

Headlines of 2018

That Was the Year That Was...

January

Landqart sold to Swiss National Bank and Orell Füssli; Giesecke+Devrient wins contract to build new currency infrastructure in Egypt; Fedrigoni bought by Bain Capital; Mexico undertakes environmental lifecycle analysis of its banknotes; ECB publishes research on modelling euro banknote quality in circulation; Brink's expands in Brazil; Crane Co completes acquisition of Crane Currency.

February

De La Rue sells paper business to private equity firm, Portals is reborn; Crane Currency opens new factory in Malta; ink giant Sun Chemical buys Luminescence; Arjowiggins Security finds new home as Sequena sells to Blue Motion; euro counterfeit ratio lowest in 14 years; Sri Lanka cuts cost of coins by switching to stainless steel; Canadian Mint sues Royal Australian Mint over coloured coin technology; CPS signs contract with the Federal Reserve.

March

New push for single currency in West Africa; G+D continues its partnership with Federal Reserve; De La Rue announces expansion at Kenyan printworks; sales and profits up for CIT leaders; G+D opens new currency experience centre in Dubai; three public perception studies on banknotes provide surprising results; costs up, sales down for US coins; Oberthur Fiduciaire wins contract for Danish banknotes.

April

World's first global cash report, from G4S, reveals cash on the increase; Venezuela announces introduction of new currency, the boliviano soberano; Kenya's bid for new banknote series goes back to the drawing board; another record year for G+D, but sideways drift at Orell Füssli; Trinidad & Tobago and Guyana announce they are dropping low denomination coins; CPS buys iCubed Technologies; UK consults on cash and digital payments; 'cash still rules' says Bank for International Settlements; Philippines on course with the modernisation of note and coin production facilities; cash crunch in India as ATMs start running out.

May

ATM industry consortium plans to future-proof ATMs and get off the Microsoft 'merry go round'; Crane announces decision to close its Swedish printworks; BEP pushes for decision on new printworks; record profits for Royal Canadian Mint; SuzoHapp buys Coinco lines; UOB sells wholesale banknote business to Travelex; Landqart streamlines products and staff.

June

EU suspends legislation on cash payment limits; Brink's announces purchase of Dunbar Armored; Baldwin enters market with range of print inspection systems; Atlantic Zeiser to sell off business units to focus on banknote and secure document serialisation; mixed results for De La Rue but progress on strategy; new Chairman and Board for ICA; Loomis expands into foreign exchange business with acquisition of CPoR Devises; Oberthur Fiduciaire and KURZ announce new partnership; Sweden looks for alternative banknote supplier; European CIT attacks increase, but net losses fall; KBA- NotaSys and AGFA intensify partnership.

July

South Africa remembers Nelson Mandela with world's first commemorative banknote series; new solution to high-cost low-value US coins proposed; Crane signs cooperation agreement with National Bank of Ukraine; Loomis buys second company in Chile; Europe's national central banks come together in Madrid to push forward GS1 standards for cash efficiency; Cash & Payment News, the new sister publication to Currency News, launches.

August

Central banks come together for first ever data analytics seminar; Venezuela's new currency devalued even before launch; Portals becomes first ever company to certify to new security standard; France next in line to ditch 1 and 2 euro cents; disappointing half-year results for Diebold Nixdorf and NCR; Hong Kong unveils designs for new series; plans for new Europa €100 and €200 notes take shape.

September

Mexico's new series launches with new 500 peso note; De La Rue wins contract for Swedish banknotes; Diebold Nixdorf completes \$650 million refinancing, rumours of sale; Portals secures further investment; India completes de- and remonetisation.

October

De La Rue finally secures contract for new Kenyan banknotes; Australian and Canadian mints settle their differences over coloured coin technology; Nigerian government sells stake in printer and mint; Goznak celebrates 200th anniversary; cash levels remain high in Australia; Atlantic Zeiser renamed Zeiser as sale of non-banknote business units is completed; Bank of England announces future of £50 is secure; new currency on cards for Curaçao and St Maarten; new venture launched – CUBE – to provide scientific insight into users' perception of banknote design.

November

Mexico gears up for future demand as it inaugurates new printworks; Bank of Israel wins landmark case and damages against counterfeiters for IPR contravention; single West African currency moves a step closer; Bank of England launches online Future of Money forum; setback for Royal Mint as return of coins following introduction of new £1 suppresses demand for new coins; India's cash management companies form self-regulatory organisation; NCR announces further restructuring/savings, as well as acquisitions in self-service and payments technology; Crane Currency prints billionth banknote at new factory in Malta; big banks join forces to roll out uniform ATM network in the Netherlands; Banknote Note Paper Mill rises to the challenge in India.

December

Decade-old polymer saga involving RBA, NPA and Securrency finally draws to a close; half year profits for De La Rue fall, but order book remains strong; Australian banks sell off ATMs; new structure at KBA-NotaSys; Brink's gets into the cannabis business; the curious case of Liberia's missing cash; G4S preps for flotation of cash solutions.