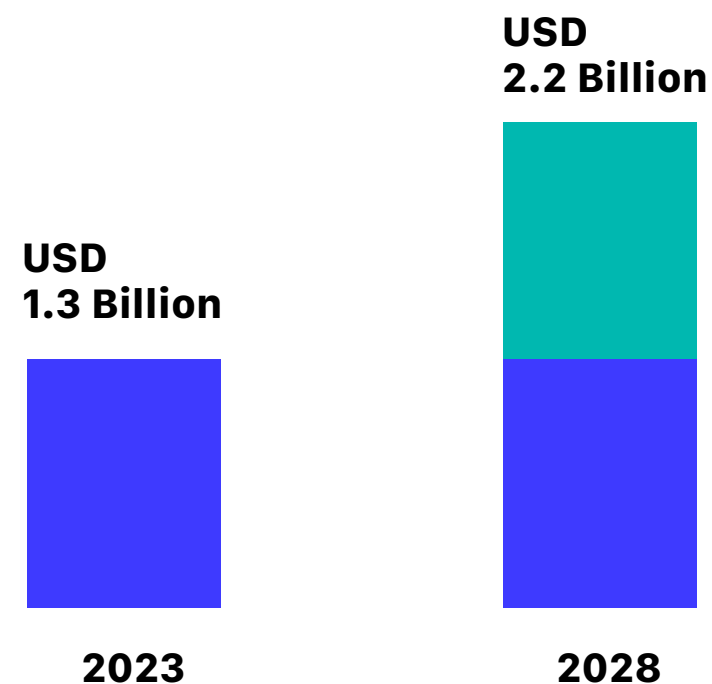
## How does SGFinDex work?





**BUY NOW PAY LATER IN SINGAPORE****Singapore Enacts Code of Conduct to Oversee BNPL Operators**

Singaporean consumers are increasingly relying on online shopping platforms to complete their purchases. Buy Now Pay Later (BNPL) services have become widespread. Experts project substantial growth in the adoption of BNPL payments by 2028.

**Singaporean Buy Now Pay Later Market**  
Market forecast to grow at a CAGR of 11.3%**Singapore BNPL Payments: \$1,270.4 million in 2023****2021****\$440M**amount of BNPL  
transactions  
in Singapore**2023****\$1270.4M**projection of BNPL  
transactions  
in Singapore

**BUY NOW PAY LATER IN SINGAPORE****Buy Now, Pay Later Code of Conduct**

- A new code of conduct for the "buy now, pay later" (BNPL) industry was enacted on November 1st.
- BNPL services allow users to make small-ticket purchases and pay for them over time without interest or needing a credit card.
- Unless further credit assessments are conducted, the guidelines include a cap of S\$2,000 on outstanding payments per customer with each BNPL provider.
- Providers must suspend a customer's access to their services if a payment is overdue.
- All fees must be transparently disclosed, and charges are capped without compounding interest.
- The code also promotes ethical marketing practices and allows consumers to opt out of BNPL services.
- Anyone above 18 can quickly sign up for BNPL accounts, raising concerns about potential overspending and accumulating unnecessary debt.

