

**Press Release**  
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**The Asian Banker IT Implementation Awards 2009**

**The Royal Bank of Scotland wins the Best Trading Back Office Project Award 2008**

- *The Royal Bank of Scotland wins the Best Trading Back Office Project Award for implementing a smart and robust integrated confirmation platform in 2008*
- *The IT Implementation Awards is well known for its rigorous evaluation of both the technological implementation itself and its impact on business value*
- *The high degree of participation reflects the increasing prominence of IT as a business driver for the financial services industry*

**Singapore, May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2009** – The Royal bank of Scotland (RBS) and its partner SmartStream Technologies have been awarded for their implementation of the Best Trading Back Office Project in Asia Pacific in 2008 by the third Asian Banker IT Implementation Awards Programme. The companies received the awards during the prestigious Asian Banker Summit 2009. The ceremony was held at the China World Hotel in Beijing on the evening of May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2009.

The awards programme, administered by The Asian Banker and refereed by prominent global bankers, consultants and academics, is the the most prestigious of its kind in the Asia Pacific region.

The winners were determined through a stringent three-month evaluation process that was based on submission materials and interviews with the candidates. The final decision was made by an independent panel of judges, who maintained the high standards of the awards programme.

**The Royal Bank of Scotland wins the Best Trading Back Office Project Award for implementing a smart and robust integrated confirmation platform in 2008**

The rapid surge in forex trading volumes has put great strain on the industry players in delivering efficient matching processes. Similarly, there was an increased demand for superior client services in the aspects of timeliness and prioritisation. As one of the largest traders in the forex market, RBS collaborated with SmartStream Technologies to take up this challenge by developing *TLM Treasury Confirmations Matching Solution*. This matching/reconciliation/exception management platform is an integrated hub for treasury confirmations, providing matching and full discrepancy investigation analysis function at a tremendous capacity and accuracy as well as a linking to our settlement process to provide improved settlement risk management.

At the heart of this solution is the Real Time Integrated platform, a smart system that communicates to all the required reconciliation and electronic platforms on real time basis. The system proactively highlights discrepancies to ease investigation for pre-emptive solutions. The project implementation helped RBS to improve its match rates and reduce the number of errors (exceptions). The enterprise control mechanism within the system allows the bank to manage its growing transactions volumes. In addition, the platform also displays statistical KPI and Key Risk Indicators related to the transaction processes.

“With the new application in place, RBS is able to effectively manage current and expected increase in trade volumes”, said Ms. Elena Torrijos, managing editor and project leader for The Asian Banker. The unparalleled matching capabilities have enabled RBS to improve match rate without manual intervention. The integrated capability means that the system can support RBS’s Global Banking & Markets Global FX Business with multiple offices across five continents. This also allows the solution to be accessible anywhere to all global operations of RBS.

The enhanced real time statistical reports allow accurate problem detection and facilitate the implementation of immediate adjustments. Overall, *TLM Treasury Confirmations Matching Solution* has provided RBS with a smart solution that drives down cost, improves control, supports future growth and further improves overall client service levels

**The IT Implementation Awards is well known for its rigorous evaluation of both the technological implementation and its impact on business value**

The award evaluation process used a comprehensive methodology to evaluate the strength of the IT implementations, which included the comprehensive analysis of the submissions by our team of experienced researchers, and in-depth interviews of banks and partners. The candidates were assessed according to a set of standard performance indicators to guarantee the objectivity.

The programme was supervised by a panel of renowned referees, who integrated their consolidated expertise and took the final decision on the winners. The members of the panel were Alex Escucha (chairman), Nick Dean, Voranuch Dejakaisaya, Neil Katkov, Mac Kaylan and Axel Winter.

“The IT Implementation Awards Programme is well-known for its high evaluation standards, which are guaranteed through the independence of the judges and their high expectancies towards the candidates,” said Alex Escucha, Chairman of The Asian Banker IT Awards Panel of Judges for the third consecutive year. Escucha and his team have used their collective experience to consider the projects according to regional best practices and to evaluate their positive impact on the institution’s financial results.

**The high degree of participation reflects the increasing prominence of IT as a business driver for the financial services industry**

In its third year, the IT Implementation Awards Programme has been growing in popularity. In 2008, more than 90 submissions for 13 categories and five special categories came from institutions from 15 countries across the Asia Pacific region. This record number is almost

twice as high as in the previous year and reflects the rising importance of IT to the financial services industry in Asia Pacific.

The success of the programme in previous years was met with an expansion of categories and the possibility for candidates to propose new categories. Nonetheless the programme maintained its high standard as the judges determined only 12 winners met their high expectations.

The IT Implementation Awards can support the financial services industry in order to determine examples of best practice across various categories, so banks can consider the new standards set by winning banks. Alex Escucha noted that “the IT Implementation Awards programme was instituted in 2006 on the premise that in such a highly automated business environment like financial services, innovative and groundbreaking IT projects should be recognised so that they can serve as an example of best practices for other institutions in the region.”

### **About The Asian Banker**

The Asian Banker is the foremost provider of strategic business intelligence in the financial services industry in the Asia Pacific and Middle East regions. The organization has offices in Singapore, Kuala Lumpur, Beijing and Dubai as well as representatives in Shanghai, London and New York. With a business that revolves around publications, research services, training and forums, the organization is highly regarded in the financial services community for its incisive and independent commentaries on developments in the industry. The company’s website is [www.theasianbanker.com](http://www.theasianbanker.com).

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