

ACI reply to the European Commission Targeted consultation on Instant Payments

The following are the preliminary comments of ACI Worldwide¹ with regard to the European Commission's targeted consultation on instant payments (the Consultation), which was published in March 2021.

ACI Worldwide (ACI) provides solutions for digital payments and banking for more than 6,000 organizations around the world. ACI brings more than 45 years of payments and software expertise to customers in 95+ countries with its global footprint.

ACI is unique among payment software providers in its focus on real-time payments—also known as faster, immediate and, in Europe, Instant Payments. Banks, processors and national infrastructures recognize ACI as the number one brand delivering real-time payments solutions. As country and regional-level real-time payments schemes continue to be implemented around the world, ACI is delivering value-added services that enable banks, merchants and billers to offer new real-time payments offerings to their customers.

Unlike other payment software providers, ACI delivers software to all participants in the payments ecosystem. The Company combines proven expertise with innovation to deliver large-scale modernization projects that inherently deliver choice, availability, flexibility and scalability. Security and compliance are also fundamental to ACI's solutions. With a deep bench of experienced compliance experts committed to meeting security, risk and network mandates, ACI enables customers to focus on their core business.

ACI provides deployment flexibility, with options for customers to run ACI software on their premises, in the public cloud, in ACI's private cloud in our Irish data centre, or in a hybrid model. Customers that license ACI software and deploy it on site or, increasingly, in the public cloud, can use ACI software to develop sophisticated, custom solutions, which are often part of a larger system located and managed at the customer site. These customers require a level of control, customization and flexibility that only ACI solutions can offer, and they have the resources and expertise to take a lead role in managing these solutions.

¹ ACI Worldwide was founded in 1975 and is a global software company that provides mission-critical real-time payment solutions to banks, merchants and biller corporations. Customers use ACI's proven, scalable and secure solutions to process and manage digital payments, enable omni-commerce payments, present and process bill payments, and manage fraud and risk. The Company combines a global footprint with local presence to drive the real-time digital transformation of payments and commerce.

ACI's European headquarters is in Limerick, Ireland, and our global headquarters in Miami, USA. ACI has offices in 34 countries around the world, including 7 offices in the EU and 1 in the UK. ACI employs approximately 4,000 employees globally, including about 500 in Europe.

ACI is listed on the NASDAQ exchange as 'ACIW'. More information on ACI Worldwide can be found at www.aciworldwide.com.

ACI supports the European Commission's objective, as set out in its Retail Payment Strategy², to create the conditions that make it possible to develop instant payments and EU-wide payment solutions that are cost effective and accessible to individuals and businesses across Europe. We hope that our input to the Consultation will contribute to enable the Commission to decide on whether EU coordinated action and/or policy measures are warranted in order to ensure the further development of instant payments offering. We also hope that our input will help the Commission in identifying factors that would be relevant for fostering customer demand towards instant credit transfers.

We anticipate that the further development of instant payments should allow companies such as ACI to grow faster and offer even more innovative solutions. We also hope that this will drive greater competition and customer choice and ultimately better customer outcomes.

We would like to respond to some of the specific questions addressed in the Consultation, with the aim of outlining policy actions which we believe are needed in the context of Instant Payments to achieve a well-functioning and competitive European market for payments.

ACI would be happy to discuss these issues and their implications further in the near future, as required. If you need more information on any of the points raised above, please contact Craig Ramsey at ACI craig.ramsey@aciworldwide.com or Monica Monaco monacom@trusteuaaffairs.com.

² <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:52020DC0592>