**The participants of the code of conduct are Atome, Grab, ShopBack, Ablr, Latitude Pay, Pace, Sugar, and SeaMoney**

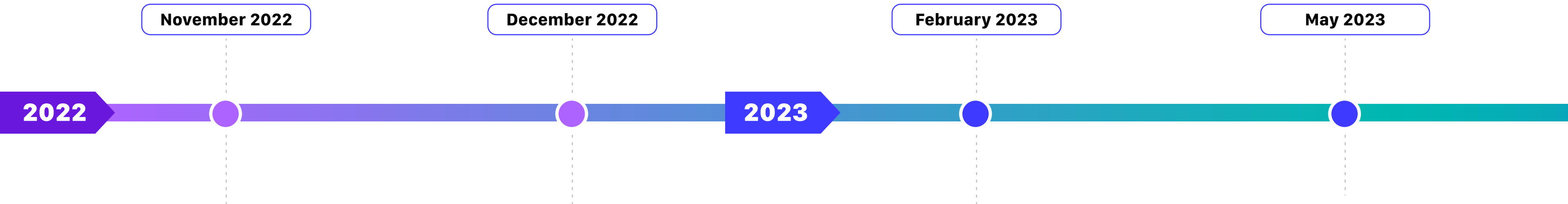


**Data from Merchant Machine showed that atome is the most popular BNPL option in Singapore.**





## KEY FINTECH MILESTONES



## ANEXT BANK

ANT Group's Singapore digital wholesale bank started offering loans to SMEs ranging from S\$5,000 to S\$100,000. Compared with credit offered by traditional banks, Ant's Anext Bank Loan baseline product doesn't require collateral. For credit of S\$30,000 and below, no documents are needed. The interest rate will start from 6.8 per cent per annum.

## AMBER

Amber Group, a digital asset trading and infrastructure provider, was the largest deal in Singapore during 2022, raising \$300M in their latest Series C funding round, led by Fenbushi Capital. Amber's CEO, Michael Wu, had initially planned to extend the company's B+ round by \$100M at a valuation of \$3B. However, following FTX's dramatic implosion, which had a significant impact on the crypto industry, Amber's valuation fell below \$3B.



Aspire closed an oversubscribed Series C round. The round saw Lightspeed and Sequoia Capital SEA, Paypal Ventures, LGT Capital Partners and existing backers Picus Capital and Mass Mutual Ventures investing US\$100M.

## boltech

Insurtech company boltech has secured \$196M in Series B funding, boosting its valuation to \$1.6B. This capital will advance their goal of creating a top global tech-driven insurance network, focusing on enhancing their technology. They aim to integrate AI and machine learning across their operations, employing techniques like computer vision, generative AI, advanced analytics, and automation.



2023

May 2023



Advance Intelligence Group, an AI-focused financial product and service provider, has raised over \$700M in total funding and obtained \$1B to bolster its credit portfolio. The group, known for its buy now, pay later service Atome and other ventures like Advance.AI, Kredit Pintar, and Ginee, plans to enhance consumer transactions and expand access to credit and financial offerings with the new capital.

July 2023



Tech giant Sea has quietly opened its digital bank to members of the public on an invite-only basis. MariBank had been previously made available to just Sea group employees since the third quarter of 2022.

It now offers a Mari Savings Account with an interest rate of 2.5 per cent a year, with no minimum deposit, salary credit requirement or minimum spend amount.

July 2023



Thunes, a startup specialising in cross-border B2B payments, has raised \$72M, reaching a valuation of \$900M. This funding round includes contributions from major players like Visa, the Singaporean government's investment arm EDBI, and U.S.-based Endeavor Catalyst. With this new investment, Thunes plans to strengthen its foothold in China's largest mobile payments market globally.





## KEY REGULATORS UPDATES IN SINGAPORE

### Key Updates in 2022/2023

#### Launch of AI Verify - AI governance testing framework and toolkit 25 May 2022

The Infocomm Media Development Authority (IMDA) and the Personal Data Protection Commission (PDPC) launched A.I. Verify - the world's first AI Governance Testing Framework and Toolkit for companies that wish to demonstrate responsible AI in an objective and verifiable manner. A.I. Verify is currently a Minimum Viable Product (MVP), aiming to promote transparency between companies and their stakeholders.

As of 7 June 2023, the AI international pilot of the MVP has been completed. 10 companies from different sectors and of different scale, have already tested and/or provided feedback. These companies include AWS, DBS Bank, Google, Meta, Microsoft, Singapore Airlines, NCS (Part of Singtel Group)/Land Transport Authority, Standard Chartered Bank, UCARE.AI, and XOPA.AI.



