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Launch of credit card payment of National Pension Insurance Premiums

~ Earn points on your payments to public organizations ~

OMC Card, Inc. (Head Office: Minato-ku, Tokyo; President and COO: Shinji Ebata; hereunder “OMC Card”) is pleased to announce that it has been nominated by the Social Insurance Agency to launch the “Credit Card Payment of National Pension Insurance Premiums”, with effect from March 2008 contributions.

Furthermore, application forms for the credit card payment will be accepted at social insurance offices in advance of the launch of credit card payment, from February 1, 2008.

Until now, payments for public funds such as taxes and charges payable to public organizations have generally had to be made by bank transfer or by cash at the counter of financial institutions, or else at convenience stores. It has also been planned to diversify the means of paying National Pension Insurance contributions besides bank transfers, to include means such as payment at agricultural cooperative associations and convenience stores, and electronic payments.

But following the recent gain in popularity of credit card settlements, there has been an increasing demand from customers wishing to pay their public utility charges by credit card. OMC Card has proactively taken on the task of making credit card settlements reality in the public funds arena, by taking part in the planning stages of the Koukin Credit Kessai Kyougikai (“Public Funds Credit Settlement Council”), set up in order to promote credit card payments in the “Public Funds Market”, which includes taxes, national pensions and water rates.

The Social Insurance Agency has taken on board such changes in society, and made the decision to introduce a credit card payments system in order to make payment more convenient. OMC Card received the nomination from the Social Insurance Agency thanks to the Agency’s high esteem of our proactive work on credit card settlement for public funds.

By paying with their OMC Card, customers will be able to pay their National Pension Insurance contributions automatically as part of their credit card bill, along with payments for their shopping and other expenditures. Transfers will take place on the same day each month (27th), making it easier to keep track of monthly household expenses.

Another big advantage for customers is that they can earn “Waku-Waku Point”* prize on their National Pension Insurance payments through OMC Card’s cardholder points scheme. These points are redeemable for gift and merchandise vouchers and are earned in proportion to amounts spent.

As ever more customers taken an interest in the added value offered by credit card companies, which includes loyalty points programs and other services, card usage is rapidly increasing for everyday payments, particularly for public funds.

OMC Card will continue to promote this kind of credit card payment in the field of public funds such as taxes and utility charges throughout Japan, whilst also supporting a huge increase in consumer convenience for credit card users, so that it will contribute to the building of social infrastructure for the collection of public funds.

*Waku-Waku Point: 1 point earned for every ¥200 (incl. tax) spent on the OMC Card. Amounts from 1,000 points up are exchangeable for gift and merchandise vouchers.