

The following is the text of an announcement being issued today in Malta by HSBC Bank Malta p.l.c. - a 70.03% indirectly held subsidiary of HSBC Holdings plc - pursuant to Malta Financial Services Authority Listing Rule 5.16.1.

28 October 2011

ANNOUNCEMENT

HSBC Bank Malta p.l.c. announces that it is in discussions regarding the possible sale of its card acquiring operation.

A further announcement will be made if or when appropriate.

ends/more

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Note to editors:

The HSBC Group

HSBC Holdings plc, the parent company of the HSBC Group, is headquartered in London. The Group serves customers worldwide from around 7,500 offices in over 80 countries and territories in Europe, the Asia-Pacific region, North and Latin America, the Middle East and Africa. With assets of US\$2,691bn at 30 June 2011, HSBC is one of the world's largest banking and financial services organisations.

ends/all