



## ***COMPANY ANNOUNCEMENT***

The following is a company announcement issued by HSBC Bank Malta p.l.c. pursuant to Malta Financial Services Authority Listing Rules 8.62 and 8.64.

### ***Quote***

HSBC Bank Malta p.l.c. (“the Bank”) announces the proposed entering into the hereunder mentioned transactions with Related Parties in terms of the MFSA Listing Rules by signing the following agreements viz.:

1. Scion Agreement with HSBC Holdings plc (ultimate parent company of the HSBC Group) regarding the establishment of a Group-wide case management system and intelligence database for the recording of security and financial crime related incidents. This agreement will benefit the HSBC Group in Malta as it will provide it with access to Group-wide database as a means to combat financial fraud. The following Bank subsidiaries are also parties to the agreement: HSBC Fund Management (Malta) Limited; HSBC Investment Services (Malta) Limited; HSBC Life Assurance (Malta) Limited; HSBC Stockbrokers (Malta) Limited; HSBC Home Loans (Malta) Limited.
2. IT Services Agreement with HSBC Bank plc (a Substantial Shareholder) for the provision of technology and other support services that may be required by the Bank for its IT systems. This agreement formalises the provision of IT services which HSBC Bank plc has been granting to the Bank without a formal agreement. The following Bank subsidiaries are also parties to the agreement: HSBC Fund Management (Malta) Limited and HSBC Life Assurance (Malta) Limited.
3. Group Systems Development Agreement with HSBC Holdings plc for the sharing of IT development costs for Group core systems among Group members, resulting *inter alia*, in a UK tax mitigation impact. The Bank was not an original signatory to the agreement as other HSBC Group companies, but will become a signatory through an instrument of adherence.

### **HSBC Bank Malta p.l.c.**

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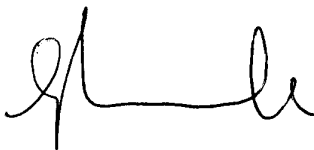
*Registered in Malta number C3177. Registered Office: 233 Republic Street, Valletta VLT 05  
Regulated by the Malta Financial Services Authority and listed on the Malta Stock Exchange.  
Licensed to conduct Investment Services business by the Malta Financial Services Authority.*

4. Group Services Agreement dated 28 April 2005 between HSBC Bank plc and a number of other HSBC Group companies. The Bank was not an original signatory to the agreement but will become a signatory through an instrument of adherence. The services offered by HSBC Bank plc relate to corporate, investment banking & markets, commercial banking, group personal financial services, tax and financial planning, corporate affairs, audit, legal compliance and company secretarial.
  
5. Group Services Agreement dated 28 April 2005 between HSBC Holdings plc and a number of other HSBC Group companies. The Bank was not an original signatory to the agreement but will become a signatory through an instrument of adherence. This agreement will substitute another Group Services Agreement with HSBC Holdings plc to which the Bank had adhered on 15 May 2003. The services offered by HSBC Holdings plc relate *inter alia* to global e-business, credit and risk, financial planning and Group marketing.

The signing by the Bank of all the above-mentioned agreements has been approved by the Bank's Audit Committee after taking into consideration that these agreements respect the "arm's length" principle and are of substantial benefit for the Bank including, but not limited to, cost efficiencies.

*Unquote*

**Dr. George Brancaleone LL.D.**  
**Company Secretary**



**6 February 2006**