Strate
THE TRANSFORMATION JOURNEY

PLUS
QUARTZ™
The Smart Ledgers
THE FUTURE WILL BE TOKENIZED
The agility, resilience and adaptability of our operating model has been put to the test by Covid-19, and we believe that we have emerged stronger, with our capabilities more proven than ever before. We would like to thank our customers and partners for the support and co-operation extended to our teams during this disruptive period.

TCS BaNCS supports mission-critical applications throughout the financial services industry, and we have responded to Covid-19 with urgent speed.

Our priority has been to safeguard the health and well-being of our employees while continuing to support our customers’ mission-critical activities globally without interruption.

On a practical level, our initial task was to ensure that TCS BaNCS teams could continue fully supporting clients with their immediate needs and ongoing projects. TCS BaNCS teams have already delivered immediate support throughout the banking and financial services industry.

We implemented API-based support for banks in the United States participating in the Small Business Administration (SBA) Paycheck Protection Program and loan moratoriums, enabling them to support their communities with quick and efficient service. We also did similar quick work for enabling disbursements to the needy in many countries, including India, with our pioneering “Financial Inclusion” solutions.

Our 24x7 support team worked with several Market Infrastructures globally to maintain service quality and uptime through a prolonged period of market upheaval, with volumes at 50 to 300 percent higher than previous peaks. By ensuring smooth operations for such critical infrastructure, we have been able to help our customers perform credibly with their stakeholders.

The higher trading volumes and volatility have also been a challenge for brokerages, and TCS has helped brokerage clients across the world to mitigate risks from extreme market volatility by quickly delivering changes and reconfiguring risk parameters.

Also, the secure and user-friendly digital capabilities of TCS BaNCS have enabled retail brokers to work from home for the first time ever, without sacrificing security or capabilities.

Across the globe and spanning many of our banking, capital markets and insurance solutions, we have delivered multiple regulatory changes which financial regulators and governments have mandated as a consequence of the current global pandemic to ease the financial burden on stakeholders, reduce risks for consumers, and enable businesses to tide over the situation. These have all been developed and supported through to production by a workforce operating from the safety of their homes.
Our Agile development methodologies have helped us enhance productivity amidst changing business priorities and scenarios. We have encouraged our teams to solicit customer feedback, understand needs and respond accordingly in these times. Needless to say, these times have also fostered opportunities for creativity. We have been creating digital learning programs to help our teams prepare for the future even before the pandemic and have reinforced the upskilling approach more now.

Our mission – Turning our Technology to your Advantage™ – remains as relevant in 2020 while coping with a global pandemic as in 2007 when we launched TCS BaNCS at the cusp of a global financial crisis.

Our Digital First, Cloud First™ approach is designed to enable financial institutions to embrace digitization as a winning strategy. Today, adopting Digital and Cloud are no longer seen as strategic choices, but rather as business imperatives. To continue delivering the full range of services, Digital has become a necessity, just as being on the Cloud is needed to maintain and scale essential operations, as has been proven globally in the last few weeks.

Moreover, financial institutions will need to deliver services and information not only to their traditional set of customers and business partners, but also to entities across entire supply chains. We believe our work in implementing Quartz Smart Ledgers for financial institutions, corporates, MSMEs and governments will prove to be an essential element for the rapid rebuilding of national economies and resumption of global trade. Financial support has become a literal lifeline for families and companies of all sizes, and the fastest path to economic recovery will require broad-based participation from diverse stakeholders over trusted, shared networks that are easy to build and maintain.

Over the past weeks, we have all been adjusting to new realities in terms of daily life in our communities and economies. Relationships with our customers, partners and employees have always been the lifeblood of our business and we continue to take steps to help our people stay in touch with our unique vision and purpose, and their unique role in it.

In the midst of the crisis, we have taken comfort in many heartening moments as well. In April, Celent announced that Länsförsäkringar Bank was chosen as its Model Bank for their Core Transformation to TCS BaNCS Global Banking Platform. Also, we kickstarted a major initiative last month in Israel to set up a fully Digital Bank under the direct supervision of the Israeli government and supported by the country’s Central Bank. These have been strong indicators validating our overall strategic direction.

We stand ready to assist our clients through any difficult transitions, with the hope and belief that what we can achieve together will create a better future for everyone.

We have connected with many of you over video calls in the last few weeks and will continue to stay in touch with you to ensure our teams are aligned. We appreciate your trust in TCS BaNCS and look forward to continuing our important work with you.
In this issue, we feature stories from South Africa, Bahrain, the United States, Indonesia, the Nordics, Saudi Arabia, and Israel.

Also, we're sharing stories from our own homes.

Responding to the Covid-19 crisis, TCS enabled all employees to work on behalf of TCS clients remotely. In fact, two of our customers in the insurance industry in Australia and Bahrain proceeded with critical go-lives in April during the midst of the crisis. (See our late-breaking coverage starting on page 34.)

Over the past few years, we have transitioned TCS BaNCS to a Digital First, Cloud First approach, fostering greater agility, scalability, and automation for our clients. Before 2020, financial services firms were aiming to achieve a balance between the digital and physical, which was often weighted towards the physical. Now, these same organizations are actively working to minimize in-person contact or sharing screens by deploying digital apps, payments, and video banking. Our capabilities within TCS BaNCS are well-positioned to support our clients as they implement these much-needed measures.

That’s one example of how our mission — Turning our Technology to your Advantage— continues to guide us.

The need of the hour today is for organizations to earn a lifetime of customer trust. TCS BaNCS customers span the financial services industry and the world, and everywhere we operate, we hear similar stories of financial institutions helping customers manage the uncertainty of a sudden economic contraction. A rapid response requires clarity and transparency in communications, superior customer experiences that can be built quickly to fulfill immediate customer needs, and support for brand-new digital tools that can be adapted and understood easily by end customers.

We have been supporting TCS BaNCS customers with the right tools to offer their clients a lifeline when they need it most.

Today, resilience is at the forefront of every strategy. Yet when we get through the present crisis, it will be agility that ensures competitiveness. And through it all, what drives transformation is a sense of purpose.

We hope that this issue inspires you to discover new ways to fulfill your own purpose.

