Deutsche Bundesbank, Germany’s Central Bank, has introduced cashEDI to provide access to the exchange of standardised business data for ordering, receipt and delivery of notes and coins to all the Commercial Banks in Germany. This high security solution was developed in conjunction with GS1 Germany using GS1 eCom Standards and making full use of the GS1 Identification Keys.

What is cashEDI project all about?
Certain severe scandals and commercial insolvencies within the German cash logistics service sector, created the need for transparent system of cash handling. The commercial and credit institutions were particularly interested in more transparency of the cash logistic processes.

Goals and Objectives of cashEDI
GS1 Germany offered a solution optimising the transaction processes for handling cash. This optimisation and modernisation of the range of Bundesbank cash transaction services was achieved by:
- Implementation of electronic supported business transactions in context of a standardised data interchange
- Introduction of barcode supported business transactions

Partners involved
The following parties were involved in the project facilitated by GS1 Germany:
- Deutsche Bundesbank (Federal Reserve Bank of Germany) www.cashedi.de
- Cash Logistic Service Providers such as GEWETRA GmbH www.gewetra.de
- Several Retailers
- Several Commercial Banks
Description of the Application

The CashEDI recommendations cover two process areas:

1. Electronic Ordering of Cash: Orders can be sent electronically to the Deutsche Bundesbank. Customers receive a notification of delivery as soon as the cash is picked according to the order. With the confirmation of delivery the Deutsche Bundesbank informs its customers about the out payment of the cash.

2. Electronic notification of in payments: Customers can notify the Deutsche Bundesbank about the in payments of cash prior to delivery. This avoids paper based documents. After accepting the in payments the Deutsche Bundesbank sends out confirmations of receipts and so called final receipts which contain the accurate counting results of the cash.

GS1 eCom Standards used

The following GS1 XML standard messages were used to exchange the cash flow data: (EANCOM is also ready to be used)

- Multi Shipment Order for Cash Order
- Despatch Advice for Notification Of Delivery, Confirmation of Delivery and Notification of In Payment
- Receiving Advice for Confirmation of Receipt, Arrival Notice and Final Receipt

The cash was identified by the GS1 identification keys and bar codes:

- GTIN for identification of banknotes and coins
- GLN for identification partners
- SSCC for identification of transport units
- GS1-128 bar code for indication of the SSCC on the seals and bill of delivery
Benefits and Results
The benefits of CashEDI were proven amongst others within a special project sponsored by the ministry of economics and lead by GS1 Germany. After the analysis of the project the cash logistics service provider reached a ROI of 27 percent and a payback time of 3.5 years. In addition to that, the company could deliver a more transparent cash process to its customers. Because of the electronic notifications sent to the Bundesbank the cash logistic service provider and its customer benefit not only from reduced handling fees, faster processing at the cash counter and a massive reduction of handling errors. They also profit from a fundamentally safer and more transparent environment.

Apart from some issues with the legacy systems, the main obstacle for the implementation of the GS1 XML standards was the cascading structure of the electronic messages. In addition to that, an inaccurate documentation for the standards was used in the project.

Thanks to the deep IT and business knowledge of the participants on both sides, the project was completed successfully with the agreed timeframe. Another key success factor was the high motivation of all participants. Gewetra wanted to reach a competitive advantage in the market. The Bundesbank had a high interest of a rapid adoption of the cashEDI system. Both objectives were achieved in 100%.

Next Steps
With the current level of adoption Deutsche Bundesbank has proven that the CashEDI system works efficiently. Gewetra will further work on connecting its existing web applications with the cashEDI service. Gewetra has also reached a positive image improvement.

CashEDI is the central platform for the cash handling by Deutsche Bundesbank. Additional processes such as electronic invoicing and master data will be established gradually. It is very likely that this system will be the only channel to communicate with Deutsche Bundesbank in the long run. This is also a strong argument within the ongoing discussions at the European Central Bank to introduce a harmonised system for cash handling on the European level.

About GS1 eCom Standards
GS1 eCom provides global standards for electronic business messaging that allow rapid, efficient and accurate automatic electronic transmission of agreed business data between trading partners.

eCom is a GS1 term used for the Electronic Data Interchange technology, which can be defined as “the transfer of structured data, by agreed message standards, from one computer application to another, by electronic means and with a minimum of human intervention”.

GS1 eCom provides two complementary standards for business messaging:

- GS1 XML, more info on the following link http://www.gs1.org/productssolutions/ecom/xml/
- GS1 EANCOM®, more info on the following link http://www.gs1.org/productssolutions/ecom/eancom

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With special thanks to: