



## Media Release

### **Banknote Watch South Africa Launched**

*for immediate release*

Cape Town, South Africa, December 2, 2008

Banknote Watch South Africa (BNW SA), whose mission is to enhance cash security in South Africa through national awareness campaigns about the deterrent effect of banknote degradation technologies, was launched today.

The new organisation intends to make a significant contribution to crime prevention in the run-up to the FIFA 2010 World Cup in South Africa through greater protection of cash.

BNW SA is a multi-stakeholder initiative for stopping criminals from profiting from the proceeds of crime through halting the circulation of stained bank notes.

Its core slogan “a stained note is probably a stolen note” sums up the purpose of the new crime prevention body. It is to ensure that cash protected by ink-staining technology during a criminal attack is withdrawn from circulation and thereby rendered useless for the criminals.

BNW SA will educate the public, retailers, commercial banks, the gaming industry and law enforcement agencies about the simple fact that “a stained note is probably stolen” and to alert members of the public of the risk of accepting such a note.

“The approach of note staining is to remove the criminal reward for attacks on cash altogether,” explained Chairman and Secretary of BNW SA, Mike Lee, who is also CEO of the global ATM Industry Association (ATMIA) ([www.atmia.com](http://www.atmia.com)). “The South African Reserve Bank, commercial banks, cash-in-transit companies, retail organisations and the ATM industry form the backbone of the cash cycle. Banknote staining technology is aimed at offering a new level of protection for cash, including at our country’s ATMs.”

Globally and nationally, cash remains the preferred method for personal and smaller consumer payments. The staging of the FIFA World Cup in 2010 in South Africa raises the profile of the country to a high international status. In this context it is essential for a successful campaign to be launched to reinforce the security of cash in the country.

BNW SA will launch its first South African campaign promoting the key concept that “a stained note is probably a stolen note” just before Easter 2009 well before the FIFA Confederations Cup South Africa 14- 28 June 2009.

BNW SA will function in affiliation to Banknote Watch International and Banknote Watch UK (www. <http://www.banknotewatch.org>).

Current members of BNW SA include: the South African Reserve Bank, SABRIC, Consumer Goods Council of SA, Standard Bank, Nedbank, First National Bank, Deter-A-Dye, Cash Connect Management Solutions, Cash Dye SA, QD Group, ATMIA, Oberthur Technologies, BNW International, Villiger Security.

For more information, please contact Mike Lee at [mike@atmia.com](mailto:mike@atmia.com).

About ATMIA  
[www.atmia.com](http://www.atmia.com)

The ATM Industry Association is a global non-profit trade association with over 1,100 members in about 50 countries. Its mission is to promote ATM convenience, growth and usage worldwide, protect the ATM industry's assets, interests, good name and public trust; and provide education, best practices, political voice and networking opportunities for member organizations. In June 2003, ATMIA established the Global ATM Security Alliance (GASA) ([www.globalasa.com](http://www.globalasa.com)) with the mission to employ global security resources in a united alliance in order to protect the ATM industry from criminal activity.

About BanknoteWatch UK

Banknote Watch is a crime prevention initiative - promoting the fact that a stained note is probably a stolen note.

The aim of Banknote Watch is to prevent criminals profiting from the proceeds of crime and reduce the risk of businesses becoming the victims of commercial robbery.

Banknote Watch is a partnership between the manufacturers/installers & users of cash staining systems, the Government and Police. It has sought specialist advice from the Bank of England and is supported by the Home Office, Scottish Executive, Northern Ireland Office and leading financial/retail organisations. For more detail, contact [info@banknotewatch.org](mailto:info@banknotewatch.org)