MALTA PAYMENT SERVICE PROVIDERS

Payment Service Provider Set Up

GDP GROWTH
6.3% in 2015 (EC)

REGULATOR
Malta Financial Services Authority

WORKFORCE
Well qualified, English speaking

SIZE OF THE INDUSTRY
25% Annual growth

EU
Member of the EU & Eurozone

LEGISLATION
Fully compliant with EU directives & regulation

ACCESS TO THE EU
Passporting of licence into the EU

FINANCIAL SERVICES FRAMEWORK
EU and OECD approved

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MALTA AND PAYMENT SERVICES

The number of Payment Server Providers (PSPs) licensed in Malta has seen significant growth over the last few years, and, alongside the thriving i-Gaming and e-Commerce industry, the Island has become the destination of choice for the set-up of Payment Server Providers.

PSPs may engage in various activities including: the execution of payment transactions, issuing and/or acquiring of payment instruments, as well as money remittance.

Like other financial institutions, PSPs are not allowed to receive deposits or other repayable funds from the public and must use funds exclusively to provide payment services.

LEGAL BASIS

PSPs are regulated in Malta under the Malta Financial Institutions Act (the “Act”) which transposes the Payment Services Directive (the “Directive”), specifically under Schedule II of this Act. Such licence holders are authorized and regulated by the Malta Financial Services Authority (the “MFSA”), the supervisor of all the financial services industry.

BENEFITS

- EU passporting
- 5% Effective Corporate Tax Rate
- Highly qualified persons benefits
- Ability to open a branch in other European Member States (post one year of licensing)
- No restrictions on activities
KEY REQUIREMENTS

In assessing an application for the obtainment of a Payment Services Licence, the MFSA carries out a “fit and proper” test on the applicant. For the purpose of this test, the shareholders, directors and senior staff members must demonstrate solvency, competence and integrity in all their dealings.

APPLICATION CRITERIA

The following are the criteria set out by the MFSA for setting up a PSP in Malta:

- Completion of application documents
- Settling the initial license application fee of €3,500
- Capital requirement of €50K-€125K depending on the service provided

LOCAL PRESENCE

For one to obtain a PSP in Malta they must have a local presence, they must have a minimum of 3 directors with at least one of them being Maltese. Also one must have a minimum of 2 local operational staff members, a local MLRO and Compliance officer.

Furthermore, to set up a PSP in Malta one has to eventually need an office space in Malta.

ELIGIBILITY

Local presence + € + Application documents + Minimum capital; €50,000 - €125,000 depending on activities = Licence
PAYMENT SERVICE PROVIDERS IN MALTA

Application Timeline

2 MONTHS
PREPARATION TIME
• Compiling the documentation requested by the Authority
• Settling application fees

1 - 2 MONTHS
COMPLIANCE TIME
• Incorporating the company
• Depositing share capital

MFSA Meeting

Submit Licence Application

‘In Principle’ Approval

Issuance of Licence and Commencement of Business Approval

3-4 MONTHS
PROCESSING TIME
• The MFSA reviews the Application and carries out ‘Fit and Proper Test’

WHY WORK WITH US?

100%
Success Rate: Problem Solving, Integrity, Honesty

Chambers & Partners Global: Ranked Lawyers

We’re lawyers: Lawyer - Client Privilege

15+ Years Experience in Financial Services

Malta-Cyprus Lawyers, Tax Advisors, Fiduciary Staff: 100+

Our Secret: Big Firm Expertise, Personal Service

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