

Standard Chartered's SME Banking recognised at Banker Middle East Product Awards 2012

Bank named 'Best SME Internet Banking' and 'Best SME Foreign Exchange Service'

Standard Chartered announced today that its SME Banking Business was recognised as the 'Best SME Internet Banking provider and Best SME Foreign Exchange Service Provider' for 2012 by Banker Middle East, a leading regional banking and finance publication. The Bank received the awards at a ceremony held recently in Dubai.

The Banker Middle East Product Awards recognise financial products and services for their innovation and their excellent financial results and how they contributed to gain market share for banks operating in the region.

Commenting on the awards, Sadia Saeed, General Manager, SME Banking for the Middle East, Standard Chartered said:

"SMEs in UAE have strong international trade needs. Competitive foreign exchange services and world class online solutions are critical for SMEs to facilitate these needs. For the last few years, Standard Chartered has invested in its online platform and human resources to develop products and services designed to meet the needs of our customers. With SME's in the region trading more with the Asia and Africa, than with Europe and the US, we are ideally positioned to leverage our strong footprint in these markets to the benefit of our customers. These awards come as testament to our efforts, and we will continue to support the region's SMEs by bringing world class services and solutions to the region."

Standard Chartered Bank launched its dedicated online banking platform Straight2Bank for SMEs in April last year and has been well received by customers. The bank also has a treasury team dedicated to SMEs that helps them manage their foreign currency risks and provide competitive foreign exchange rates.

Standard Chartered has been introducing innovative and unique products and services designed to meet the specific needs of SMEs in Bahrain.

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Standard Chartered - leading the way in Asia, Africa and the Middle East

Standard Chartered PLC is a leading international bank, listed on the London, Hong Kong and Mumbai stock exchanges. It has operated for over 150 years in some of the world's most dynamic markets and earns around 90 per cent of its income and profits in Asia, Africa and the Middle East. This geographic focus and commitment to developing deep relationships with clients and customers has driven the Bank's growth in recent years.

With 1,700 offices in 70 markets, Standard Chartered offers exciting and challenging international career opportunities for more than 87,000 staff. It is committed to building a sustainable business over the long term and is trusted worldwide for upholding high standards of corporate governance, social responsibility, environmental protection and employee diversity. The Bank's heritage and values are expressed in its brand promise, 'Here for good'.

For more information please visit www.standardchartered.com