

# ECB selects external companies for joint prototyping of user interfaces for a digital euro

*European Central Bank*

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The European Central Bank (ECB) will collaborate with five companies to develop potential user interfaces for the digital euro.

The aim of this prototyping exercise is to test how well the technology behind a digital euro integrates with prototypes developed by companies. Simulated transactions will be initiated using the front-end prototypes developed by the five companies and processed through the Eurosystem's interface and back-end infrastructure. There are no plans to re-use the prototypes in the subsequent phases of the digital euro project.

Together with the ECB team, the selected companies will each focus on one specific use case of a digital euro:

- peer-to-peer online payments – CaixaBank;
- peer-to-peer offline payments – Worldline;
- point of sale payments initiated by the payer – EPI;
- point of sale payments initiated by the payee – Nexi;
- e-commerce payments – Amazon.

The firms have been chosen from a pool of 54 front end providers. Their selection follows the April 2022 [call for expressions of interest](#) in joining the prototyping exercise. All 54 companies fulfil a number of “essential capabilities” that were outlined in the call, while the five providers chosen best matched the “specific capabilities” required for the assigned use case. The ECB appreciates the wide interest shown in the prototyping exercise.

The prototyping exercise is an important element in the ongoing two-year [investigation phase](#) of the digital euro project. It is expected to be completed in the first quarter of 2023 when the ECB will also publish its findings.