

# press release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **STANDARD CHARTERED SPENDS US\$3.6 MILLION IN NETWORK UPGRADE**

12 May 2008, Kuala Lumpur – Standard Chartered Bank will spend US\$3.6 million over the next four years to enhance IT network infrastructure across 40 sites in its Malaysian branch network.

The new and more resilient Metro-Ethernet (Metro-E) network, which delivers cost effective, high speed connectivity for WAN applications & services, will raise capacity ranging from 256K and 512K to 2MB for all Standard Chartered Bank (SCB) branches, as well as a total of 160MB of aggregated capacity for two designated network hub sites.

“With Metro-E, Standard Chartered will be able to provide our customers with even more efficient services and better products,” said Arif Siddiqui, CIO, SCB Malaysia. “The Bank will be able to roll-out bandwidth intensive new applications and services like e-Kiosks, e-Branch enhancements and Rapid Cash transactions.”

Standard Chartered Bank Malaysia expects the Metro-E upgrade to be completed by Q3, 2008. The previous infrastructure supported legacy financial transactions and ran on COINS Frame Relay with ISDN back-up. The new Metro-E technology has already been successfully implemented in the Standard Chartered Bank’s Singapore and Hong Kong branch environments.

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

Standard Chartered PLC, listed on both the London Stock Exchange and the Hong Kong Stock Exchange, ranks among the top 25 companies in the FTSE-100 by market capitalisation. The London-headquartered group has operated for over 150 years in some of the world's most dynamic markets, leading the way in Asia, Africa and the Middle East. Its income and the number of employees have more than doubled over the last five years primarily as a result of organic growth and supplemented by acquisitions.

Standard Chartered aspires to be the best international bank in its markets through leading by example to be the right partner for its stakeholders. The group now employs 73,000 people, representing 115 nationalities, in more than 1,700 branches and outlets located in over 70 countries. The bank derives more than 90 per cent of its operating income and profits from Asia, Africa and the Middle East, with balanced income derived from both Wholesale and Consumer Banking.

The group 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. For more information, please visit: [www.standardchartered.com](http://www.standardchartered.com)

**Standard Chartered in Malaysia**

Standard Chartered Bank Malaysia Berhad, a member of the Standard Chartered Group was established in Malaysia in 1875 and locally incorporated on 1 July 1994. As Malaysia's first bank, Standard Chartered leads the way through product innovation, consistent and strong growth performance and sustainability initiatives. It provides a comprehensive range of financial products and services including retail, Islamic and wholesale banking for individuals, small and medium-sized enterprises, corporate and institutions through its network of 37 branches across Malaysia.

In 2001, Standard Chartered established one of two of its global shared service centres in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia to provide IT support and processing services to the Bank's operations in 35 countries – the first bank in Malaysia to do so. It now houses the biggest software development company in the country, International Software Centre Malaysia (ISCM). The other global shared service centre is located in Chennai, India.

Apart from its shared service centres, the Group has also established a wholly owned subsidiary company, Price Solutions Sdn. Bhd. to promote and market Standard Chartered's financial products in Malaysia.

Standard Chartered employs more than 5,000 employees in its Malaysian operations.