

press release

Standard Chartered announces a new Personalised Pricing Service at over 200 Merchant Locations in Hong Kong

(Hong Kong - 9 April 2006) Standard Chartered Bank (Hong Kong) Limited (Standard Chartered) today announces the availability of an innovative personalized pricing service at more than 200 merchant locations throughout Hong Kong. The service, Dynamic Currency Conversion (DCC) targets international travellers, and is provided by Planet Payment, the multi-currency payment processing company.

The adoption and rollout of the new DCC service demonstrates Standard Chartered's commitment to providing its credit card merchants with state-of-the-art system capabilities, enabling these merchants to be well equipped to capture business opportunities among international consumers.

This innovative service offers international consumers travelling in Hong Kong a real-time choice of currencies in which to settle transactions. Cardholders benefit by not having to wait until they return home to discover what their transactions actually cost in their native currency. The service also makes filling out expense forms upon returning home much easier and simpler. Customers using a non-Hong Kong credit card are offered a choice of currencies at the point of sale (the local currency of Hong Kong Dollar, or the currency they understand best - their own). Currency conversion only occurs at the point of sale if the cardholder selects to pay in his or her native currency. DCC is available to customers presenting valid Visa or MasterCard cards and can be billed in American Dollar, Australian Dollar, British Pound Sterling, Canadian Dollar, ECM Euro, Hong Kong Dollar, Japanese Yen, New Taiwan Dollar, New Zealand Dollar, Singapore Dollar and Swiss Franc.

The service, designed by Planet Payment, offers clarity and convenience to consumers, as well as a number of benefits to the card merchant. The service is intended to help merchants attract more customers and sell more products by providing international customers with the choice to view prices and shop in their home currency. Planet Payment also offers transactional data management and reporting to merchants, providing them with additional tools to make more informed business decisions.

Tyrrell Schmidt, Standard Chartered's Country Head for Credit Cards and Personal Loans, said, "Our new Dynamic Currency Conversion service is an important addition to our wide range of innovative products and award winning solutions that we make available to our customers, whether merchants or cardholders. Since our roll-out of DCC in December of last year, the response from our merchants has been overwhelming, reflecting the strength of the product."

Commenting on the partnership with Standard Chartered, Philip Beck, Chairman and Chief Executive of Planet Payment, said, "Planet Payment is very proud to announce this latest milestone in the Asia Pacific region, which forms an important part of our strategy. In Standard Chartered we are delighted to be working with such a capable and innovative partner. Hong Kong is an exciting and important market for Planet Payment, from which we can build our presence in the Asia Pacific Region".

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Notes to Editors:

Standard Chartered – leading the way in Asia, Africa and the Middle East

The history of Standard Chartered in Hong Kong dates back to 1859. It is currently one of the SAR's three note-issuing banks. Standard Chartered incorporated its Hong Kong business on 1 July 2004, and now operates as a licensed bank in Hong Kong under the name of Standard Chartered Bank (Hong Kong) Limited, a wholly owned subsidiary of Standard Chartered PLC.

Standard Chartered PLC is listed on both the London Stock Exchange and the Stock Exchange of Hong Kong and is ranked in the top 25 among FTSE-100 companies, by market capitalisation. Standard Chartered has a history of over 150 years in banking and is in many of the world's fastest growing markets. It has an extensive global network of over 1,200 branches (including subsidiaries, associates and joint ventures) in 56 countries in the Asia Pacific Region, South Asia, the Middle East, Africa, the United Kingdom and the Americas. As one of the world's most international banks, Standard Chartered employs over 44,000 people, representing 89 nationalities, worldwide. Serving both Consumer and Wholesale Banking customers, the Bank combines deep local knowledge with global capability to offer a wide range of innovative products and

services as well as award winning solutions. Standard Chartered is committed to be the Right Partner to all our stakeholders by living its values in its approach to managing its people, exceeding expectations of its customers, making a difference in the communities that we operate in and working with its regulators. The Bank is trusted across its network for its standard of governance and corporate responsibility.

About Planet Payment

Planet Payment is the trade name for Planet Group, Inc. [LSE:AIM: PPT.L] Further information on Planet Payment can be found at: www.planetpayment.com

Planet Payment is a multi-currency payment processor, enabling processors, acquiring banks and their merchants to accept, process and reconcile credit card transactions in multiple currencies, and allowing international cardholders to view prices and settle transactions in their native currency when travelling abroad. Planet Payment's systems also enable it to provide enhanced data reporting and data mining to merchants who are using multiple systems in different countries.

The Planet Payment business was established in 1999 and Planet Group, Inc. is listed on the AIM market of the London Stock Exchange. Planet Payment is headquartered in New York and in the Asia Pacific Region has offices in Singapore and Hong Kong.