

# Headlines of 2020 *That Was the Year That Was...*

## January

Introduction of Eco, the new currency for West Africa, edges closer; Crane Co buys Cummins Allison; Loomis expands in Sweden; Egypt announces first new polymer banknote to be produced in new printworks; Jarden Zinc becomes Artazn; Belgium adopts utility model for ATMs; Australia announces relaxation for returning damaged notes following bushfires; counterfeiting of euro falls to historic low; Samoa issues world's first carbon-neutral banknote; Canada opens public consultation to choose historic Canadian for new \$5 banknote.

## February

Central Banking awards for Mexico and Australia; Brinks continues to grow; Liberia launches technical programme for banknote procurement; China disinfects banknotes in response to COVID-19; Glory invests in self-service retail industry; Yemen conflict threatens creation of two economies; De La Rue announces preliminary details of turnaround plan; IQ Structures introduces Keyhole Hologram; KURZ enters banknote thread market; Bank of England launches new £20 polymer banknote; Australia unveils design for new \$100 note.

## March

Oberthur to make Bioguard Enhance™ anti-viral banknote treatment available to wider industry; Nepal halts security printing press tender; Loomis expands in Scandinavia; Finland maintains Danish coin production; Bank Innovation Systems EyeQ ready for wider use; Armenia, England and Poland win at HSP EMEA Regional Banknote of the Year awards.

## April

Royal Dutch Mint moves into state-of-the-art new home; cash demand spikes amidst pandemic; Orell Füssli moves into digital services; Philippines looks to a home-grown banknote substrate; Brinks rolls out G4S cash acquisitions; G+D invests in digital solutions; Komori and Gietz team up to promote equipment; Hunkeler shrinks footprint with compact banknote destruction system; Aruba wins prestigious IBNS 2019 Banknote of the Year Award.

## May

New currency for Iran approved; Liberian contract awarded to Crane; Consumer Choice in Payment Coalition launches to protect cash for consumers; Uganda to print currency and secure documents locally; following Philippine footsteps, Japan looks to home-grown banknote substrate; Nepal sets new standards for banknotes; Ukraine extends processing rules to CITs; Landqart chooses Diavy for foil application.

## June

De La Rue sets out path for future; US coin shortage due to disrupted circulation; Casa da Moeda privatisation setback as provisional measure expires; Western Union bids for MoneyGram; Crane Merchandising Systems merges with Crane Payment Innovations; Europol launches European Financial and Economic Crime Centre; UK SFO drops De La Rue investigation; second quarter rebound for markets; it's a BREEZE with Crane's new security thread; ATMIA launches Revival Plan for COVID-19 and beyond.

## July

Federal Reserve and US Mint take action to address coin shortages; Europol supports multiple campaigns to dismantle currency counterfeiting operations; Bulgaria and Croatia enter euro 'waiting room', the ERM-2 mechanism; Algeria hints at new currency centre; Goebel breaks ground on new production hall; Sound of Intaglio now available for banknote authentication at the point of sale; a lifeline for struggling Travelex after announcement of £84 million injection; G4S lays off quarter of cash workforce in UK; De La Rue raises £100 million for turnaround plan; Argentina overruns capacity amidst soaring demand; Casa da Moeda Brasil moves forward as strategic company.

## August

US Federal Reserve chooses G+D for NextGen currency processing equipment; HUMANIA launches as a post-COVID recovery initiative; euro counterfeit figures on hold; UK cash industry faces 'death spiral' warns GMB; ANZ sells off ATMs to Armaguard; Loomis FX hands in licence; Portals hit by lower De La Rue orders; COVID-19 round-up – contactless payments up but cash still rules; ECB annual report – banknotes in circulation grow, counterfeits decline; Egypt's new printworks delayed by pandemic; Tunisia sees strong cash growth; Rwanda's new automated cash centre hopes to be blueprint for Africa; Krypten announces new house note featuring a two-sided hologram; CCL unveils CINEMA security feature; Qatar Central Bank first to issue De La Rue's NEXUS security feature.

## September

CCL Industries opens industry's first banknote recycling centre; Portals reopens PM1 after £21 million investment; Fedrigoni to sell Brazilian mill; GardaWorld bids for G4S – again; Prosegur goes green with e-vehicles; COVID pushes back launch of eco; Sun Chemical acquires Brazilian security ink company; ATMIA publishes

best practices for ATM hygiene; Americans divided over the penny as new coinage legislation advances through Congress; coin demand up in New Zealand, down in Thailand; UK's NAO publishes cash report; a bumpy ride as the impact of COVID-19 hits markets and companies; Hitachi-Omron terminal solutions develops currency disinfectant; Royal Mint unveils 'world's most visually secure' bullion coin.

## October

Industry hits back at sensational reporting of new COVID study; Vaultex Consulting supports delivery of Ukraine's cash strategy; ICA launches Sustainability Charter; Bank of England extends contract with De La Rue; CCL launches polymer education campaign; new Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas printworks on hold; Allied Universal bids for G4S; Koenig & Bauer Banknote Solutions takes effect; work begins on Nepal's new printworks; Demax launches FreeEdge stripe and patch; Australia crowns new series with the \$100.

## November

NPA, DLR, Louisenthal win at virtual IACA Technical Awards; De La Rue sees improvements all round as Turnaround Plan takes effect; Canadian bank NOTE-able \$5 shortlist released; Next Gen ATM consortium reaches 400 members; ZEISER breaks ground at new facility; Argentina forced to import banknotes, again; Saudi Arabian Monetary Authority becomes Saudi Central Bank; Russia turns to varnish; G4S highlights strengths of cash business as it fights off hostile bids; banknote demand up in the US, static in Europe; Mexican public turns to cash; Bank of England says low risk of banknote COVID transmission; Krypten releases new security stripes based on HoloTWINS technology; Crane Currency goes high definition with RAPID; Bank of Mexico speeds up new series.

## December

UK's Public Accounts committee demands answers to the whereabouts of £50 notes; Royal Dutch Mint goes energy neutral with solar power; SICPA joins the Digital Monetary Institute; G4S accepts bid from Allied Universal; changes to corporate structure at Koenig & Bauer; De La Rue formally announces game-changing NEXUS feature; new features debut in Lebanese and Qatar banknotes; SURYS launches two new security threads; holographic banknote features scoop IHMA awards; 'everything changes, but nothing changes' is Currency News' verdict on 2020.