Happy Reading,

Anjana Srikanth
Head, Marketing, Communications & Research,
TCS Financial Solutions

NOTE:
Starting with this issue, TCS BaNCS Customer Newsletter will be Digital First, Cloud First. Although we'll still offer the standard PDF and magazine-style eBook (plus printed copies when the conference halls are open again), for our online readers, we've significantly optimized the reading experience on tablets and mobile devices. Plus, for our email subscribers, we’ll be providing enhanced content with audio and video.

To request a subscription, email your name and affiliation to tcs.bancs@tcs.com, or phone: +91 80 6725 6963
About TCS Financial Solutions

TCS Financial Solutions is a strategic business unit of Tata Consultancy Services. Dedicated to providing business solutions to financial institutions globally, TCS Financial Solutions has compiled a comprehensive product portfolio under the brand name of TCS BaNCS. The TCS BaNCS universal financial solution is designed to help financial services institutions enhance end customer experience, enabling them to embrace open and innovative technologies that embody true digital customer engagement. Deployed at more than 450 installations worldwide, it is the largest collection of components, enterprise and consumer apps for the financial industry made available through the cloud, helping firms become more agile and intelligent by leveraging the power of new and extended ecosystems.

To know more about TCS BaNCS, please visit: www.tcs.com/bancs.

Find us on social media @TCS_BaNCS https://www.linkedin.com/showcase/tcs-bancs/

About Tata Consultancy Services LTD (TCS)

Tata Consultancy Services is an IT services, consulting and business solutions organization that has been partnering with many of the world's largest businesses in their transformation journeys for over 50 years. TCS offers a consulting-led, cognitive powered, integrated portfolio of business, technology and engineering services and solutions. This is delivered through its unique Location Independent Agile™ delivery model, recognized as a benchmark of excellence in software development.

A part of the Tata group, India’s largest multinational business group, TCS has over 448,000 of the world’s best-trained consultants in 46 countries. The company generated consolidated revenues of US $22 billion in the fiscal year ended March 31, 2020, and is listed on the BSE (formerly Bombay Stock Exchange) and the NSE (National Stock Exchange) in India. TCS’ proactive stance on climate change and award-winning work with communities across the world have earned it a place in leading sustainability indices such as the Dow Jones Sustainability Index (DJSI), MSCI Global Sustainability Index and the FTSE4Good Emerging Index.

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South African CSD goes live with TCS BaNCS for Market Infrastructure across all asset classes

Single solution powers Strate’s operations across markets and asset classes; marks significant transformation in the South African market
Strate is South Africa’s principal Central Securities Depository (CSD), managing record keeping and custody for equities, bonds, money market and derivatives in South Africa.

In this capacity, Strate supports multiple customers, including stock exchanges (JSE, A2X, ZARX, 4AX and EESE), issuers, CSD participants, lending desks, the South African Reserve Bank, and the National Treasury of the South African government.

Strate also facilitates collateral management, securities lending and borrowing, and corporate actions processing for customers in the South African capital markets.

For many years, Strate operated separate systems for each asset class (money market, bonds, and equities). Although these systems were regularly updated with new capabilities, multiple technology limitations were holding back implementation of global best practices and creating a fragmented interface to customers across asset classes. As a result, Strate made a strategic decision to replace its legacy systems with TCS BaNCS for Market Infrastructure.
The transformation journey

The consolidation onto TCS BaNCS was completed in three progressive phases, starting with money market, continuing with bonds and concluding with equities.

Equities posed the largest challenge due to high domestic trading volumes.

“Our equity market is a high-volume market relative to bonds and money markets,” says Gregory Naicker, Head of CSD Services for Strate. “A critical success factor was that we needed the application to perform at an extremely high optimal level.”

The key to ensuring a successful and timely launch was Strate adopting a strong change management process. Strate gave external and internal customers a six-month window within which to finalize all requirements. New requests beyond that window would have to wait.

“There were many requests that came in after the official project cut-off for that phase, but if it wasn’t a regulatory priority, we worked with our customers to include the request in a future release,” says Beverley Furman, Head of Operations and Change for Strate.

“A major element of the project’s success was that we resolutely didn’t change the scope.”

Nevertheless, there were changes that had to be accommodated. Following the project’s commencement, the South African market went through a period of significant growth and diversification, bringing new and additional stakeholders into the picture.

“When we started collecting requirements, we only had one stock exchange,” says Furman. “However, during the various phases of the project, four additional exchanges were licensed in South Africa requiring Strate to support three new business models.”

TCS BaNCS for Market Infrastructure enabled Strate to support each exchange independently, while still being able to share common business processes. This is a huge benefit for custodians, whose customers may trade cross-listed holdings in multiple trading venues.

“We were able to come up with functionality to support the same listed company being traded on two different venues while still being managed in one place within Strate,” says Furman.

Once the requirements were set, Strate established a high bar for acceptance criteria and made the firm decision not to compromise on criteria even if the project took longer.

“That discipline put us in good stead, because it meant that when we opened it up to the market, the solution was of extremely high quality, and the experience was very satisfactory to our clients,” adds Furman.

“The consolidation of multiple platforms into a single standards-based solution has been Strate’s business vision. With TCS BaNCS for Market Infrastructure, we have been able to achieve our objectives. Our long partnership with TCS, complemented by TCS BaNCS’ successful track record for transformation program delivery, has been instrumental in the successful deployment and operationalization of the platform, including supporting five exchanges in South Africa. The new solution has created common reference data and uniform messaging standards across all asset classes and business processes for all the markets we service, as well as enabling us to roll out new services faster.”

André Nortjé, Chief Executive Officer, Strate
Multiple testing phases

Within each phase, TCS and Strate adhered to a rigorous, five-part testing cycle comprising of Verification Testing (during development/build), System Integration Testing, User Acceptance Testing, Market Acceptance Testing and Parallel Run/Testing.

The final phase, Parallel Testing, placed TCS BaNCS for Market Infrastructure onto a pre-production environment running concurrently with the legacy production environment, enabling close observation of system behavior using actual intra-day transactions.

Demonstrating an extremely high level of diligence and care, Strate maintained its Parallel Testing environment for eight months. “We were able to get statistics and information that we would never have picked up otherwise,” says Naicker. “By tracking the behavior of customers, custodians, members, and regulators, we ingested every single type of scenario from a live production environment into the parallel environment, in ways that wouldn’t be possible to simulate with testing scripts alone.”

