



Banque de France Press Release - 20 July 2020

Following the examination of the applications received on 15 May in response to the Banque de France's call for applications to experiment the use of central bank digital currency for interbank settlements, the following 8 applications were selected (in alphabetical order) :

- Accenture
- Euroclear
- HSBC
- Iznes
- LiquidShare
- ProsperUS
- Seba Bank
- Société Générale - Forge

Experiments proposed by the successful applicants will allow (i) exploring new ways of exchanging financial instruments (excluding crypto-assets) for central bank money, (ii) testing the settlement in central bank digital currency in order to improve executing conditions for cross-border payments and (iii) revising the arrangements for making central bank money available.

In the coming days, the Banque de France will begin work with each of the eight candidates in order to carry out the experiments over the next few months.

The strong mobilization around this call for applications testifies to the interest of finance and technology players in this approach aiming to explore the potential contributions of a digital currency issued by the central bank to improve the functioning of financial markets, in particular interbank settlements.

The lessons learnt from these experiments will be a direct contribution to the more global reflection conducted by the Eurosystem on the value of a central bank digital currency. These

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experiments also illustrate the Banque de France's commitment to innovation, which was recently chosen to host, together with the Deutsche Bundesbank and the European Central Bank, a new joint innovation center in Europe as part of the Innovation Hub of the Bank for International Settlements.

A propos de la Banque de France. Institution indépendante, la Banque de France a trois grandes missions : la stratégie monétaire, la stabilité financière, les services à l'économie. Elle contribue à définir la politique monétaire de la zone euro et la met en œuvre en France ; elle contrôle banques et assurances et veille à la maîtrise des risques ; elle propose de nombreux services aux entreprises et aux particuliers.

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