

# CURRENCY NEWS™

SPECIAL ISSUE

THE CURRENCY CONFERENCE 2019 / DAY TWO

## Portals Steps Forward as it Celebrates Anniversary



Ross Holliday, Portals' CEO.

**Following the turbulence within the paper market in 2018, and the unfortunate situation with the Arjowiggins mill, one paper mill is 'proudly stepping forward' by making a big contribution to the future of banknote paper and the discussions happening at this Currency Conference.**

Yesterday evening, Portals CEO Ross Holliday made a toast to celebrate Portal's first anniversary since becoming an independent business once again. During his brief speech, Ross shared some highlights of this year. He is clearly pleased that investment is being made in the banknote paper mill – to date £17 million has been spent or committed.

There is also a continued focus on the security needs of the industry, with the company becoming the first in the world to be accredited with the new Intergraf CWA15374 standard. Finally he reported that Portals has had its highest volume year yet for its security papers business – supplying the paper for more than 74 million passports and 11 billion banknotes.

Ross, who will be participating in the CEO Panel later on today, said that all indicators show that the company is on track to be around for many years to come.

Also on the conference agenda yesterday, Laura Wheeler, Portals' Strategy Director, spoke about the need to ensure that watermarks continue to be at the heart of banknote security.

Her presentation commenced with a simple analogy – that watermarks are like the wheels on our car – they are fundamental to our security journey but as an industry we have a tendency to get distracted by the shiny new features and to forget about the fundamentals like the watermark.

She concluded by hinting at new technologies to come – all of which will help take watermarks into the modern age.



## Ukraine and Jarden Zinc Sign Agreement

**Yesterday, the National Bank of Ukraine (NBU) signed an agreement with Jarden Zinc Products for the supply of ZincSecure™ coin blanks. This agreement is an affirmation of last year's announcement by NBU to convert two of their banknotes – the Ukraine hryvnia (UAH) 5 and 10 – to ZincSecure coins.**

The UAH5 and UAH10 blanks will be supplied by US-based coin blank manufacturer Jarden Zinc Products using their latest technology. They will be nickel-plated ZincSecure coins that will be introduced for circulation along with the current banknotes. NBU plans for coins and banknotes to co-circulate, but will discontinue note production.

NBU has recognized the superior security features of this material and the cost savings it will provide compared to banknotes and solid alloys. A common presentation by Jarden Zinc Products and NBU will take place at 13.15 today that will discuss these advantages and the reasons leading to the decision of choosing ZincSecure as the coin material.

Coins have a longer life compared to banknotes, which is highly advantageous to the producer mints and central banks. The typical life of a banknote is 1-1.5 years, whereas coins will last for 20 years or more. This significant difference in lifetimes means that coins require far fewer replacements and will cost the central banks much less compared to banknotes.

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# Finalists for 2019 IACA Excellence in Currency Awards

The winners of the 14th round of IACA Excellence in Currency Awards, sponsored by Currency News, will be announced at a special ceremony during the conference dinner on Wednesday. In the meantime, Genie Foster and Brian Lang of IACA made a special presentation to all the finalists yesterday

There are four categories in this round of awards, and over 55 nominations were received in the various categories. The finalists were chosen by a panel of seven industry experts including four former central bankers.

The finalists are as follows:

## Best New Banknote or Series

- **Central Bank of Armenia** – new III series of Armenian banknotes comprising six denominations: 1000, 2000, 5000, 10000, 20000, and 50000 dram, issued in commemoration of the 25th anniversary of the Armenian currency;
- **Reserve Bank of Australia** – next generation \$50 banknote developed after extensive consultation with subject matter experts;
- **Bank of Canada** – new vertical \$10 banknote, the introduction of which marks a shift towards a staggered approach to note issuance;
- **Bank of Mexico** – new 500 peso banknote – the first in a new family of banknotes that pay homage to historical and natural heritage of Mexico;

- **Norges Bank** – new series 50, 100, 200, 500 and 1,000 NOK. The sea was selected as the overall theme because of its importance to Norway's business sector and economic prosperity.

## Best New Commemorative or Limited circulation banknote

- **Bank of Canada** – \$10 banknote issued in celebration of the 150th anniversary of Confederation, the process by which the modern Dominion of Canada was first created;
- **Bank of Papua New Guinea** – 100 Kina APEC commemorative banknote issued as part of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Summit held in Port Moresby;
- **Central Bank of Uruguay** – 50 Pesos banknote celebrating 50 years since the establishment of the Central Bank of Uruguay.

## Best Banknote Processing Innovation

- **CDI2 (Common Detector Interface 2)** – an open standard for high speed banknote sorting machines created by the Federal Reserve System and the European Central Bank;
- **Cash Processing Solutions' SmartFeed™ X10** – a new automatic feeder designed for large cash processing operations;

- **Giesecke + Devrient's NotaTracc®** – improves the handling of banknotes throughout the cash cycle and complements G+D's high-speed processing systems.

## Best Banknote Public Education Program, Website, or App

- **Bank of Canada** – digital storytelling and online engagement to provide an interactive story of the new \$10 banknote;
- **Reserve Bank of Australia** – a suite of special communication activities tailored to meet the information needs of priority audience groups for the new series \$10 and \$50 banknotes;
- **South African Reserve Bank** – currency app with the purpose of driving awareness and education on the various features of the new commemorative South African banknote series.

The next round of awards will take place at the Coin Conference, which will be held 14-16 October in Rome. Nominations for these awards – covering Best New Circulating Coin or Series, Best New Commemorative Coin, Best Coin Innovation and Best Communications Campaign – will open once the Currency Conference concludes.

## Ukraine and Jarden Zinc *(continued)*

According to a comparative estimate by Jarden Zinc Products, over a 20-year lifetime, a single currency coin in ZincSecure could minimize production costs over a banknote of the same denomination. The metal cost of zinc being lower than solid alloys like cupronickel, aluminum bronze allows mints and central banks to adopt ZincSecure without being a financial burden.

The security provided by ZincSecure sets it apart from the usual choice of plated steel for lower value coins and higher cost alloys for higher denominations. A significant security advantage of this zinc-based coinage product is the unique electromagnetic signature (EMS), a key security parameter, that it provides compared to other coinage materials.

The availability of a wide range of ZincSecure alloy compositions, each with a different EMS, gives customers a variety of choices. It also eliminates the risk of cross-border usage of different currencies. This differentiates ZincSecure from other coin materials such as plated steel or high-cost solid alloy.

The seigniorage that ZincSecure brings to the central banks is an important aspect. It falls in a niche space where it avoids being a financial burden to the currency manufacturer and at the same time does an excellent job at maintaining high security due to its unique features.

This is an innovative development in this industry, representing real change in the future of currency, says Jarden Zinc Products. This announcement definitely puts the focus back on the coin-banknote boundary and creates an opportunity for central banks around the world to rethink their position on this topic.



From left to right: Mark Blizard (SVP-Sales and Development), Marat Ketler, Peter Ho, Anatolii Shevchuk and Volodymyr Bahlai (Director General, National Bank of Ukraine, Banknote Printing and Minting Works).