

Malta Enhances Integrity of Deposit Return Scheme with Centralised Voucher Validation Platform

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As Deposit Return Schemes (DRS) expand across Europe and globally, ensuring secure and interoperable voucher redemption has become critical for retailers, scheme operators, and packaging value chain stakeholders. Sensoneo has introduced its Central Voucher Redemption Server, a digital infrastructure solution enabling real-time voucher validation, fraud prevention, and centralised financial control across reverse vending machine (RVM) networks and retail POS systems. Malta's national Deposit Return Scheme operator, BCRS Malta, is the first organisation to deploy the system nationwide, strengthening the integrity and transparency of its recycling infrastructure.

Fragmented voucher validation systems can expose retailers and operators to financial discrepancies, duplicate redemptions, and operational inefficiencies, particularly when multiple technology vendors are involved. Sensoneo's platform enables secure cross-redemption across retail chains and locations while maintaining full interoperability between RVM suppliers and POS providers.

The platform enables secure voucher redemption across retail chains and locations, independent of reverse vending machine supplier or POS provider. This allows scheme operators to maintain centralized financial control while avoiding vendor lock-in and supporting interoperable Deposit Return Scheme infrastructure across the packaging value chain.

Implementation of Central Redemption Voucher in Malta

"When it comes to the digitalization and connectivity of all the RVMs and system data handling, Sensoneo was with us from day one. The central redemption server strengthens the reliability, transparency, and scalability of Malta's beverage container refund scheme," said Alexander Galea, Chief Executive Officer at BCRS Malta Ltd.

For retailers, the system enables instant voucher verification at checkout, reducing manual validation processes and eliminating financial risk associated with duplicate or fraudulent vouchers. The centralized infrastructure supports seamless cross-redemption across store networks, improving customer convenience while reducing administrative burden.

“The system supports vouchers issued from public hubs that are redeemable at any retail store in Malta, vouchers issued from RVMs located at retail sites that are redeemable specifically at that retailer or its chain of outlets, and vouchers integrated across multiple POS suppliers, each with distinct technologies and requirements. This ensures the scheme remains accessible to all retailers, regardless of size, while maintaining a consistent level of validation and reporting accuracy,” said Rachel Micalcuff, Head of DRS & Business Systems at BCRS Malta Ltd.

“Secure voucher redemption is fundamental to the financial integrity and trustworthiness of any Deposit Return Scheme,” said Martin Basila, CEO of Sensoneo. ***“Central Voucher Redemption Server gives operators and retailers complete control over voucher validation while enabling interoperability across technologies, locations, and retail networks. This ensures schemes can scale efficiently and securely.”***

Sensoneo’s digital infrastructure currently supports Deposit Return Schemes in nine countries, including Ireland, Austria, and Romania, serving more than 165 million people worldwide. The company continues to expand its DRS technology portfolio to support governments, retailers, and scheme operators as deposit legislation accelerates across Europe and other regions.

About Sensoneo

Sensoneo is a global provider of innovative technology solutions that support the digital transformation of waste management to achieve efficiency, transparency, and sustainability and facilitate the transition to the circular economy. With a team of more than 150 professionals and an active presence across Europe, the United States, the MENA region, and South-East Asia, Sensoneo supports waste professionals, Deposit Return Scheme operators, and Producer Responsibility Organisations in managing waste more efficiently.

Over the years, Sensoneo has been expanding and perfecting its portfolio, which now ranges from waste monitoring and logistics optimisation to end-to-end take-back systems, IT solutions for PRO and EPR, and comprehensive IT systems running nationwide deposit return schemes.

Sensoneo has successfully implemented and operated IT systems for Deposit Return Schemes (DRS) in nine countries, achieving recycling performance exceeding 90%. Sensoneo's deployment of smart sensors contributes to the largest smart waste installation worldwide, encompassing an impressive 11,100 sensors in Madrid. Sensoneo solutions help the largest factories and logistics centres to automate industrial waste collection, enabling full transparency over the waste streams managed and accurate data reporting necessary for ESG.

About BCRS Malta

BCRS Malta Ltd is the licensed, not-for-profit operator of Malta's Beverage Container Refund Scheme (BCRS), established in 2020 to manage the collection and recycling of single-use beverage containers. BCRS Malta Ltd. was incorporated by the Malta Beverage Producers Association, the Malta Beverage Importers Association and the Malta Beverage Retailers Association with the obligation, amongst others, to assume the collective extended producer responsibility on behalf of producers, importers and retailers of single-use beverage containers, and take the necessary measures to achieve beverage container collection targets in terms of the Beverage Containers Recycling Regulations 2020.