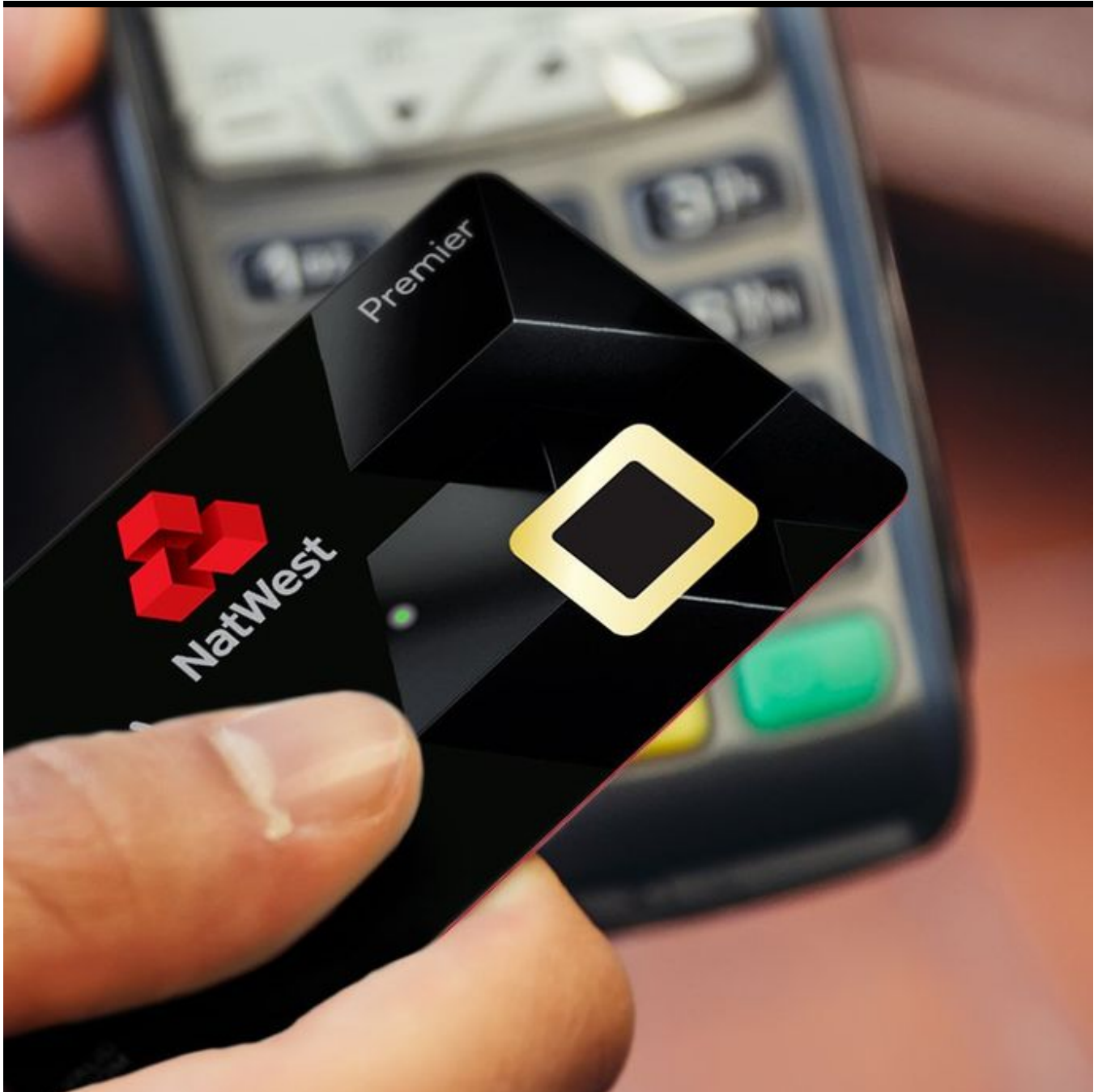


NATWEST DEBUTS A BIOMETRIC DEBIT CARD

By Livvy Houghton and Kathryn Bishop

15 : 03 : 2019 Finance : Technology : Digital



UK – High street bank **NatWest** is working to improve frictionless spending and reduce fraud with a biometric debit card.

Featuring a small panel bearing an electronic copy of the user's fingerprint, the cards are designed to allow ease of spending over £30 – the current contactless spending limit. When the user places their finger on the panel it will confirm their identity and authorise payments without the need for a PIN or signature.

Partnering with Dutch firm Gemalto, which developed the biometric technology, NatWest is currently piloting the cards with 200 of its customers. 'This is the biggest development in card technology in recent years and we are excited to trial the service,' says David Crawford, head of effortless payments at NatWest.

While biometric innovations have previously been symbolic of our **Dislocated World**, increasingly they are becoming part of our daily customs. At the end of 2018, Hartsfield-Jackson **Atlanta International Airport** became the first US airport to fully implement facial recognition technology at every stage of the passenger journey.