By comparing messages generated from the live production system and the parallel system, Strate was able to identify and address issues related to interfaces with Strate’s clients. “The end result was that the post go-live experience was very stable, much to the satisfaction of our clients,” adds Naicker.

Parallel Testing also demonstrated the ability of TCS BaNCS for Market Infrastructure to handle the high volumes required to support equities. “We saw early on that performance wasn’t going to be a problem whatsoever, which meant that we could focus on functionality and interfaces,” says Rudi Steenkamp, Head of Integration and Data Services for Strate. “Now, we are able to get settlements done faster than before, thereby improving our service to customers.”

Strate took a highly flexible approach to deployment methodologies, matching development practices to the needs of the project during each particular stage.

Deployment methodologies were backed by constant communications. Governance processes were implemented at various tiers of engagement from technology, business functionality, data migration and project management through to executive levels. This ensured progress was tracked daily, weekly and monthly. Operations staff were brought into the testing lifecycle early resulting in early system adoption by its users.

“We are proud to have partnered with Strate, our long-standing customer, in this transformational journey. The TCS BaNCS solution has delivered a lean, simplified, state-of-the-art technology stack that reduces operational risks, improves business agility and enhances customer experience. Strate has set a benchmark for market infrastructure players globally in the adoption of modern technologies to drive innovation and to future-proof operations.”

R Vivekanand,
Head, TCS Financial Solutions
Transformation benefits

Following a successful go-live, Strate’s clearing and settlement systems run entirely on TCS BaNCS for Market Infrastructure as a single multi-asset class solution, providing a full suite of CSD functions, comprehensive straight-through processing and support for ISO 15022 and ISO 20022 standards.

In addition, Strate’s achievement is in providing a single digital access point to clients that drives uniformity and efficiencies in business processing and across IT operations. It also offers common reference data, uniform messaging standards, and integrated business processes across all asset classes for a wide range of CSD, settlement and corporate actions functions. (See sidebar: “Key benefits.”)

Strate also now has the ability to support different settlement models, in line with BIS standards, on one platform. It paves the way for the harmonization of business processes across asset classes, improving overall market liquidity and being able to deliver faster time-to-market for new services.

With these capabilities, Strate’s implementation of TCS BaNCS for Market Infrastructure has become one of the most modern, efficient, and automated CSD platforms in the world. And it has opened conversations with customers that wouldn’t have been possible before.

“Strate is focused on what will grow South Africa as a market and investment destination, and TCS will be an important part of that journey,” says Naicker. “TCS is part of our team, and part of everything that we do as a company.”

TCS BaNCS has an extensive presence in South Africa and other major markets in Africa. Strate, running on TCS BaNCS, powers settlement for more than 90% of custody transactions in South Africa. In addition, leading banks in South Africa run on TCS BaNCS, and three of the top four markets in Africa run on TCS BaNCS for Market Infrastructure.

Key benefits

1. Single platform for clearing and settlement across asset classes
   Improves efficiency and enables new functionality for customers with different settlement models.

2. Enhanced settlement functionality
   Faster settlement times with enhanced settlement functionality, including real-time settlement.

3. Economies of scale
   TCS BaNCS accommodates high volumes of trades, and will scale easily to meet the expected growth of the South African market, leading to reduced operating and support costs.

4. Harmonization of systems and standards
   TCS BaNCS is designed with the flexibility to accommodate new business requirements, regulations and standards, including progressive adoption of ISO 20022.

5. Straight-Through Processing (STP)
   TCS BaNCS replaced outdated communication protocols with ISO standards, which better aligns Strate’s stakeholders with international standards for communication and processing. In addition, TCS BaNCS has automated manual processes leading to greater efficiency and higher STP.

6. Business process improvements
   The single platform enables improvements in risk management and settlement times, with capabilities such as tri-party collateral management across asset classes. Furthermore, even as common business processes have streamlined operations, specific functions for each asset class can still be managed and improved independently for maximum flexibility.

7. Risk reduction
   The consolidated settlement infrastructure provides a standardized interface with customers, consistent reference data, common processes, and higher visibility during settlement, all of which contribute to lower risk. In addition, Strate’s technology and operations staff can ensure adherence to international standards and best practices.

8. Application flexibility
   Parameterized business processes enable quick time to market for new products, and the flexible architecture supports rapid solution development to meet new market requirements or to add additional asset classes, should the need arise.

9. Single user interface
   Single interface for Strate’s business operations users to access information for all asset classes together.
FAST FACTS

Strate is South Africa’s principal central depository and a central collateral platform. Its purpose is to serve the financial markets and help build local and international investor trust in the South African financial system.

As the central depository to which multiple exchanges, issuers and other market participants connect, Strate safeguards the ownership rights of investors in securities and other assets using digitally-enabled processes. Strate provides electronic settlement for securities, including equities, bonds, money markets and derivatives.

Through its central collateral platform, it connects collateral givers and collateral receivers in an efficient and robust way that leads to the traceable re-use of capital and other assets as collateral for further economic activity.

Strate has served the South African financial market for over 20 years. It provides services to issuers for their investors in terms of the Companies Act (2008) and the Financial Markets Act (FMA) (2012). It is governed by the Financial Markets Act, 2012 and overseen by the Financial Sector Conduct Authority (FSCA) and South Africa’s Prudential Authority.

Website: strate.co.za
The United States has approximately 2,000 community banks. These range in size from those with less than $100 million in assets and a few branches to much larger entities with $10+ billion in assets.

Despite the diversity of the sector, a majority of these community banks rely on three legacy vendors of core banking solutions. These providers have grown by acquisition to strengthen their grip on the marketplace over the past two decades.

Community banks typically sign multiyear contracts for core banking. Yet when it's time to renew, it's often difficult for a small community bank to contemplate the financial and logistical challenges of a core banking renewal project, especially within a short time window. Given the challenges involved, community banks have been slow to switch core banking providers.

Furthermore, Peoples State Bank, the big-three U.S.-based vendors have generally merged towards similar offerings in terms of features, functionality, and pricing. Consequently, switching providers would involve new costs without significant new benefits. When one community bank acquires another, they are commonly left with different core processing systems that require an expensive, quick merger to a single platform.