#### MAS launches three-year transformation plan for financial services 15 September 2022

The refreshed Financial Services Industry Transformation Map (ITM) 2025 sets out MAS' growth strategies to further strengthen Singapore's position as a leading international financial centre in Asia. The ITM 2025 lays out the growth strategies to further develop Singapore as a leading international financial centre in Asia – to connect global markets, support Asia's development, and serve Singapore's economy.

MAS will work with the financial industry to deepen capabilities in asset classes in which Singapore plays a key regional or global role, including in foreign exchange, insurance, wealth management, asset management, private capital markets, and promising fintech start-ups in areas like Web 3.0, artificial intelligence, and green fintech.

#### MAS cracks down on digital payment token service providers October 2022

Singapore, once considered a "crypto paradise," is continuing to tighten its blockchain and cryptocurrency regulations. Despite a robust fintech sector in 2022, the Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS) released a consultation paper in October 2022 proposing measures to decrease consumer harm from cryptocurrency trading. These proposals apply under the Payment Service Act 2019 to both licensed and exempt providers of digital payment token services.

The MAS has mandated that by the end of 2023, Digital Payment Token (DPT) service providers must separate customer assets from their own and hold them in a statutory trust. This move aims to protect customer assets and facilitate recovery in case of a provider's insolvency, following issues of asset mishandling at major crypto exchanges.

#### Financial planning for Singaporeans enhanced with insurance data 2 November 2022

The MAS and the Smart Nation and Digital Government Group (SNDGG) announced that individuals will now be able to digitally access and aggregate information on their life, accident and health insurance policies held across different participating insurers.

The inclusion of insurance data adds to existing banking and investment data that individuals can retrieve via the Singapore Financial Data Exchange (SGFinDex), the world's first public digital infrastructure that enables individuals to securely access their financial information held across government agencies, banks, insurers, and the central securities depository.





## KEY REGULATORS UPDATES IN SINGAPORE

### Key Updates in 2022/2023



#### Singapore launches COSMIC platform for enhanced financial crime prevention 9 May 2023

Singapore's Parliament passed the Financial Services and Markets (Amendment) Bill, establishing a digital platform for financial institutions to share information on suspicious customers or transactions. This platform, named COSMIC, is a joint project of the MAS and six major banks. It aims to combat financial crimes like the misuse of shell companies and trade finance, and financing of weapons proliferation. Initially, information sharing will be voluntary, starting in the second half of 2024, to ensure operational stability. MAS plans to eventually make this mandatory for high-risk cases and expand COSMIC's scope. Further legislative changes will be proposed to implement these mandatory requirements.

#### MAS launched a proof of concept for SGQR+ 31 October 2023

SGQR+ is an enhanced version of the SGQR payment system. SGQR+ aims to provide interoperability among various payment schemes, allowing merchants to accept up to 23 payment methods through a single financial institution. Customers can use participating payment channels, including local options like PayNow and NETSPay, and global ones like Alipay and WeChat Pay. SGQR+ supports in-person and online transactions, reducing complexity and enhancing security while promoting digital payments and financial inclusion in Singapore. It is undergoing trials with selected merchants and payment schemes, with plans to roll out to all SGQR merchants by end-2023.

#### MAS and financial industry launch basic financial planning guide 7 October 2023

The MAS and MoneySense, in collaboration with CPF Board and finance industry associations, have developed a Basic Financial Planning Guide to help Singaporeans take simple steps to enhance their financial well-being. The Guide outlines a few rules of thumb, for individuals to start taking proactive steps to address their savings, insurance, and investment needs.

The 2021 National Financial Capability Survey found that while Singaporeans generally practise good financial habits in money management, they need to take more active steps in financial planning. For instance, more than half of the survey respondents had not developed a savings plan in preparation for retirement.

#### MAS, IMDA unveil Shared Responsibility Framework to counter phishing scams 26 October 2023

Financial institutions (FIs) and telecommunication companies (telcos) are expected to bear the full loss, if they fail to discharge their respective prescribed duties to mitigate phishing scams.

