

## PRESS RELEASE

### **Atos Origin reveals number of payment transactions processed in Belgium during the first semester**

*Growth in payments with Bancontact/Mister Cash*

***Brussels, 23 July 2009 – Atos Worldline, the European expertise of Atos Origin in electronic payments and transactions, today reveals the number of transactions processed in Belgium during the first half of 2009. Atos Worldline noticed a growth in payments using Bancontact/Mister Cash in the retail sector. In addition, the economic crisis has resulted in slower growth and lower average expenditures.***

In the first half of 2009, Atos Worldline processed in Belgium a total of 894 million transactions. This represents a 3.6% increase compared with the first half of 2008. Growth of 5.1% was measured during the same period last year. The vast majority of the transactions are carried out using debit cards such as Bancontact/Mister Cash. This accounted for 417 million purchases, an increase of 5.8% (compared with 7.3% at the start of 2008). The number of cash withdrawals rose slightly to 47 million (+3.7%).

What is most striking is the growth in purchases using Bancontact/Mister Cash in the retail sector. In the first half of this year, this type of transactions increased by 8.4% (compared with 7.8% last year). However, this growth does not extend to the overall figures as a result of a drop in the number of transactions in the petroleum sector. It is clear that the crisis is causing both private consumers and the transport sector to economize on fuel consumption.

The number of transactions made with credit cards remains much smaller (60 million). The growth in these transactions has been the hardest hit by the economic crisis. The growth of 3.7% compared with the first half of 2008 is in fact considerably lower than the 8.5% increase that Atos Worldline recorded in the first half of 2008. There has been a noticeable shift in the number of cash withdrawals using credit cards. Whereas growth was recorded across the board for all other transactions, there has been an effective decrease here (from -1.3% for Belgians in Belgium to -4.8% for Belgians abroad).

Although the number of transactions continues to grow, the average amount per transaction saw a downwards trend. The average amount for purchases made using Bancontact/Mister Cash fell by 1.7 euro per transaction to 48.9 euros. For purchases with credit cards, the drop is even more pronounced. In 2009 the average amount was 95.3 euros (as compared with 102.4 euros in the first half of 2008).

In summary, the majority of Belgians do not seem to be reducing their purchases, but are probably consuming with greater attention to price.

#### **About Atos Origin**

Atos Origin is an international information technology services company. Its business is turning client vision into results through the application of consulting, systems integration and managed operations. The company's annual revenues are EUR 5,5 billion and it employs over 50,000 people in 40 countries. Atos Origin is the Worldwide Information Technology Partner for the Olympic Games and has a client base of international blue-chip companies across all sectors. Atos Origin is quoted on the



Paris Eurolist Market and trades as Atos Origin, Atos Worldline and Atos Consulting. For more information, please visit the company's web site at <http://www.atosorigin.com>

**About Atos Worldline**

Atos Worldline is the European leader in electronic payments and transactions delivering innovative solutions to advance its clients' businesses. It specialises in end-to end payment services (issuing, acquiring, payment solutions and card processing), services for financial markets as well as CRM and eServices (Internet, voice and mobile solutions). Every year Atos Worldline wins prestigious market awards in recognition of its continuous commitment to research and development of leading edge solutions. Awarded solutions cover expertise in areas such as mobile payments, secure IPTV, online CRM, ticketless solutions. A 100% subsidiary of Atos Origin, Atos Worldline generates annual revenues of more than €800 million and employs over 4,800 people in Europe. For more information, please visit: <http://www.atosworldline.com>

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