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Singapore launches three national AI missions for finance, including a sandbox where AI agents make payments

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On 18 November 2026 Singapore's Deputy Prime Minister and Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS) Chairman Gan Kim Yong set out three National AI Missions for financial services at the Singapore FinTech Festival. They aim to strengthen financial crime prevention, improve access to financing for businesses and enable AI agents to transact safely. The Future of Finance Institute will set up an Agentic Money Sandbox.

Global reference

- Country: Singapore
- Authority: Monetary Authority of Singapore, with the Future of Finance Institute (FFI)
- Key date: 18 November 2026, Singapore FinTech Festival (18 to 20 November 2026)
- FFI launch partners: DBS, OCBC, Standard Chartered and UOB
- Status: Initiatives announced. No funding figures or sandbox start date given

The three missions

- Financial crime: synthetic data reflecting interbank transaction and scam patterns from five banks, for building and testing AI.
- Business financing: AI to "support faster, better-informed lending decisions" for small businesses.
- Safe agentic transactions: an Agentic Money Sandbox for agent-initiated payments and treasury management.
- Gan: "A victim's money can pass through several institutions within minutes."

Rules for AI agents that pay

- "Agents must operate within defined authority and limits."
- "Institutions and enterprises remain accountable for actions taken on their behalf, with safeguards built in from the start."
- Payments could be made automatically once contract conditions are met and checked.
- Trials will look at common approaches to identity, authority, accountability and interoperability.

What to do now

- If you plan to let AI agents start payments, write down each agent's authority: payee types, amount limits and approval points.
- Keep accountability with a named person or role. Singapore's message is that the company stays responsible.

- Treasury teams in Singapore can ask their banks whether they will join the sandbox.
- Review scam controls on outgoing payments: the speed of fraud across banks is the stated reason for the crime mission.

Our take

Singapore is testing agent payments before they spread, with clear limits and accountability built in. Treasurers elsewhere can borrow the same three questions now: what may the agent pay, up to what limit, and who answers for it.

Sources

- MAS: MAS and Future of Finance Institute Set Out Initiatives in Support of National AI Missions for Financial Services (18 November 2026)
- MAS: Ministerial Keynote by Mr Gan Kim Yong at the Singapore FinTech Festival 2026 (18 November 2026)
- MAS: Singapore FinTech Festival 2026 Explores Rewiring of Global Finance (15 November 2026)

Important. This summary is for general information and is not legal, regulatory or financial advice. It is based on public Monetary Authority of Singapore publications and may be incomplete or out of date. The official publications prevail; check the official source before acting.

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