That’s how some community banks, such as Peoples State Bank in Kansas, have ended up searching for a more complete solution to seamlessly convert multiple core banking systems to a single core platform that more appropriately addresses the needs of community banking.

Fortunately, there’s a new way for community banks to grow and transform, using a modern core banking solution that delivers technological advantages and lower costs on the futureproof technology

**AT A GLANCE**

**Company:** Peoples State Bank

**Headquarters:** Manhattan, Kansas

**Business Challenge:** To consolidate three different core platforms onto a unified core platform to support digital transformation.

**Solution:** TCS BaNCS Cloud for Banking
Peoples State Bank

Peoples State Bank (PSB) is a Kansas-based community bank with roots in agricultural lending going back to 1897. Over the years, PSB and its merged entities ended up with three different core platforms, plus various front office and teller systems including general ledger and reporting.

To meet the evolving needs of its customer base, PSB sought to expand its retail, commercial, and SMB banking services with a full suite of digital services. Yet the bank’s three legacy core vendors were unable to provide adequate solutions at the right price point. That sparked the search for a better approach to achieve growth and transformation.

PSB selected TCS to unify its core platform and ancillary solutions with TCS BaNCS Cloud for Banking™, a market-ready, API-driven digital banking solution. In full compliance with U.S. and state banking regulations, TCS BaNCS Cloud offers rapid SaaS delivery of the largest collection of components, enterprise and consumer apps for the financial industry.

In a rapid deployment, TCS transferred business processes and data from PSB’s three prior core banking deployments onto TCS BaNCS Cloud. TCS also integrated various third-party solutions with TCS BaNCS, enabling PSB to simplify its technology onto a one-stop, one-vendor, one-contract solution.

“TCS has committed to a long-term partnership with our bank,” says Jon Pope, CEO, Peoples State Bank. “With TCS BaNCS as the digital core, we have integrated all our processes, from product development to customer services.”

TCS BaNCS Cloud has enabled PSB to modernize its front end with a mobile banking app that offers services such as account opening, statements, money transfers, and bill payments.

“We are able to provide an omni-channel experience across all customer touch points while also ensuring regulatory compliance,” says Pope. “The solution allows for rapid scalability and is helping us on our path towards innovation as well as in expanding our footprint to larger communities.”

The new platform has enabled PSB to deliver a superior customer experience, gain real-time money movement capabilities, quickly create and launch new products, connect with the larger banking and fintech ecosystem, power its geographic expansion and cater to the needs of the new millennial demographic.

“We are very happy to have partnered with TCS in this journey,” says Pope.

About TCS BaNCS Cloud for Banking

TCS BaNCS Cloud for Banking helps banks cater to customer needs throughout their life journeys, based on anticipated requirements and over the device of their choice. It is a collection of loosely coupled components, services and APIs that align to standards from BIAN and IFX, supporting a wide range of technology environments seamlessly, laying the framework for both digital and analytics preparedness. It supports a variety of products and services covering assets and liabilities and can fit the business and operating model of a bank with an assured 24x7x365 availability.

“Community banks like PSB want to give their customers superior digital banking experiences and launch innovative solutions and products to meet their customers’ needs,” said Venkateshwaran Srinivasan, Head, TCS Financial Solutions. “TCS BaNCS offers small to medium-sized banks in the US a quick and easy path to digital transformation that helps them realize this vision.”

FAST FACTS

Chartered in 1897, Peoples State Bank is a widely recognized agriculture lender in Kansas and has the sought-after status as a United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) Preferred Lender in the FSA’s Preferred Lender Program (PLP). In addition to its agricultural lending, Peoples State Bank offers a broad range of products and services including commercial and consumer lending as well as variety of retail deposit offerings.
Continental Bank, a privately owned commercial bank headquartered in Salt Lake City, Utah, has selected TCS BaNCS Cloud for Banking to digitally transform its business.

Continental Bank specializes in commercial equipment financing for small and medium businesses, real estate financing, and a growing suite of deposit products. The bank wanted to expand its product and customer base beyond its equipment finance roots and was looking for a SaaS-based core processing solution that could accommodate a variety of commercial and small business banking product functionalities.

It selected TCS BaNCS Cloud for Banking to unify its offerings, integrate lease applications, and offer its small and medium business customers a superior banking experience. The solution will help the bank quickly create and launch new products and connect with preferred partners in the larger banking and fintech ecosystem. By implementing TCS BaNCS, Continental Bank will be able to grow its customer base and offer newer differentiated services.

Nathan Morgan, CEO, Continental Bank, said: “We have selected TCS BaNCS Cloud for Banking for its comprehensive capabilities to support our commercial customer base and to provide convenient online account opening and self-service facilities to our small and medium business clients. With the new platform, we will be expanding our portfolio with newer lending products as well as commercial deposit products and cash management tools, to increase our traction with existing customers while catering to the needs of newer market segments.”

“In the digital age, expectations around customer experience have gone up but banks are often constrained by their legacy systems. TCS BaNCS Cloud for Banking is a ready full-service SaaS solution for US banks seeking to collaborate with a range of partners and fintechs to launch innovative products and deliver superior customer experiences,” said R Vivekanand, Co-Head, TCS Financial Solutions. “We are happy to bring Continental Bank on board our platform, and offer them the same comprehensive capability and technological sophistication that the world’s largest banks possess. With this new digital core, Continental Bank will be able to deepen their customer relationships, expand their addressable market, and position themselves well for future growth.”

TCS BaNCS Cloud for Banking helps banks cater to customer needs throughout their life journeys, based on anticipated requirements and over the device of their choice. It is fully compliant with all US Federal and State regulations governing consumer and commercial banking products. TCS BaNCS’ partner ecosystem has been carefully chosen to provide both leading capabilities and regulatory compliance.

