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## Web Wire Transfers Via BankAtlantic

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. — BankAtlantic Bancorp Inc., which has been letting corporate customers initiate wire transfers online since last year, plans to allow its departments and branches to do the same.

Nearly half of BankAtlantic's outgoing wire transfers — 48% — originate through the cash-management interface that connects corporate clients to their accounts, said Anthony A. Gautney, a senior vice president and the manager of BankAtlantic's cash management department.

"That's very helpful," he said in an interview last month. "Unless they made a mistake on their wire and unless it crosses our limits, it moves through our straight-through processing system without intervention."

BankAtlantic says its 74 branches should be able to initiate wire transfers online by late in the third quarter or early in the fourth.

It has been expanding its wire originations by about 12,000 a year each of the past five years without adding to the wire-room staff of three operators and a supervisor. It upgraded its system last year by installing an in-house version of the PayPlus USA wire transfer management software from Fundtech Ltd. of Jersey City, to replace an earlier application called FedPlus, to connect to the Federal Reserve System.

"Our wire business had gotten to such a significant level that a Fed terminal just didn't cut it anymore," Mr. Gautney said.

— **Steve Bills**

