

## **POKERSTARS LAUNCHES FIRST LOCALLY LICENSED POKER SITE IN BULGARIA**

*Poker players can play and compete today at [www.pokerstars.bg](http://www.pokerstars.bg)*

**ONCHAN, Isle of Man** – August 7, 2014 – PokerStars, the world’s largest online poker site, today became the first locally licensed online poker site in Bulgaria with the launch of PokerStars.BG

The launch was announced by the Rational Group, which operates PokerStars and was awarded a license earlier this year by the Bulgaria State Gambling Commission.

Beginning today, poker players in Bulgaria will be able to play online at PokerStars.BG. PokerStars, the world’s largest online poker site, has now restarted its activities in the country after being licensed few months ago by the State Gambling Commission. This is the first license for a major international online poker operator issued in Bulgaria after the changes in the Gambling Act. That makes PokerStars.BG the only locally regulated online poker site in Bulgaria at the moment.

"PokerStars strives to be first-in-market when online poker licenses are made available and we're proud to be the first locally licensed poker site in Bulgaria," said Eric Hollreiser, head of corporate communications for the Rational Group. "We believe in the potential of the Bulgarian market and that is why our company has invested in the local license. Regulation provides peace of mind for players and ensures that local regulators can protect consumers and collect much-needed revenue."

This license is a recognition of the reliability of the PokerStars platform and provides confidence to customers that they can trust the integrity and security of the site. Poker is a popular game in Bulgaria and there are players with impressive potential such as Dimitar Danchev, who won the Main Event of the 2013 PokerStars Caribbean Adventure in the Bahamas.

Each poker player in Bulgaria can play online without restrictions with competitors from around the world at [www.pokerstars.bg](http://www.pokerstars.bg). The largest online poker site in the world has provided a lot of new features and games.

With the Bulgarian license, PokerStars adds another jurisdiction to its industry leading portfolio of 11 licensed sites, which already includes major European nations such as France, Italy and Spain.

PokerStars is the largest poker site in the world and home of the World Championship of Online Poker. This site often gathers over 400,000 players simultaneously and is the site with the largest guaranteed tournament on the web, the Sunday Million, held every Sunday with a guaranteed prize pool of \$1,000,000.

Unrivalled and innovative PokerStars software is free to download and is available for Windows / PC, and for Mac / Apple. It is continuously improved by PokerStars' experts, who add new features in accordance with the recommendations and expectations of players.

Further enquiries, please contact: [press@pokerstars.com](mailto:press@pokerstars.com).

### **About PokerStars**

PokerStars operates the world's most popular online poker sites, serving a global poker community of more than **65 million** registered members. Since it launched in 2001, PokerStars has become the first choice of players all over the world, with more daily tournaments than anywhere else and with the best security online. More than **115 billion hands** have been dealt on PokerStars, which is more than any other site.

PokerStars.com and PokerStars.eu operate globally under licenses from the Isle of Man and Malta governments, respectively. PokerStars also holds separate government licenses in Belgium, Bulgaria, Denmark, Estonia, France, Germany, Italy and Spain.

PokerStars is a member of The Rational Group, which operates gaming-related businesses and brands including PokerStars, Full Tilt Poker and the European Poker Tour. In 2012, 2013 and 2014, Rational Group companies in the UK and Isle of Man won recognition as one of the best workplaces in the UK, being awarded a top 25 position by the Great Place to Work Institute's Best Workplaces – Large category rankings. Rational Group entities in Costa Rica and Dublin also achieved the same accolade in their respective local rankings in 2014.