TCS BaNCS Cloud is a plug-and-play, pay-as-you-go, one-stop SaaS offering that has been adopted by banks of varying sizes across the globe for its future-ready digital architecture, functionality, business agility and operational efficiency. Its proven application architecture ensures anytime, anywhere digital access, scalability, resilience, high performance, and compliance. Banks and financial institutions can leverage the solution’s features on multiple cloud platforms. TCS BaNCS Cloud handles over 100 million transactions per month for more than 200 customers, including retail banks, corporate treasury operations, private banks, and credit unions in the UK, the US, Switzerland and India.
Israel’s first fully digital bank will be the first customer of Israel’s new banking service bureau, created and powered by TCS BaNCS for Israel’s Ministry of Finance.

TCS was selected by Israel’s Ministry of Finance to transform its banking sector by building a banking service bureau that would serve as a shared, plug-and-play, digital banking operations platform, powered by TCS BaNCS, to help start-up banks launch their operations very quickly. This initiative is seen as a bid to boost competition in the financial services sector, spark greater innovation and enhance customer experience by democratizing access to banking in Israel by making financial services accessible to the consumer. The banking service bureau will serve as an online financial superstore for everything from banking and credit cards to insurance, through which an ecosystem of providers of services and products can reach out to the new generation of digital natives.

The yet-to-be-named digital bank is set to launch in 2021. The new bank was the first to receive a banking license in the country in over 40 years. It will have no physical branches and will provide Israeli citizens with all the services offered by regular brick and mortar banks, including credit, deposits, loans, account management, securities trading and processing. The new bank will have access to all of Bank of Israel’s liquidity tools and various payment systems.

Shouky Oren, Chairman of the new bank, said, “We have achieved a key milestone in the Israeli financial services industry by being onboarded on to TCS’ Banking Services Bureau. This approach will reduce the cost of banking for the average citizen and foster the development of innovative and differentiated services. TCS is uniquely positioned to deliver these services due to its market ready and industry leading TCS BaNCS Global Banking Platform as well as its ecosystem integration.”

Eyal Moskal, Country Head, TCS Israel, said, “The government of Israel is on a path to transform banking in the country with the services bureau transformation initiative. TCS is proud to be the preferred partner and play a vital part in the democratization of the financial services industry in the country. Our platform will embrace an ecosystem led approach to innovation and deliver enhanced outcomes for the Israeli banking landscape. Other sectors too, could leverage this business model to provide financial services to customers.”

“TCS and the TCS BaNCS Global Banking Platform will help new and existing banks in Israel quickly adopt a modern digital core banking solution and benefit from our continuous investments and product roadmap,” said Venkateshwaran Srinivasan, Head, TCS Financial Solutions. “We are committed to the success of this transformational initiative.”
Banking

Banque Saudi Fransi

TCS BaNCS to enhance customer experience for one of the largest banks in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Banque Saudi Fransi (BSF) has selected TCS BaNCS to provide seamless and contextual customer experiences with a digital core. The new platform will be deployed across BSF’s corporate and retail banking groups, Islamic Banking and payments, and will ensure full compliance to SAMA guidelines.

BSF selected the TCS BaNCS Global Banking Platform as its integrated digital core for its rich functionality and high-performance architecture. The platform’s flexibility enables speedy launch of new products and services while its high level of automation significantly enhances customer service levels.
Thamer Yousef, COO, Banque Saudi Fransi, said:

“Our mission is to become the most modern, innovative and experience-focused bank in the region. We believe that our partnership with TCS BaNCS will help us towards meeting the challenges of the future.”

“Progressive banks are seeking to differentiate themselves in a Business 4.0™ world by investing in technology to enable mass personalization and to leverage ecosystems. Our strong product vision and roadmap has made TCS BaNCS the preferred digital core to help them become future-ready,” said Venkateshwaran Srinivasan, Head, TCS Financial Solutions. “We are proud to be selected as the transformation partner by Banque Saudi Fransi and are committed to the success of their journey.”

Banque Saudi Fransi has been a cornerstone of the Saudi banking sector over its 43-year history. Banque Saudi Fransi is a leading corporate, private and retail bank providing a wide range of investment banking and asset management services and investment funds. Founded in 1977, the bank is headquartered in Riyadh and has a network of 87 branches across the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.
Sweden’s Länsförsäkringar Bank has won the 2020 Celent Model Bank Award for Core Technology Replatforming, for its successful core transformation powered by the TCS BaNCS Global Banking Platform.

Länsförsäkringar Bank sought to transform its legacy technology stack and adopt a modern banking and payments platform that would enable participation in new digital banking opportunities and faster product launches. It selected TCS as its growth and transformation partner and successfully deployed the TCS BaNCS Global Banking Platform in April 2019. This entailed a complex data migration, integration with other applications in the Bank’s IT landscape and extensive change management. (For more details, see TCS BaNCS #31.)

Venkateshwaran Srinivasan, Head, TCS Financial Solutions, said: “We congratulate Länsförsäkringar Bank on this recognition from Celent and celebrate the partnership, which contributed to this outcome. TCS BaNCS is now powering the full range of products for the Bank and has made them available to their end customers through new digital experiences. We are also glad to see the Bank leveraging TCS BaNCS to harness the power of ecosystems to deliver differentiated offerings to its customers, an idea that is at the heart of TCS’ Business 4.0™ vision.”

Craig Focardi, Senior Analyst, Celent commented: “The Model Bank Awards recognize financial institutions that are using technology to change the face of banking. These banks serve as an inspiration to others looking for strong examples of best practice implementations that have a truly meaningful impact on business results and the industry overall. The entry from Länsförsäkringar Bank clearly demonstrates this. It modernized its core banking system and payments platform to continue improving on its digital banking innovation, prepare for and take advantage of digital payments modernization in the EU and Nordic markets, and create rapid time to market competitive advantage for new product and service introductions.”

In September 2019, several members from the TCS BaNCS and Länsförsäkringar Bank teams participated in the 15-kilometer event at the TCS Lidingöloppet, the largest cross-country race event in the world. Sven Eggefalk, CEO of Länsförsäkringar Bank, fired the starting gun at one of the events and then joined in for the 15km race.
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In 2018, the Indonesian Financial Services Authority ruled that all financial institutions, including custodians and sub-custodians, would be required to host their IT infrastructure within the country.

To comply with the new regulations, Standard Chartered Bank Indonesia (SC Indonesia) not only deployed new IT infrastructure, but also made the strategic decision to switch onto the TCS BaNCS solution used by Standard Chartered globally.

