

Press Release

al khaliji OPENS NEW RETAIL OUTLETS INCLUDING A FULL SERVICE BRANCH ON C-RING ROAD

- **al khaliji opens its second retail site, a full service branch on C-Ring Road**
- **Branch design incorporates a dedicated Premium area for affluent and high net worth individuals**
- **Three offsite ATM's now open in major Doha shopping malls**
- **A state-of-the-art 24x7 multi-language contact centre also open providing constant support for al khaliji customers**

Doha, 3 August 2008: al khaliji opened the doors to its first full service branch at C-Ring Road. This opening follows the successful launch of its first retail outlet at the Q-Post Centre in June. By the end of 2008 al khaliji plans to open six branches, two service centres and up to ten offsite ATM's throughout Qatar.

The new al khaliji C-Ring Road branch will be managed by Hazem Youssef, a veteran banker with more than ten years of branch banking experience. It's opening hours are from 7:30 am to 1:00 pm from Sunday to Thursday.

"al khaliji has passed a significant milestone in our next generation banking journey. The branch is an embodiment of our brand, and the design and service offering reflects our fresh approach to banking" said Andrew Liew, the newly appointed Managing Executive for the Retail Business at al khaliji.

"The branch incorporates our state-of-the-art technology in a very customer friendly way. For example, new customers receive their personalised checkbooks, debit cards and PIN numbers within minutes - there's no need for a second visit or an anxious wait for items to arrive in the mail. Our ATM's have huge 15 inch screens with live Doha Securities Market and Reuters news feeds. Nano technology in the ATM's maintains the highest standard of hygiene for our customers, and our cash services representatives have automated machines to dispense cash and perform automatic reconciliation and end of day balancing."

Our Q-Post site has received a really enthusiastic response from the public, and we're very confident our new C-Ring Road branch will set the town talking even more." said Andrew.

The new branch is open for all customers, but al khaliji are using the opening to also launch its Premium banking business targeting affluent and high net worth individuals. Premium customers have an exclusive and well appointed lounge to relax in while they are served by dedicated Relationship Managers.

In addition to the new retail sites, al khaliji has also opened the first three of its distinctive offsite ATM's which are located in The Mall, City Centre and Centre Point. Customers also benefit from continuous support provided a newly launched high technology service centre open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to handle customer telephone calls (494 0000) or emails in multiple languages.

"These are exciting times for our customers and staff," said Andrew, "and the journey has just begun."

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For further information on al khaliji, please visit www.alkhaliji.com

Press Contact:

Florence Janin

Senior Executive, Corporate Affairs, al khaliji

Mobile: +974 559 1547 – email: fjanin@alkhaliji.com

Maitha Al Qader

Principal, Corporate Affairs, al khaliji

Mobile: +974580842/ +971504277427 – email: malqader@alkhaliji.com

About al khaliji

al khaliji was incorporated in Doha in January 2007 with an aim to become a regional GCC bank offering conventional and Islamic banking services. Since incorporation al khaliji it has completed its IPO and listing on the Doha Securities Market and raised QAR 7.2bn of authorised capital, recruited 250 staff, successfully launched all four of its business lines (Corporate & Institutional Banking, Treasury & Debt Capital Markets, Premium / Business and Retail Banking). It has also announced a commercial agreement to purchase the UAE assets of BLC (France) S.A. and has opened an office in the DIFC (Dubai).

Notes to Editors – al khaliji’s key milestones

Since being established in January last year, al khaliji has passed many key milestones on its journey towards delivering what we call Next Generation banking to our customers. Our fresh approach to banking informs everything we do, from communicating important financial information to our shareholders, listening to our customers and how we talk to and treat our fellow colleagues. Highlights so far include:

2008:

- **Q2** (298 staff) – we have launched our retail banking operations in Qatar and opened “al khaliji Q-post Centre” in West Bay. We also received a license from Dubai International Financial Centre (DIFC) to operate in the UAE for non banking activities. In the same quarter we had the approval to open Islamic banking branches in Qatar and we are joint lead manager for AED 600mIn Sukuk issue for Almana Group.
- **Q1** (260 staff) – we have announced our Q1 2008 Interim Condensed Financial Statements and contributed \$75mIn as one of the mandated lead arrangers in \$700mIn financing deal for Barwa Real Estate Company

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- **Q4** (241 staff) – we launched our Corporate and Institutional Banking business ahead of schedule with key corporate deals including major loans for QTel, Dubai World and Barwa. We participated in the Qatari Capital Markets Day at the London Stock Exchange.
- **Q3** (137 staff) – Our shares began trading on the Doha Securities Market. We entered negotiations to purchase the UAE assets of BLC Bank (France) S.A.
- **Q2** (61 staff) – Our QR 1.2bn Initial Public Offering introduced a new, quick, transparent and fair process for allocating shares attracting 86,547 investors
- **Q1** (2 staff) - Our head office in West bay, Doha was established and we launched our QR 2.88bn private equity placement.