



PRESS RELEASE

BKN301 Integrates New Alipay+ Payment and Marketing Solutions in San Marino (Among the First in Europe), While New Opportunities Open for International Trade and Tourism with Asian Countries.

SAN MARINO 11 January 2022 - BKN301, is a fintech Banking-as-a-Service company that operates as the only Payment Institution in San Marino, is among the first in Europe to make the Alipay+ payment and marketing solutions available to San Marino stores, allowing merchants to accept mobile payments from Asian customers.

Alipay+, introduced by Ant Group, the owner and operator of Alipay, provides global cross-border mobile payments and marketing solutions that enable global digital payment merchant partners (especially small and medium sized businesses) to better serve their users and customers.

Offering Alipay + among the payment methods accepted in San Marino opens the country's trade and tourism towards East, also thanks to the marketing services provided by Alipay+, helps expand the physical and online store reach to over one billion people. Asian customers can access information, promotions, and conduct payments with ease (both online and offline) using their smartphone.

Thanks to this important agreement, BKN301 offers the three main banks of San Marino - Banca Agricola Commerciale, Banca di San Marino and Cassa di Risparmio della Repubblica di San Marino - the possibility to configure merchants' Smart POS, providing them with the ability to accept transactions made not only from Chinese visitors using Alipay, but also with all major Asian wallets that rely on this innovative system.

Stiven Muccioli, CEO of BKN301, remarks: "Integrating Alipay+ within our payment methods is an excellent development opportunity for San Marino. Today, the potential of fintech lets us simplify the shopping experience of Asian customers and tourists who can now buy via smartphone in our country. This change opens us up to new international markets and welcomes a new and vast pool of customers from the East. To encourage the evolution of banking and financial services, we will bring new solutions to those markets open to innovation, looking beyond a traditional offer and showing significant growth potential. This agreement is crucial to our strategy."

"Mobile-payments help innovate conversation between customers and stores, online and offline. Our Alipay+ solutions connect local merchants with global customers through payment partners' apps. The partnership with BKN301 is a further confirmation of our commitment to support the development of the cashless economy in San Marino, by facilitating a rewarding shopping experience to customers, and increasing merchants' visibility and growth on a global level", comments **Pietro Candela, Head of Business Development at Alipay Europe.**

With a brand-new project from March 2021, BKN301 has offered an entire ecosystem of advanced digital solutions. With e-money services working both on the issuing and acquiring sides, the company covers approximately 90% of the electronic payments market in San Marino.

BKN301 Group

BKN301 Tech, through a "Banking-as-a-Service" platform and digital e-money model, enables third parties to offer payment services, and token issuance. The company aims to become the leading open-market and cross-border operator in the Open Banking sector, offering technology solutions and bringing its solutions to international markets with a strong focus on high-growth markets (Africa, the Middle East and Eastern Europe). Services that BKN301 group offers are easily integrated and enable banking and financial institutions to accelerate their digital transformation. Founded by Stiven Muccioli, Federico Zambelli Hosmer and Luca Bertozzi, and operational since March 2021, BKN301 has raised a total of €20 million from Abalone Group, PayU, Azimut Digitech Fund, CRIF, GNB Swiss Investments AG, Banca Agricola Commerciale, Banca di San Marino, Cassa di Risparmio della Repubblica di San Marino, Federico Ghizzoni, Fabio Nalucci and Gregorio Napoleone.