The relationship between TCS and Standard Chartered goes back to 1994 with the deployment of TCS’ custody solution for the bank’s Singapore business. In 2008, Standard Chartered began to deploy TCS BaNCS for Corporate Actions, and in 2010, the bank upgraded its securities settlement systems to TCS BaNCS for Securities Processing. Since then, the multi-entity TCS BaNCS solution has been rolled out across 37 countries in Asia, Africa and the Middle East. (For more details, see TCS BaNCS Customer Newsletters #16 and #25.)

For SC Indonesia, the Financial Services Authority of Indonesia (Otoritas Jasa Keuangan or OJK) ruling accelerated the deployment timeline for aligning with Standard Chartered’s global TCS BaNCS platform and global operating model. With assistance from onshore and offshore TCS resources collaborating using the Agile methodology, SC Indonesia and TCS completed the deployment, including alignment to local regulations, in just nine months.

The TCS BaNCS solution went live in Q4 2019, making Standard Chartered the first global custodian in Indonesia to be compliant with OJK regulations. The solution also enabled SC Indonesia to automate custody operations, simplify broker business structures and standardize processes, delivering improved customer experiences with faster turnaround times.

Using Standard Chartered’s world-class custodial services, clients from Indonesia or from global investment centers can better access the Indonesian capital markets with near-real-time trade status information.

SC Indonesia was also the first custodian bank (and as of April 2020, the only custodian bank) to establish a direct interface to KSEI, Indonesia’s central securities depository.
This dedicated link enables the bank to provide straight-through processing with custodian services on the fastest servicing timeline available in the marketplace. SC Indonesia now provides near-real-time trade and settlement updates to clients across multiple channels, including SWIFT, email, online platforms, or via APIs.

These extensive capabilities have significantly improved the ability of domestic and foreign investors to participate in the significant opportunities within the Indonesian capital markets.

“Standard Chartered Bank, being one of the oldest foreign banks in Indonesia, is deeply committed to support the growth of the Indonesian Capital Market and to provide value add services to local and foreign investors alike” said Andrew Chia, CEO, SC Indonesia.
“Our investment in a new integrated custody and corporate actions platform shows the commitment that the bank places on its franchise in Indonesia and to the securities services business that the bank runs in Asia, Middle East and Africa.”

With alignment to the global custody platform of Standard Chartered, SC Indonesia will be able to take immediate advantage of future enhancements to TCS BaNCS, including APIs for automation of account management and other business areas, and rapid adaptation to further regulatory changes in the market.

“By deploying our standard global TCS BaNCS securities and corporate actions platform into Indonesia, we have rapidly escalated this key and growing market with greater scalability, security, and agility to keep responding to evolving client and market needs in an efficient manner” says Derren Selvarajah, Global Head, Securities Services Technology & Innovation, SC.

“The deployment of TCS BaNCS and its open banking APIs opens up the key market of Indonesia for clients to enjoy greater access to their data and greater flexibility with value-added services.”

The next deployment of TCS BaNCS for Standard Chartered Bank is planned for South Korea.

**AT A GLANCE**

**Company:** Standard Chartered Bank Indonesia  
**Headquarters:** Jakarta, Indonesia  
**Business Challenge:** Rapid compliance with new domestic regulations  
**Solution:** Rapid alignment with Standard Chartered’s global platform and operating model powered by TCS BaNCS
FAST FACTS

Standard Chartered Bank Indonesia (SCB Indonesia) is one of Standard Chartered Bank’s branch offices in the Asian region, owned entirely by Standard Chartered Holdings Limited, United Kingdom.

The Chartered Bank (now Standard Chartered Bank) entered commercial banking business through Borneo Company in Batavia (now Jakarta) in 1859. In May 1863, The Chartered Bank then ran the business independently. With this, the Chartered Bank became the first British foreign exchange bank to set up business in the West Indies (now Indonesia).

SC Indonesia is:
- No.1 in domestic funds business with significant increase in number of discretionary fund clients
- No. 1 in insurance segment by AUM
- No. 2 in domestic mutual funds by AUM, leapfrogged from No. 4 in 2017
- Top 2 custodian banks in Indonesia

Standard Chartered Bank Securities Services in Indonesia has won:
- The Asset (2019)
  Best Sub Custodian - Indonesia
  Best Liquidity and Investment - Indonesia
- Global Custodian Agent Banks in Emerging Markets Survey (2019) - Category Outperformer Indonesia
  Best Sub-custodian Bank - Indonesia
Cross-border payments as simple as texting.

By Srijan Sharma, Product Specialist, TCS Financial Solutions

Twenty-seven million people live in the five Nordic countries of Sweden, Denmark, Finland, Norway, and Iceland.

Yet despite their geographic proximity and cultural affinities, each country uses a separate currency: the Danish kroner, the Icelandic krona, the Swedish krona, the Norwegian krone, and in Finland, the euro.

This situation imposes challenges and costs for cross-border transactions in the Nordics, which has high levels of regional trade and travel.

That’s why banks in Denmark, Sweden and Finland started P27, a joint initiative by Danske Bank (Denmark), Handelsbanken (Sweden), Nordea (Denmark), OP Financial Group (Finland), SEB (Sweden) and Swedbank (Sweden).

P27 aims to build the world’s first real-time, cross-border payment system to support multiple currencies in multiple countries. Within the Nordic countries, P27 will enable integrated payments for domestic and cross-border payments. Also, P27 will support transactions throughout the eurozone in harmonization with Single Euro Payments Area (SEPA) standards.

P27 intends to establish a Nordics Payment Platform (NPP) to be made available to other financial institutions in the region. NPP will be modeled on similar multi-country platforms that handle SEPA, except that where SEPA platforms support only euro payments, NPP will support multiple currencies.

The initial launch will support payments within Denmark, Finland and Sweden, and the platform will be expandable to allow for payments in other Nordic countries.

The Nordics Payments Council (NPC) is working toward defining the rulebooks and implementation guidelines for P27, based on those created for SEPA by the European Payments Council (EPC). P27 messages will be built using ISO 20022 XML messages, enabling high levels of flexibility, extensibility and straight-through processing, with efficient reconciliation and AML compliance.

Go-live for the P27 initiative, subject to regulatory approvals, is scheduled for mid-2021. The first phase will involve building the underlying clearing platform for NPP to support base-level functionality for the go-live.

