

NEWSLETTER

December 2022

Welcome to our last edition of our programme newsletter for the year. Here are some of the exciting updates and achievements since our previous quarterly edition.

Domestic ISO 20022 migration and SAMOS Version 8 go live



Why was this migration important?

ISO 20022 provides a single end-to-end open standard for international and domestic high-value, low-value and instant payments, and creates a common language and model for payments data across the world.

The adoption of ISO 20022 is an important milestone in the modernisation of South Africa's payment system and takes the industry further towards meeting the goals set out in the National Payment System Framework and Strategy: Vision 2025 (Vision 2025).

Anticipation and tension followed by excitement and acknowledgement were the prevailing emotional responses over the weekend of 17 September 2022 when the SAMOS Version 8 go live and ISO 20022 migration were successfully implemented. Two and a half years of hard work paid off on this weekend as teams delivered on time, despite having to contend with many trials and challenges in the build-up to this momentous occasion.

From a domestic perspective, this represents a significant accomplishment for the South African financial industry as one of a few countries globally, and the first on the African continent, to migrate to the ISO 20022 messaging type in the payment and settlement ecosystem.

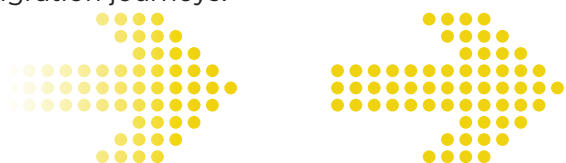
The ISO 20022 adoption included significant changes which will present further innovative opportunities as we align with the evolving financial payments ecosystem and pave the way for future projects.

We asked Rhona Badenhorst, the Senior Manager of Domestic Settlement Services in the National Payment System Department (NPSD) for a short overview of the journey and experience in the run-up to the SAMOS Version 8 go live. She said, "The journey to go live was no walk in the park. The relentless follow-ups with banks to finalise their testing and obtaining necessary sign-offs to ensure all participants were onboard presented much anxiety. With the go-live date drawing closer and closer, proposals to move the go-live date were constantly placed on the table. Despite these considerations and alternatives being more of a reality, we remained confident and unwavering to deploy on the promised date. This was soon reinforced by collaborative and synchronised efforts by all industry participants, banks and regulators."

"Looking back, we did not realise the extent and impact that the ISO 20022 messaging format would have on our business," she added. The team's resilience and determination all culminated at a pivotal moment at 12:15 on Sunday, 18 September 2022, when the switch-on was initiated and the system went live. It is a day of celebration we will not soon forget, as we became the benchmark for other countries," Rhona concluded.

Exactly one month after the go live,, the RTGS programme hosted a virtual panel discussion where approximately 350 delegates comprising domestic, international and SADC banks, non-banks, domestic and regional regulators and other financial ecosystem stakeholders registered to attend this informative conversation around the ISO 20022 migration journey.

The panel discussion highlighted some key lessons learnt and challenges from the implementation, for the benefit of those countries that are still on their ISO migration journeys.

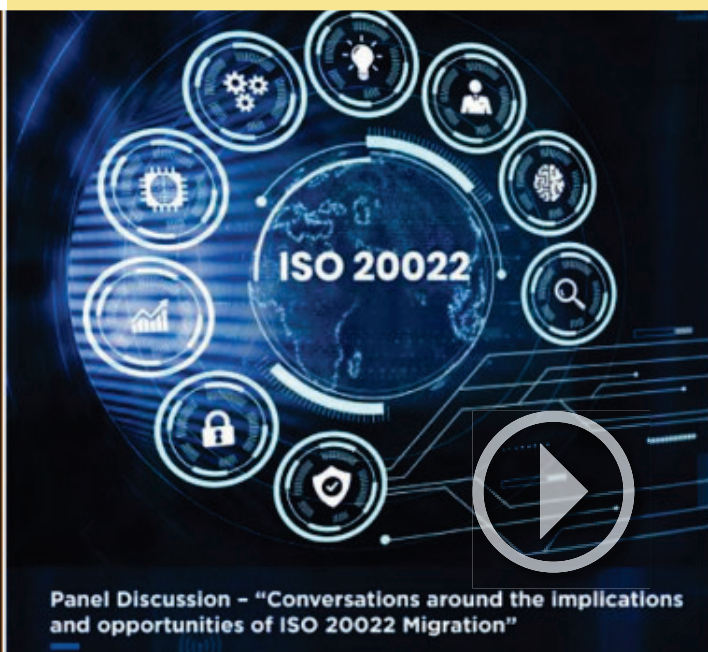


Some of the information shared, included:

