

## Worldline completes the acquisition of Axepta Italy

**Paris La Défense, January 4, 2022 – Worldline [Euronext: WLN], a leader in the payments industry, today announces the completion of its acquisition of Axepta Italy, as part of its European consolidation strategy.**

The acquisition of 80% of Axepta Italy, a significant bank acquirer in the country, and the set-up of a strategic partnership with BNL in Merchant Services in Italy are part of Worldline's strategy to expand its presence across Europe through partnerships with leading financial institutions. It follows the acquisition of Handelsbanken's card-acquiring activities in the Nordics, the acquisition of Cardlink and the agreement for the acquisition of Eurobank Merchant Acquiring activities in Greece.

Being the third largest euro economies in Europe with a cash penetration that remains high, Italy region represents a highly attractive and strategic market driven by the shift from cash to card and electronic payment adoption, supported by a solid acceptance network and one of the highest POS density per habitants in Europe. Axepta Italy is one of the largest bank-owned acquirers in the country, with c. 200 million acquiring transactions per year (c. 5% market share in MSV) from a c. 220,000 POS acceptance network.

Axepta Italy and the partnership with BNL are the ideal cornerstone for Worldline to expand its Merchant Services activities in one of the most attractive payment market in Europe with significant growth and synergies opportunities. As part of the transaction, Worldline will enter in a long-term commercial partnership with BNL aiming at leveraging its strong banking network as a key commercial channel. A robust integration and development program will be implemented to further improve profitability rate through operating leverage and costs efficiency. Through this partnership, merchants will benefit from Worldline's and Axepta Italy best-in-class and innovative payment products and services, to maximize their sales and provide a unified experience to their customers.

In the continuity of Worldline's existing partnerships with more than 17 banks and banking federations (regrouping c. 100 adherents) in Italy, the creation of a joint venture with BNL (BNL retaining a 20% ownership in Axepta Italy) is also designed to be an open vehicle for welcoming existing partners and other Italian banks willing to benefit from delivery and servicing excellence, combined with scale and competitive cost structure.

## Forthcoming events

- February 22, 2022 FY 2021 results
- April 27, 2022 Q1 2022 revenue
- July 27, 2022 H1 2022 results
- October 25, 2022 Q3 2022 revenue

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## ABOUT WORLDLINE

Worldline [Euronext: WLN] is the European leader in the payments and transactional services industry and #4 player worldwide. With its global reach and its commitment to innovation, Worldline is the technology partner of choice for merchants, banks and third-party acquirers as well as public transport operators, government agencies and industrial companies in all sectors. Powered by over 20,000 employees in more than 50 countries, Worldline provides its clients with sustainable, trusted and secure solutions across the payment value chain, fostering their business growth wherever they are. Services offered by Worldline in the areas of Merchant Services; Terminals, Solutions & Services; Financial Services and Mobility & e-Transactional Services include domestic and cross-border commercial acquiring, both in-store and online, highly secure payment transaction processing, a broad portfolio of payment terminals as well as e-ticketing and digital services in the industrial environment. In 2020 Worldline generated a proforma revenue of 4.8 billion euros. [worldline.com](http://worldline.com)

Worldline's corporate purpose ("raison d'être") is to design and operate leading digital payment and transactional solutions that enable sustainable economic growth and reinforce trust and security in our societies. Worldline makes them environmentally friendly, widely accessible, and supports social transformation.

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Revenue organic growth and Operating Margin before Depreciation and Amortization (OMDA) improvement are presented at constant scope and exchange rate. OMDA is presented as defined in the 2020 Universal Registration Document. All amounts are presented in € million without decimal. This may in certain circumstances lead to non-material differences between the sum of the figures and the subtotals that appear in the tables. 2021 objectives are expressed at constant scope and exchange rates and according to Group's accounting standards.

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