Concurrently, additional products and value-added services will be developed to progressively enhance the NPP platform over the next two to three years. P27 will introduce enhancements and new features throughout the development cycle, demanding banks to manage continuous delivery for production roll-out without impacting business as usual.
A few examples of some of the forthcoming value-added services include:

- Request to Pay
- Account Assurance Services
- Common Nordic Proxy Services
- Pan-Nordics Direct Debit

**TCS BaNCS for Payments**

To meet the visionary goals, significant technical challenges and ambitious timetable for deployment of the P27 platform, banks in the Nordics will find the perfect fit with TCS BaNCS for Payments, a state-of-the-art solution offering extensive capabilities for multi-product payments within a single platform and a modern API-based architecture enabling seamless integration with customer channels, internal systems and market infrastructures.

TCS BaNCS for Payments has been deployed in more than 25 countries for global and regional organizations and supports more than 40 clearing systems.

Built with native support for ISO 20022 standards, TCS BaNCS for Payments includes easy-to-configure configuration options that enables out-of-the-box support and high levels of flexibility for dashboards, pricing structures, reporting, accounting rules and payments routing.

As a proven multi-entity, multi-currency, multi-country solution with extensive experience in SEPA deployments for multiple banks across Europe, TCS BaNCS for Payments is the ideal fit for the P27 deployment.

TCS BaNCS for Payments will be used for end-to-end payments processing for P27, including:

- Receiving real-time payment instructions through web and mobile interfaces
- Handling batch payment instructions through API-based links with participating financial institutions and commercial customers
- Clearing and settlement
- Supporting banking needs for both private and corporate customers

TCS BaNCS for Payments is entirely aligned with the P27 roadmap and ready to meet the migration challenges for participating banks.

Furthermore, the microservices architecture of TCS BaNCS for Payments will enable participating banks to support P27 within the context of their existing application landscapes. Following the initial migration, banks may also enable a centralized hub for payment processing that will support credit transfers, direct debits, and real-time payments for multi-currency, multi-entity payments through a single application, powered by TCS BaNCS.

The modern architecture of TCS BaNCS will allow for rapid rollout of new offerings through continuous delivery, ensuring that participating banks in the Nordics will enjoy fast time-to-market and competitive advantage through the P27 initiative.

“The P27 initiative will trigger many innovative projects and result in phenomenal changes to the operations of financial institutions, corporates, and other key market players in the Nordics ecosystem,” said S Prahalad, Head–Europe, TCS Financial Solutions. “TCS is intensely engaged with these developments, and with our latest enhancements to TCS BaNCS for Payments, we are helping market participants throughout the region to rapidly integrate real-time, cross-border payments into their existing channels, operations, and business processes.”
FAST FACTS

P27 is a partnership between several leading banks in the Nordic region with the goal of creating the world’s first digital platform that will allow businesses and consumers to make real-time, cross-border payments to one another. The platform is intended to serve the 27 million people living in the Nordic region, which is where the name P27 comes from.

P27 is a joint project between six of the largest banks in the Nordics: Danske Bank, Handelsbanken, Nordea, OP Financial Group, SEB and Swedbank. The ownership of P27 is divided equally among these owner banks.

AT A GLANCE

Company: P27 Nordic Payments
Headquarters: Stockholm, Copenhagen, Helsinki
Business Challenge: To build the world’s first real-time, cross-border payment system in multiple currencies.
Solution: TCS BaNCS for Payments
“Disrupt or be disrupted” – that’s the new reality of today’s digital revolution, to which Solidarity Bahrain has responded with digital transformation.

In 2020, Solidarity Bahrain successfully replaced its legacy core insurance solutions with TCS BaNCS for Insurance.

Following an extensive vendor selection exercise, Solidarity Bahrain selected TCS as the most suitable option in terms of technical ability, value-added features, and commercial presence in the marketplace.

The deployment was completed in just eight months, owing to the close cooperation between TCS and Solidarity Bahrain resources. “In terms of professionalism and knowledge, the TCS team was one of the best Solidarity has ever dealt with,” said Jawad Mohammed, CEO, Solidarity Bahrain. “They always had a positive attitude, which added value to Solidarity’s digital transformation.”

The new TCS BaNCS deployment embraces all insurance activities, from policy underwriting and issuance to claims servicing and accounting. In addition, the solution includes delivery of an enhanced customer experience, along with streamlined access for insurance agents and brokers. The move to TCS BaNCS has centralized data and customer information that had previously been scattered across multiple applications, which has made it much easier for agents and brokers to respond quickly to customer inquiries.

Since the go-live, Solidarity Bahrain has increased the efficiency of its operations for policy issuance and servicing through the easy-to-use and accessible TCS BaNCS-powered portal. As a result, the insurer has been able to easily support growth in policy volumes. The new system also delivered the benefits of higher availability, robust stability and greater security, which are essential qualities for a trusted insurer.

Together, these capabilities provide a solid foundation for Solidarity Bahrain’s ongoing digital transformation journey.

With TCS BaNCS, Solidarity Bahrain has established a solid foundation for achieving its vision of digital transformation, while also supporting other pillars of the company’s strategy in terms of customer care, employee engagement and brand image.
Solidarity celebrated the Go-Live with a ceremony (1) and a joint celebration between the on-site (2, 4) and offshore (3) teams.

Participants included:
- **Jawad Mohammed**, Chief Executive Officer,
- **D. Nandakumar**, Deputy General Manager – Operations,
- **Abhijit Singh**, Assistant General Manager – Investment and Special Projects,
- **Mohammed Awachi**, Assistant General Manager – Corporate Support,
- **Ali Shaban**, Head – Motor,
- **Sanjeev Aggarwal**, Head – Finance,
- **Anand Koranath**, Senior Manager – Non motor,
- **Husain Sabt**, Manager – IT,
- **Jai Prakash**, Assistant General Manager – Business Development,
- **Ali Khalil**, Assistant Manager – Finance,
- **Mahmood Khalaf**, Assistant Manager – Non motor
For over 15 years, the insurance subsidiaries of Bahrain National Holding BSC have been running large business segments on insurance solutions powered by TCS BaNCS.