- challenges brought about by COVID-19 restrictions during the very early stages of the project;
- ensuring that adequate and specialised resources are available for a deployment of this nature
- the importance of early engagement and collaboration with key stakeholders and partners;
- the opportunity the ISO messaging standards presents to modernise systems by leveraging the richer data; and
- business and technologists should be like twins on the journey, as advised by one of the subject matter experts on the panel.

Domestic & Regional Settlements
Services
National Payments System
Department
Presents
ISO 20022 Migration
Virtual Panel Discussion
on
20 October 2022

Be a part of the conversation...



Panel Discussion - "Conversations around the implications and opportunities of ISO 20022 Migration"

[Click to watch the panel discussion recording.](#)

Participants' comments: feedback from panel discussion:

"The GBL project would like to thank the SARB & PASA project teams for their dedication, commitment & steadfast guidance in this milestone implementation. We applaud our fellow participants for rallying and standing together as a community."

"What a journey to embark on! Great collaboration indeed!"

"Let's reach out to other participants and learn from each other"

"Resilience & flexibility in our approach is vital in this project."

SADC-RTGS ISO 2022 Migration Project

The implementation date for the SADC-RTGS remains unchanged at 23 October 2023. Considering the geographical spread and the complex nature of this deployment, various forums, structures and support platforms have been established for the purpose of effective collaboration, communication and issue resolution to ensure country readiness on 23 October 2023.

For more information on this project, visit **Interactive communication** - to log queries and issues https://sarb.service-now.com/csm_sadc_rtgs or send an email to **SADC-RTGSRenewalProjectsSupport@sadcbanking.org** would have on our business," she added. The team's resilience and determination all culminated at a pivotal moment at 12:15 on Sunday, 18 September

Target operating model and architectures

The past six months has seen progressive and purposeful stakeholder engagement sessions and workshops with industry participants, policy makers, regulators, bank and non-banks as well as our internal stakeholders around key business principles affecting the future state design. This groundwork will pave the way for the deployment of the last two work packages, namely **Work Package 4 (New Integration Layer)** and **Work Package 5 (New RTGS Initiatives)**.

The Governors' Executive Committee (GEC) has approved the 'Build approach' for the new RTGS system which will replace current core system,

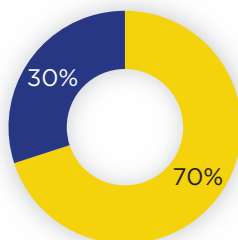
SAMOS, which was implemented in 1998. This 24-year legendary system still maintains unique and efficient capabilities which should not be lost and carried over into the core system. The decision to build the new system has a far-reaching impact on the operations within the financial domestic and regional ecosystems, "Because we decided to build the new core system, as opposed to acquiring a new one, it has created an opportunity for internal capability building and addresses our current challenge – a lack of specialised skills and internal support," said Mellanie de Jager, the newly appointed RTGS Programme Director.

Overall RTGS Programme high-level update

■ Incomplete ■ Complete

WORK PACKAGE 1

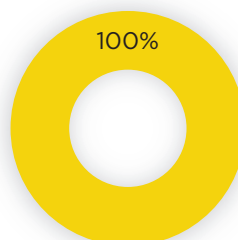
Mainframe & Storage back-up Equipment



Mainframe Core implemented successfully on 15 October 2022. Open system go live planned for Feb/Mar 2023.

WORK PACKAGE 2

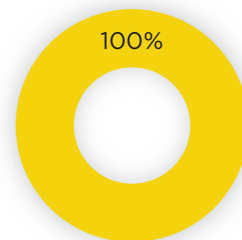
SAMOS V8 & ISO 2022 Migration



Implemented successfully between 17 and 19 September 2022.

