



Banque du Liban Announces the Secure Electronic Banking and Information for Lebanon (SeBIL) Initiative and a Secure IT infrastructure RFP Tender

Beirut, 3 July 2003—Banque du Liban (BDL), the Central Bank of Lebanon, has undertaken an initiative named Secure Electronic Banking and Information for Lebanon (SeBIL), in order to provide a secure platform for electronic banking and e-services for Lebanon's financial sector. BDL's First Vice-Governor, Dr. Nasser Saidi said: "The foundation for SeBIL is the growing need to address the many challenges facing the Lebanese financial sector. BDL will accomplish this by providing a platform for secure payments, electronic end-to-end processing at all levels of economic interaction, with assured reliability and integrity of strategic information."

SeBIL will provide numerous strategic applications, including:

- Electronic payment and reporting systems
- Real-time transaction settlement
- Electronic reporting
- Automated clearing house
- Treasury management system
- Asset management
- Decision support systems

"We have launched the Secure Banking and Information for Lebanon (SeBIL) project to provide a secure platform for electronic banking, payments, and e-services for Lebanon's financial sector, and to enable e-commerce. The electronic identity and cryptographic 'digital signature' mechanisms imposed in the banking system will become a standard for the rest of Lebanon's economy. A fully operational SeBIL system will enable BDL, the government of Lebanon and the financial sector to provide automated, secure services, between Government, Business, and Citizens. SeBIL is the mechanism to meet the existing and future financial and banking sector's requirements in Lebanon and will enable these sectors to rise and meet growing demands and challenges on a regional basis," said Dr. Saidi.

For SeBIL to operate with the necessary assurance of security, a robust infrastructure for secure transactions is necessary. To provide the essential security functions, SeBIL will be supported by a Secure Information Technology Infrastructure (SITI), the architecture of which was designed by Decision Support Systems, Inc. (DSSi). BDL has recently issued a Request for Proposal for SITI, written by BDL IT and Legal Staff in conjunction with DSSi. Prequalified vendors are currently in the process of preparing proposed solutions to this RFP, to be submitted by mid-July 2003.

According to Dr. Michael Wilson and Ms. M. Nguyen, the DSSi principals, who designed SITI for SeBIL, “BDL recognizes that a trusted computing base and secure systems will result in a strategic market advantage. BDL has established key strategic goals and objectives for SITI, which will provide mission-critical support to SeBIL, including confidentiality, integrity, authentication, non-repudiation, and high availability.”

“SITI will eventually provide the country-wide common platform and common standards governing economic electronic activity in Lebanon. Our goal is to enable BDL to offer a wide range of electronic banking services securely to Lebanese banks and financial institutions, while incorporating flexibility in SeBIL to evolve dynamically as the platform for Lebanon’s banking and financial sector,” said Mr. Ali Nahle, Director of Information Technology for BDL.

Dr. Robert Walker, President of DSSi says, “DSSi has been privileged to assist BDL in its SeBIL initiative, which we view as critical in sustaining economic development in the region, and represents our commitment to Arab world.”

Further information regarding SeBIL and SITI can be found at <http://www.bdl.gov.lb/sebil/bdlsiti.htm>.

About the Banque du Liban

As the Central Bank of Lebanon, the Banque du Liban (BDL) is mainly concerned with the safeguarding of the currency in order to ensure a basis for sustained social and economic growth. Its basic responsibilities specifically include:

- safeguarding the currency;
- maintaining economic stability;
- maintaining and safeguarding the soundness of the banking system;
- developing the money and financial markets.

To fulfill its major functions, BDL cooperates with the Government to ensure exchange rate stability, control liquidity, impose credit restrictions, and issue banking regulations.

About Decision Support Systems, Inc.

Decision Support Systems, Inc. (DSSi) is a international consulting firm, providing services in ICT strategy/security/implementation, decision support, critical infrastructure protection, and technology development. Our principals include experts in principal domains such as ICT technology, international finance & economics, international trade and regulatory development, etc. Our clients include public and private sector organizations in globally, multinational corporations, transnational organizations, and key individuals. DSSi can be contacted via email at info@metatempo.com. A number of our public papers are available on our web site at <http://www.metatempo.com>.