BNH commenced with a project to unify all its core insurance solutions onto TCS BaNCS, end-to-end across business lines, including underwriting, claims, reinsurance, document management, workflow management, accounting, and other areas.

The phased go-live began in January 2020 with medical insurance. The largest milestone was planned for April 2020 with the transition of motor insurance, which is BNH’s largest business in terms of policies and customers.

TCS management had been closely monitoring the Covid-19 situation, and in late February, all TCS associates were transitioned working at home through the rapid implementation of the Secure Borderless Workspaces initiative. Not long after, the BNH team made similar arrangements.

Following high-level collaboration between TCS and BNH management, the joint decision was made to continue with the planned April 2020 go-live.

The joint migration team, working from home, coordinated closely to resolve various complexities, from limited availability of testing resources to concerns over maintaining critical connections.

The end result was that the migration was completed one day ahead of schedule.

The deployment of TCS BaNCS across the organization has enabled BNH to improve workflow, implement process improvements, and modernize product offerings. BNH has implemented a benefit-driven structure for offering motor insurance.

Choices range from the “Standard” package, which includes collision, fire, theft, and windscreen insurance, to several more comprehensive options.

With its rapid deployment of TCS BaNCS as an end-to-end solution, BNH has significantly strengthened its position as a market leader and as a customer-focused innovator.
A major insurance company in the Asia-Pacific region had planned for an April 2020 go-live for its TCS BaNCS deployment. This was a long-awaited deployment, as the culmination of a multi-phase migration of multiple policy administration systems.

The outbreak of Covid-19 put the go-live timeline in jeopardy. In mid-March, with three more weeks of testing on the calendar, all client and TCS resources on the entire project team was instructed to work from home.

In response, the combined team fostered 24x7 collaboration, including daily catch-up meetings and hourly reporting of tracking metrics to key stakeholders. Also, the team took an extremely proactive stance on issue resolution with additional dress rehearsals and extra provisions for contingencies during the cut-over.

By taking decisive action, the go-live succeed with on-time completion, with zero defects or incidents raised.

Following the go-live, the client communicated the successful outcome to its customers, thereby earning their appreciation while increasing customer confidence.
For more than a decade, TCS Financial Solutions has been working with the investment banking and custody divisions of major financial institutions to deliver continuous improvement and technological innovation to meet the business challenge of managing corporate actions (CA) information.

On July 30, 2019, TCS was granted a patent for its innovative method of handling CA information for multi-entity financial institutions.

Investment banks and custodians both have an essential need for information about corporate actions (CA), which are material announcements pertaining to equity or debt that include dividends, stock splits, rights issues, and M&A announcements. Although investment banks and custodians respond to different corporate actions in different ways, both rely upon the same underlying data.

Yet global financial institutions have typically maintained their investment banks and custody divisions as separate operations, further divided by country or geographic region. Through this approach, separate divisions have had to procure, provision and support multiple systems for managing CA data, resulting in duplicate costs for software licenses, hardware, vendor management, upgrades and maintenance. The higher costs of maintaining two different CA systems also resulted in underinvestment in system enhancements, often leading to discrepancies between data feeds from these systems.

In response, TCS envisioned an improved method and optimized system for CA processing that would support investment banks and custodians through a single user interface.

TCS granted patent for unifying Corporate Actions processing across large global banks

By Devesh Gupta, Product Head, Corporate Actions, TCS Financial Solutions
The result, available in the marketplace as TCS BaNCS for Corporate Actions, delivers a single solution that:

- Acquires corporate actions announcements from diverse sources including data vendors, custodians, stock exchanges, issuer prospectus, and elsewhere.
- Captures, cleanses, matches and scrubs data received from all sources.
- Analyzes keywords and terminology in the CA data to automate the creation of metadata.
- Creates a Golden Record consisting of the most accurate information available on an event at any given point in time, incorporating subsequent changes throughout the timeline of the event.
- Determines whether any given CA announcement is relevant to an investment bank, a custodian, or both, using a set of customizable business rules tailored to the business profile of the financial institution.
- Maintains direct connectivity to downstream systems for investment banks and custodians to support end-to-end processing.

These capabilities are helping leading global financial institutions to deliver higher operational efficiency with improved accuracy, creating value for their clients with value-added services based on timely CA information.

The patent award, as a testament to our dedication to innovation, represents an important milestone for TCS BaNCS, and we are pleased to recognize the hard work and vision of the entire CA team. We also wish to express our appreciation to our valued clients for their insights and participation in our development roadmap.

This is a moment to celebrate for the entire TCS BaNCS community. Thank you for your trust and support.
In early March, TCS BaNCS attended ICBA LIVE 2020, the annual convention of the Independent Community Bankers of America, held this year in Orlando. The TCS BaNCS team successfully raised awareness among the U.S. community banking marketplace of the compelling value proposition of TCS BaNCS Cloud for Banking.

Webinar

Navigate Around Obstacles to Leverage the Value of SaaS in Financial Services

January 30, 2020 — Jost Hoppermann, Vice President and Principal Analyst, Forrester Research, provided a fresh look at key predictions and identified progress made in SaaS and Cloud solutions from his research conducted in the last few years, spanning financial institutions of all hues and types. He discussed the real and perceived obstacles for cloud adoption in the UK and Europe, and he shared his views on what banks need to do to get full value out of SaaS options that are widely available.

Listen to the replay: https://www.tcs.com/enabling-open-banking-innovation-scale-security-through-industry-cloud

Farewell Zoom

When a long-time TCS BaNCS employee decided to retire from service after many illustrious years, TCS’ HR team did a fantastic job in putting together a wonderful farewell party. In attendance were Venkat, Vivek, and other TCS company leaders, along with friends from client companies and other locations. This first-of-its-kind farewell brought together people from across locations and geographies for the emotionally moving and joyous occasion.
On social media, we're sharing stories about how our customers in banking, capital markets, and insurance have responded to the Covid-19 crisis with operational excellence, innovative thinking, and exceptional customer service. We may have a long journey ahead, but we'll be with you every step of the way. And as we go, let's celebrate our successes.
Digital First, Cloud First™

Solutions for natural ecosystem providers
Central Banks, Custodians, Clearing Houses
CSDs, Stock Exchanges
Fintechs