WORK PACKAGE 3

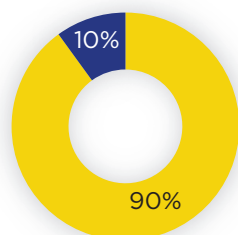
SADC-RTGS 4.2 Incl. Multi Currency (Phase 1)



Implemented successfully on 26 July 2021.

WORK PACKAGE 2

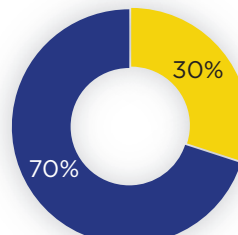
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Implemented successfully on 30 May 2022. Post-implementation stabilisation in progress; to be implemented in Feb/Mar 2023.

WORK PACKAGE 2

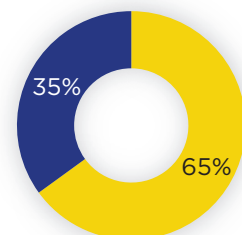
SADC-RTGS ISO 2022 Migration



Stream 2 in development phase until Nov 2022. Test approach and requirements extractions in progress. System Integration Testing (SIT) documentation in quality assurance.

WORK PACKAGE 3

Target Operating Model



Operating model and requirements streams in progress towards to-be operating model. Logical architecture workshops in progress. Business Architecture complete. Operating model as-is target: 30 Nov 2022.



Other programme matters and updates

Meet Mellanie de Jager, the newly appointed RTGS Renewal Programme Director

Since joining the South African Reserve Bank in 2012, Mellanie has been at the helm of key transformational projects within the Bank, which include the implementation of the National Cash Management Solution (NCMS), the Cash Management Strategy (CMS) and the design and introduction of a commemorative banknote series in 2018.

Between 2017 and 2022, Mellanie headed up the Currency Management Programme Management Office, and was responsible for managing the successful implementation of a range of key strategic initiatives in support of the Currency Management Department's (CMD) strategic objectives.

In July 2022, Mellanie transferred to the Business Solutions and Technology Department (BSTD), in the capacity of Programme Director, responsible for

guiding and directing the successful implementation of the Real-Time Gross Settlement (RTGS) Renewal Programme. Mellanie holds a BCom degree in Business Informatics, an Honours degree in Programme Management, and is completing her Master's in Programme Management.

"In my role of leading the design and implementation of a future-fit RTGS for the domestic and regional markets, I strongly believe that the success of the RTGS Renewal Programme will be in the collective stakeholder community single-mindedly driving towards achievement of the programme's objectives. I believe that the most effective teamwork happens when individuals harmonise their efforts and work towards a common goal, and have fun while getting the job done!"



SADC User Group Conference 2023: 'The rejuvenation of payments in SADC'

The SADC-RTGS User Group Conference will be held in person in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo. The conference will be held over three days from 14 March to 16 March 2023 and will cover an array of exciting topics relating to the future RTGS and SADC payment ecosystem.

SAMOS USER GROUP YEAR-END CLOSING, 1 NOVEMBER 2022





SAMOS VERSION 8 GO LIVE, 18 SEPTEMBER 2022



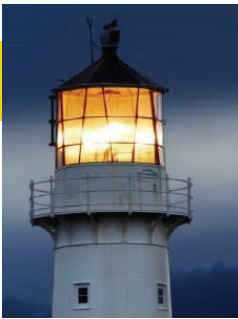
PASA AWARDS CEREMONY, 25 November 2022



Recognition AWARDS FUNCTION '22

25 November 2022
13:00 to 17:00





PASA AWARDS CEREMONY, 25 November 2022 (cont)

The SAMOS Project Team received an Innovation and Excellence Team Award at the Payments Association of South Africa (PASA) Recognition Function, held at the Leonardo Hotel.



The RTGS Renewal Programme Owners, Sponsors and Team wish to extend their best holiday season's greetings to all stakeholders and partners, and thank all for their contribution this year. We look forward to the exciting journey ahead in 2023.

To learn more about the RTGS Renewal Programme and obtain updates and previous newsletters, click on the link below:



[RTGS RENEWAL PROGRAMME](#)

For any queries, please email: rtgs-programme@resbank.co.za