PCI Security Standards Council

MAKING PAYMENTS SAFER TOP PRIORITY FOR GLOBAL PAYMENT CARD INDUSTRY
—Convening In Cape Town At PCI Security Standards Council Middle East And Africa Forum, Global Cybersecurity And Payment Leaders Discuss Standards And Solutions for Protecting Businesses Against Cybercrime And Fraud—

CAPE TOWN, South Africa, 31 March 2017 – Cybercriminals continue to target payment transactions in the Middle East and Africa region and globally. At the same time, there is a growing shortage of cybersecurity professionals equipped to help businesses deal with this escalating challenge.

With these and other security issues front and center, in Cape Town this week the Payment Card Industry Security Standards Council (PCI SSC) hosted the first of its global annual meetings with payment security leaders. The meeting focused on the Middle East and Africa region, with the goal of increasing awareness about the critical role of developing strong security standards and solutions for protecting businesses against cybercrime and fraud.

In his keynote address PCI SSC General Manager Stephen Orfei told attendees, "With the rapid growth in the multitude of ways to make payments, now, more than ever, we must join forces to devalue payment data and make payments safer. We need to make solutions readily available and easier to use for merchants. Global collaboration and information sharing will continue to be critical."

International Director Jeremy King emphasized the importance of security as a global business priority: "It is vital for the global business community to adopt strong security standards and technology solutions, and to train and educate their people." Added King, "PCI Standards and programs deliver a business solution to cybercrime, not just an IT solution, by bringing together a powerful combination of people, processes and technologies."

Key priorities for the payment card industry in 2017 include:

- **Simplifying payment security for merchants:** The PCI SSC will prioritize technology solutions and processes that simplify security and reduce risk for merchants with a continued focus on education, awareness and evolving threats.

- **New Associate QSA Certification:** PCI SSC announced changes to the Qualified Security Assessor (QSA) program to attract and train new cybersecurity talent to help ensure organizations are protecting themselves and their customers with the best defenses available.

- **Security roadmap for next generation of payments:** From mobile to the internet of things (IoT) to the cloud, PCI SSC will focus efforts on making the next generation of payments safer at every point, including the secure design and development of modern payment software and improved authentication to reduce card-not-present fraud with 3D Secure. Later this year the PCI SSC plans to publish a framework for secure software development, as well as a supporting security standard for 3D Secure 2.0, in collaboration with EMVCo.

The next global PCI SSC forum will take place in Bangkok, Thailand on 17-18 May. For more information and to register for the PCI Asia-Pacific Community Meeting, visit the website: https://events.pcisecuritystandards.org/bangkok-2017/.

About the PCI Security Standards Council

The PCI Security Standards Council is a global forum that is responsible for the development, management, education, and awareness of the PCI Data Security Standard (PCI DSS) and other standards that increase payment data security. Connect with the PCI Council on LinkedIn. Join the conversation on Twitter @PCISSC.