

Initial Convenience Service

New Payments Platform (NPP) Program to start engagement process for the Initial Convenience Service (ICS) as the first of many overlay services for NPP

The New Payments Platform Steering Committee (NPPSC), the governing body for the NPP initiative, has recently approved the Selection Strategy for the ICS. The Selection Strategy defines the approach to engage a potential provider(s), to innovatively design, build, implement, operate and maintain the first of many overlay services that will utilise the Basic Infrastructure (BI).

It is anticipated that the ICS will be an exciting, new and commercially viable opportunity that will be provided by an existing payment service or scheme, or developed from scratch. Acting as the open access hub architecture, the BI will be utilised both directly and in the form of overlay services. As the first of many overlay services, ICS will provide a compelling proposition for use of the BI as soon as possible

The success drivers for the ICS include (but are not limited to):

- Being a simple and innovative payment service that can inspire support from [participants](#) and has their commercial backing;
- Can work hand-in-hand with the BI vendor to minimise the need for additional IT infrastructure within the BI to that provided by the selected BI solution, and ensure compatibility; and
- Has the potential to provide a solution which aims to satisfy objectives that are in the public interest, including but not limited to:
 - Driving early volumes of transactions through the BI
 - Near real-time funds availability
 - Out-of-hours processing
 - Data rich transactions
 - Simple addressing

Further discussion on ICS and overlay service concepts is available in the [Real-Time Payments Committee Proposal](#).

The selected provider(s) will be contracted to deliver the ICS into operational readiness to coincide with the BI and wider NPP, targeted to complete by end 2016.

Next steps

APCA requests that all organisation(s) interested in becoming involved in the ICS provider selection process fill out an Expression of Interest form and send to npp-pmso@kpmg.com.au by **5pm on 6th March 2014**. We look forward to hearing potential innovative ICS solutions and will be providing more information on the engagement process in late March 2014.