This expectation was outlined in a proposed Shared Responsibility Framework (SRF) for phishing scams by the MAS and Infocomm Media Development Authority (IMDA). Under the SRF, FIs are expected to bear the full loss if they fail to discharge their prescribed duties. Telcos would stand second in line, as they play a secondary role in fostering security of digital payments. If FIs and telcos have fulfilled their duties, the SRF will not require payouts to be made to consumers.

#### MAS advances asset tokenisation initiative through new pilots 15 November 2023

MAS has expanded its Project Guardian initiative to enhance asset tokenisation capabilities and drive institutional adoption of digital assets, with 17 financial institutions undertaking 5 new pilots to test use cases across areas like trade pricing, payments, treasury management, and investment funds.

Concurrently, MAS is developing infrastructure like Global Layer One and the Interlinked Network Model to enable seamless cross-border transactions and interoperability while collaborating with international regulators, including the International Monetary Fund, on policy frameworks to facilitate cooperation on digital asset platforms.





## KEY REGULATORS UPDATES IN SINGAPORE

### Key Updates in 2022/2023

#### MAS partners industry to develop GenAI Risk Framework 15 November 2023

MAS launched Project MindForge, an initiative supported by major banks, tech firms, and industry groups, to develop a risk framework and reference architecture to enable responsible and innovative use of Generative AI across finance. In the first phase, a comprehensive framework has been created covering dimensions like accountability, bias, legal issues, etc. Going forward, the scope will expand beyond banking to insurance and asset management, with more experiments in areas like AML, sustainability, and cybersecurity to drive use cases benefitting compliance, risk management, and more.



#### MAS approves stablecoin issuance under new regulatory framework 16 November 2023

MAS has granted In-Principle Approvals (IPA) to three entities - StraitsX SGD Issuance, StraitsX USD Issuance, and Paxos Digital Singapore - for issuing stablecoins aligned with the central bank's proposed regulatory framework.

Once legislative amendments are made, these stablecoins will be recognised as MAS-regulated. StraitsX will issue XSGD and XUSD stablecoins, pegged 1-1 to the Singapore and US Dollars, respectively, while Paxos Digital Singapore will issue a US Dollar-backed stablecoin.

The MAS framework mandates these stablecoins to adhere to strict requirements, such as a Value Stabilising Mechanism ensuring 100% reserve asset backing, bi-monthly independent audits of these assets, and a segregated custody of reserves.

Additionally, a redemption mechanism allows holders to convert their stablecoins into fiat currency within five business days, and the issuers must maintain sufficient base capital for liquidity and operational stability.

#### MAS launches Gprnt platform for enhanced ESG reporting and international collaboration 16 November 2023

MAS has launched Gprnt, a comprehensive digital platform that facilitates collecting, accessing, and utilising environmental, social, and governance (ESG) data for sustainability efforts in the financial sector and beyond.

As a critical outcome of Project Greenprint, Gprnt provides an advanced digital reporting solution for businesses of all sizes, particularly enhancing ESG reporting for large corporations and SMEs. Currently, in live testing with select banks and SMEs, it is slated for a broader rollout from Q1 2024.

Greenprint Technologies Pte Ltd will support this expansion by collaborating with strategic partners, including HSBC, KPMG in Singapore, MAS, Microsoft, and MUFG Bank.

#### MAS to pilot live wholesale CBDC for bank settlements 16 November 2023

MAS announced it would begin live trials of a wholesale central bank digital currency (CBDC) for interbank settlements next year as part of its broader Orchid Blueprint initiative to develop infrastructure for digital money transfers and asset tokenization.

The first pilot will involve CBDC settlement of retail payments between commercial banks, with potential future tests examining cross-border settlements. This builds on MAS' previous CBDC simulations and aligns with its stance of staying abreast of payment innovation while maintaining skepticism of private cryptocurrencies.







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