

**UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549**

FORM 8-K

**CURRENT REPORT
PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934**

Date of Report (Date of earliest event reported): November 20, 2019

Amerant Bancorp Inc.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Florida
(State or other jurisdiction
of incorporation)

001-38534

(Commission
file number)

65-0032379
(IRS Employer
Identification Number)

**220 Alhambra Circle
Coral Gables, Florida 33134**
(Address of principal executive offices)

(305) 460-8728
(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligation of the registrant under any of the following provisions:

- Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)
- Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)
- Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))
- Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))

Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Act:

<u>Title of each class</u>	<u>Trading Symbols</u>	<u>Name of exchange on which registered</u>
Class A Common Stock	AMTB	NASDAQ
Class B Common Stock	AMTBB	NASDAQ

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is an emerging growth company as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act of 1933 (17 CFR §230.405) or Rule 12b-2 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (17 CFR §240.12b-2).

Emerging growth company

If an emerging growth company, indicate by check mark if the registrant has elected not to use the extended transition period for complying with any new or revised financial accounting standards provided pursuant to Section 13(a) of the Exchange Act.



CONTACTS:

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For Release
November 20, 2019; 4:30 p.m.

Amerant Acquires Mercantil Bank and Trust Ltd. (Cayman)

Acquisition furthers wealth management platform expansion strategy

Coral Gables, Fla. (Nov. 20, 2019) - Amerant Bancorp Inc. (NASDAQ: AMTB and AMTBB) (the "Company") announced today the completion of its previously announced acquisition of Grand Cayman-based Mercantil Bank and Trust Limited (Cayman) (the "Cayman Bank") from Mercantil Holding Financiero Internacional (Mercantil), a former affiliate. The acquisition was approved by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System and the Cayman Islands Monetary Authority. The Cayman Bank, which has approximately \$195 million in assets under custody and management, is now wholly owned by Amerant Bank, N.A. ("Amerant Bank") and has been rebranded "Elant Bank and Trust Ltd."

The Cayman Bank serves and develops high net worth international customer relationships with offshore trust and estate planning services. The Company and its subsidiaries managed the Cayman Bank on behalf of Mercantil for approximately 30 years under service agreements. Amerant Bank and Amerant Trust will continue to manage the Cayman Bank. There are no integration risks or costs.

"This acquisition continues to strengthen our ability to seamlessly offer customers specialized personal wealth management and private banking services to meet their evolving financial needs," said Millar Wilson, Vice-Chairman and CEO of Amerant. "It furthers the growth strategy for our wealth management business, and deepens and strengthens our international customer relationships."

"The Cayman Islands have long been the 'crown jewel' for establishing trusts," added Wilson. "As part of executing our relationship-focused strategy, our customers, especially our international customers, can benefit from Amerant's decades of experience to better customize wealth management solutions that help them grow and protect their wealth."

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Cautionary Notice Regarding Forward-Looking Statements This press release contains "forward-looking statements" within the meaning of the Securities Act of 1933 and the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, including, without limitation, future financial and operating results; costs and revenues; economic conditions generally and in our markets and among our customer base; especially our international customers; market trends; and customer preferences, as well as statements with respect to our objectives, strategy, expectations and intentions and other statements that are not historical facts. All statements other than statements of historical fact are statements that could be forward-looking statements. You can identify these forward-looking statements through our use of words such as "may," "will," "anticipate," "assume," "should," "indicate," "would," "believe," "contemplate," "expect," "estimate," "continue," "plan," "point to," "project," "could," "intend," "target," "goals," "outlook," "modeled," "seek" and other similar words and expressions of the future.

Forward-looking statements, including those as to our beliefs, plans, objectives, strategy, goals, expectations, anticipations, estimates and intentions, involve known and unknown risks, uncertainties and other factors, which may be beyond our control, and which may cause the Company's actual results, performance, achievements, or financial condition to be materially different from future results, performance, achievements, or financial condition expressed or implied by such forward-looking statements. You should not rely on any forward-looking statements as predictions of future events. You should not expect us to update any forward-looking statements. All written or oral forward-looking statements attributable to us are expressly qualified in their entirety by this cautionary notice, together with those risks and uncertainties described in "Risk factors" in our annual report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2018 and in our other filings with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC"), which are available at the SEC's website www.sec.gov.

About Amerant Bancorp

Amerant Bancorp Inc. (NASDAQ: AMTB and AMTBB) is a bank holding company headquartered in Coral Gables, Florida. The Company operates through its subsidiaries, Amerant Bank, N.A. (the "Bank"), and its subsidiaries, Amerant Investments, Inc., Amerant Trust, N.A, and Elant Bank and Trust Ltd. The Company provides individuals and businesses in the U.S., as well as select international clients, with deposit, credit and wealth management services. The Bank, which has operated for 40 years, is the largest community bank headquartered in Florida. The Bank operates 25 banking centers-17 in South Florida and 8 in the Houston, Texas area-and loan production offices in Dallas, Texas and New York, New York. Please visit www.amerantbank.com or <https://investor.amerantbank.com> for more information.