

Oops...Deutsche Bank makes 28bn euro transfer in error

20 April 2018



The sum in the mistaken transfer exceeds Deutsche's market cap

Germany's biggest lender Deutsche Bank on Friday admitted to a massive erroneous transfer of 28 billion euros (\$34 billion) in a routine operation, more than the entire bank is worth.

The unprecedented mistake happened on March 16 when Deutsche Bank carried out a transfer to an account at Deutsche Boerse's Eurex clearing house, a spokesman told AFP.

The operation was meant to involve a far smaller sum, which the bank has not revealed, and highlights IT and control issues at the banking giant.

Accounting errors happen most days, but the sum involved in this case is highly unusual and even exceeds Deutsche's market capitalisation of 24 billion euros.

The incident, which came shortly before John Cryan was ousted as [chief executive](#), was quickly fixed and no harm was done, the institution said.

But it raises questions about the risk management and control processes within the bank, which Cryan was meant to have greatly improved since his arrival in 2016.

Given sole command of the lender in 2016 after the departure of co-CEO Juergen Fitschen, Cryan's task was to restructure Deutsche and clean up the toxic legacy of its pre-financial crisis bid to compete with global investment banking giants.

But Deutsche has yet to return to profitability, while the share price has slumped more than 50 percent in the past two years—around 30 percent this year alone.

In a sign of the bank's ongoing internal tussles, Deutsche on Wednesday announced the departure of its IT and infrastructure chief Kim Hammonds, who had reportedly called the bank the "most dysfunctional company" that she had worked for.

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