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Automated ATM deposit set to pass key landmark

It is three years since RBR last published a detailed study on Deposit Automation and Recycling, so

release of a brand new report on the subject makes particularly interesting reading. While only a subset of the overall ATM market, automated deposit terminals (ADTs) are critical for both banks and their suppliers.

Banks continue to transform their branch networks, and while the nature of this transformation is evolving to determine the most appropriate formats and solutions, greater use of self-service is a constant. The pressure to make branches more efficient means staff must add the maximum possible value and that it is not just routine transactions (such as withdrawal and deposit) but also more complex activities (account opening, ID verification, loans etc.) that are being moved to self-service.

For suppliers, ADTs help shift the discussion away from products to solutions. Suppliers can work with banks to redesign processes and cash flows and provide a range of managed services to allow banks to focus on their core activities.

The findings in the new report confirm these trends. The number of ADTs worldwide grew by 4% in 2018, to reach a record 1.4 million units installed. At present 43% of ATMs accept automated deposits, a share which RBR is forecasting will increase to 52% by 2024 – countries to watch over this period include Brazil, Malaysia and Poland. Passing the 50% mark may be symbolic, but feels significant in the overall timeline of the history of ATMs.

The number of deposit transactions grew at an even faster rate than the number of units, as customers, especially small businesses, become more aware of the benefits of automated deposit; instant credit and availability outside of normal banking hours are particularly valued.

Note recycling inside an ATM may be invisible to customers, but is a core element of the automated business case for deployers. Cash transportation is expensive and contains inherent security risks, and recycling is often key to the decision to roll out ADTs. The new research found that the share of ADTs comprising recyclers has reached 58% and forecasts this will increase to 68% by 2024. The number of ADTs is predicted to increase in 47 of the 52 countries surveyed – long gone are the days when recyclers were only found in Japan and South Korea.

Dominic Hirsch, Editor

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