

Bank Sohar Extends Access to Its ATM Network To Visa Debit and Credit Card Holders

Muscat, 06 October, 2009: Bank Sohar has upgraded its Oman-wide ATM network to accept Visa debit and credit cards issued by local and international banks making the bank's facilities even more accessible to Omani residents and visitors to the Sultanate.

The move comes after Bank Sohar has successfully completed the ADVT /SMS ATM acquiring testing and certification (Acquirer Device Validation Toolkit / Single Message System). This internationally recognized validation means that all of the bank's ATM network across the Sultanate can accept all Visa credit and debit cards issued anywhere in the world.

Bank Sohar DGM Retail Banking Khalfan Al Taley explained that in the past Bank Sohar ATMs were limited to only accepting cards that were processed through the OmanSwitch and GCCSwitch systems.

"The management of the Bank is very happy to have achieved this important international validation of our ATM network that will allow significantly larger numbers of individuals – both local residents and visitors to Oman – to access cash and undertake other banking services using our ever growing ATM network," explained Mr. Al Taley..

The certification applies to debit and credit cards that use both magnetic stripe and the more recent chip card technology.

As Oman's youngest and fastest growing bank, Bank Sohar is rapidly ensuring that all relevant systems are in place and validated to enable the widest possible interaction with the bank's services across the Sultanate – both at ATMs and its ever expanding branch network.

Mr. Khalfan Al Taley added: "It has always been the objective of the bank to ensure that our entire network is easy accessible to use by individuals whatever debit or credit card system they may use.

"The new validation to allow the use of Visa cards – whether issued by local or international banks – is a significant step forward in achieving this objective."

Bank Sohar currently has a network of ATMs across the Sultanate with locations that include Muscat, Nizwa, Sohar, Sur, Buraimi and Salalah.